The School of Theatre and Dance is dedicated to providing superior professional training to undergraduate students. Our program and practice are guided by our core principles of Excellence, Professionalism, Diversity, Artistic Risk, and Community.

Students in our program are trained and mentored by world-class faculty and staff, who are leaders in their field and active members of the professional theatre community. Our esteemed alumni can be found working in theatres nationwide as designers, technicians, and stage managers.

In the School of Theatre and Dance we believe that our productions are our most important practical application of coursework, synthesizing students’ training while developing their professional work ethic. Our programs offer students artistic opportunities in up to four theatre main-stage and two dance mainstage productions per year in our 600-seat, state of the art proscenium McGinnis Theatre and/or our 200-seat black box Studio Theatre. Students will also have the opportunity to work on ECU Storybook Theatre productions, as well as faculty and student-directed workshop projects.

East Carolina University is accredited by the National Association of Schools of Theatre.

BFA in Theatre Arts with a concentration in Design & Production

The Design & Production concentration at ECU provides students with first-hand experience in several areas. During their first year, students enjoy a rotation through our shops, learning the vocabulary, techniques and practices of each discipline. A lab component in each area allows for hands-on experience directly related to a mainstage production in the ECU Loessin Playhouse.

Students select an area of focus within the concentration: scenic design, scenic painting, properties, scenic construction, costume design, costume construction, lighting design or electrics. Show assignment opportunities, such as paint charge, prop master, or assistant designers, are available for students. Special projects might fall outside mainstage show assignments and could include more specific custom projects to suit the interests of the student. Students present and refine their projects and portfolios before they begin making industry connections and seeking summer employment.

Senior Design & Production majors complete a capstone portfolio project in their chosen area as a demonstration and documentation of their expertise.

Many students join the Design and Production Club, an organization that supports professional practice. Design and Production students participate in the Southeastern Theatre Conference (SETC) to compete in design and technical categories and find summer employment and first jobs. Some students attend USITT conferences, a convening of the association for theatre and live entertainment production professionals.

BFA in Theatre Arts with a concentration in Stage Management

By graduation, Stage Management majors are prepared to begin a professional career in stage management. During their course of study, they sharpen the skills needed to deliver flawless performances on ECU stages and beyond.

Stage Management students serve as assistant stage managers or stage managers with ECU Storybook Theatre productions, student projects, and mainstage shows. They have the opportunity to run production meetings and rehearsals and to coordinate the needs of the director and the production staff.

Stage Management majors develop skills in communication, scheduling, and time management. They are in charge of vital production paperwork, generating reports, monitoring cast and crew safety, and making sure key communication is delivered clearly. More than just knowing every piece of the puzzle, Stage Managers make certain that the pieces come together to support the production.

In addition to training specifically for stage managers, students learn the language of design and production, studying costume, lighting, scenery and sound design. They will also learn to focus and hang lights, sew costumes, understand color theory and paint techniques, and build a flat.

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Undergraduate Admissions
Application deadlines are listed on our website: https://admissions.ecu.edu/

Theatre and Dance Living Learning Community
Live with members of the Theatre and Dance community while developing many strategies to excel in your field of study.

Plan a Visit
www.ecu.edu
www.theatredance.ecu.edu
Instagram: @ECSOTD
Twitter: @ECU_SOTD
Facebook: ECU/Loessin Playhouse

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Fast Facts
23,265 Undergraduates enrolled
$7,238 in-state full-time tuition
$23,916 out-of-state full-time tuition
Nearly 500 student organizations
Ranked as a “2017 Top 100 Best Value College” by Educate to Career

Theatre Majors
10:1 Student to faculty ratio
225+ Theatre and Dance Majors
26 Theatre and Dance Faculty and Staff
4 theatre main-stage productions each year
2 dance main-stage productions each year
2 Storybook Theatre (Theatre for Young Audiences) productions each year
Numerous other performance opportunities
9 Theatre and Dance student-run organizations