

Guidelines for Senior Projects in Theatre

General Information

While any senior theatre major may undertake it, BFA students in theatre are required to complete a Senior Project, THA 4301. While these guidelines are designed to assist the student in creating a project that meets the standards for the professional degree, students are encouraged to develop significant, interesting projects, which go beyond the suggestions noted here. Since all project proposals and contents are subject to approval by a supervising faculty member, students are advised to include the supervisor in the planning and oversight of every aspect of the project.

Prerequisites

- Senior standing
- 2.5 cumulative GPA
- Completion, concurrent or next-semester enrollment in all required Theatre courses
- Consent of the Theatre faculty

Project Proposal

- The student must submit to the supervising faculty member a written proposal for the project at least two months prior to registering for THA 4301.
- Students who propose a performance in the Theatre Wesleyan season must audition for the plays and cannot be guaranteed a role. For this reason, students are advised to submit at least one alternative performance idea with their proposal.
- The faculty member who supervises the area of the student's proposal will review the proposal before forwarding it to the Theatre Faculty for consideration and approval by the Department Chair.
- The proposal must include a detailed description of the type of proposed project. Project examples:
 - The design of a Theatre Wesleyan production
 - The performance of a major or significant supporting role in a Theatre Wesleyan production
 - A performance of a major role or design for an approved area theatre outside of Texas Wesleyan
 - A significant recital or independently produced production
 - The writing of a play
 - A significant research project in the field
 - Students are encouraged to develop other project ideas for approval
- Each Senior Project must include:
 - A research component with appropriate documentation
 - A public presentation of the project
 - An essay reflecting on the project
- Funding
 - Projects undertaken as part of the Theatre Wesleyan season will be funded primarily by the season's budget, with the exception of some items such as personal makeup for actors and computer lab materials for designers and technicians.
 - Expenses for any other project will be the responsibility of the student. These may include items such as accompanists' fees, the cost of production elements for independently produced productions, and the cost of materials for exhibiting the project.
 - Students must submit a budget for expenses they expect to incur.
 -

Research

- In consultation with the supervising faculty member, the student will develop a plan for research appropriate to the approved project.
- Research topics may include but are not limited to:
 - Text analysis, critical writing about scripts of a particular period or style, a playwright, or significant productions of the play, etc.
 - Style issues relating to the project, such as period research, heightened language, musical style, etc.
 - Décor, architecture, political events and cultural customs bearing on the play, the aesthetics of the play's world, etc.
 - Decorum, values, accents and dialects, etc.
- Research must be documented as instructed by the supervising faculty member.

Project Execution and Presentation

- Plans, processes, and preparation for the project must be documented as instructed by the supervising faculty member. This may include items such as:
 - Production meeting and design conference notes
 - Drafted materials and scenic models
 - An image journal
 - Rehearsal journal
 - Text or score work specific to the production
- All projects must include a public presentation. Some examples:
 - The performance of a role or a design for a Theatre Wesleyan production, for an independently produced production, or for another approved producing organization.
 - A public presentation of a research project as a part of an approved event such as University College Day, a KC/ACTF event, etc.

Self-Evaluation of the Project

- Each project must culminate with an essay reflecting on the work from the proposal phase through the presentation.
- The essay may include elements such as:
 - A discussion of the student's process through the project
 - An evaluation of the work in preparation and presentation
 - Any realizations about the process of the work that can inform future work
 - A discussion of how the project may serve the student in future theatre endeavors

See Next Page for Coversheet/Checklist for Senior Project Proposal:

Senior Project Proposal Coversheet/Checklist

Students must complete the top portion of this sheet and attach it to the proposal for submission to the faculty

Student: _____ Email: _____ Phone: _____

Title & Brief Description of Project: _____

Checklist for Faculty Use Only

Requirements:	Proposal Contents	Process
_____ Senior standing	_____ Research Component & Documentation	_____ Project Calendar
_____ 2.5 cumulative GPA		
_____ Completion/concurrent enrollment in all required Theatre courses	_____ Public Presentation Venue	_____ Process Journal, where appropriate
_____ Two months' lead time	_____ Discussion of Reflection Essay	
_____ Faculty reviewed proposal	_____ Budget, where necessary	_____ _____
Other:		
_____ _____	_____ _____	_____ _____
_____ _____	_____ _____	_____ _____
_____ _____	_____ _____	_____ _____

Faculty Recommendations: _____

Proposal Approval: _____
Project's Faculty Supervisor
Chairperson, Department of Theatre

