Potential Careers

NMU’s Theatre and Entertainment Arts Program prepares students for employment in the following careers:

Occupations

Actor
Advertising Manager
Aid
Best Boy
Booking Agent
Box Office Manager
Box Office Treasurer
Campaign Manager
Casting Director
Choreographer
Company Manager
Costumer
Critic
Development Specialist
Director
Director of Audience Development
Dolly Grip
Dramaturge
Fund Raising
Gaffer
Librettist
Lighting Designer
Makeup Technician/Designer
Personnel Director
Playwright
Press Agent/Secretary
Producer
Properties Designer
Publicity Director
Radio/TV Announcer

Additional Resources and Info

For Career Planning and Opportunities:
Academic & Career Advisement Center
3302.1 C.B. Hedgcock
906-227-2971
www.nmu.edu/acac

Communication and Performance Studies Department
203 Thomas Fine Arts
906-227-2045
www.nmu.edu/caps

For Job Search, Resume and Career Information:
Career Services
3302.3 C.B. Hedgcock
906-227-2800
www.nmu.edu/careers

For Information about NMU Student Organizations Associated with this Major Contact:
Center for Student Enrichment
1206 University Center
906-227-2439
www.nmu.edu/cse

Internet Resource Links:
www.careers.org
www.careerresource.net

For Career Information with National Organizations:
www.tcg.org Theatre Communication Group, Inc.

Current as of Fall 2012
Provided by:

Academic & Career Advisement Center
Theatre

One of the finest and most active undergraduate Theatre programs in the country can be found at Northern Michigan University. If you're interested in pursuing a theatre-related career, and are willing to work hard to gain the necessary experience and skills, then a Theatre and Entertainment Arts degree from NMU may be for you.

As a Theatre and Entertainment Arts major you will have the opportunity to become involved in all NMU theatrical productions, from acting to directing to working on production and technical crews. These are all occurrences from which you will gain critical experience and acquire marketable skills and competencies. You may even find yourself a part of award-winning productions, like the students involved in the 1994 Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival award-winning production of *Haywire*.

Skills and Competencies

Aspiring actors and directors—and anyone interested in careers within the dramatic field—should take part in high school and university theatre, or work with community and nonprofit theatres for experience. Formal theatre training or acting experience is generally necessary, although some people enter the field without it. Most training takes place at colleges and universities throughout the country offering bachelor's and master's degrees in theatre. College theatre curricula usually include courses in acting, directing, stagecraft, design, theatre history and the liberal arts. Northern Michigan University is no exception. In fact, the preparation you'll receive as a theatre major at NMU will provide you with a solid academic background that will help you whether or not you decide to enter the theatre field.

Your ability to write and speak effectively is absolutely critical in today's workforce. Similarly, your ability to analyze and solve problems is also important. Much of your academic course work—be it in theatre, literature, or philosophy—will help you fine-tune these skills.

Course Work

This degree includes the following courses as part of the program requirements, and specific major requirements along with liberal studies and graduation requirements.

**Theatre and Entertainment Arts Foundation Core**
- TH 130 The Theatre Experience (4 cr.)
- TH 131 Entertainment Technology I (4 cr.)
- TH 132 Acting (4 cr.)
- TH 141 Fundamentals of Entertainment Arts Design (4 cr.)
- TH 352 Directing (4 cr.)
- TH 360 History of Theatre (4 cr.)
- TH 432 Theatre and Entertainment Careers (1 cr.)
- TH 480 Theatre and Entertainment Arts Capstone (1 cr.)

Choose either the Performance or Design and Technology Track

**Performance Track (22 cr.)**
- TH 247 Performance Studio (4 cr.)
- TH 361 Modern Drama (4 cr.) or TH 362 World Drama (4 cr.)
- TH 234 Makeup Studio (4 cr.)
- TH 456 Entertainment Arts Management (4 cr.)
- TH 491 Practicum (1 cr.)

**Design and Technology Track (22 cr.)**
- TH 246 Entertainment Arts Design Studio (4 cr.)
- TH 248 Ensemble Performance and Production (4 cr.)
- TH 331 Entertainment Technology II (4 cr.) or TH 341 Stage Properties (4 cr.)
- TH 456 Entertainment Arts Management (4 cr.)
- TH 491 Practicum (1 cr.)

Detailed course descriptions can be found at [www.nmu.edu/bulletin](http://www.nmu.edu/bulletin).

Career Development

You should begin the resume-building process as soon as you can. The Academic and Career Advisement Center can assist you with career planning, while Career Services will help you fine tune your resume and look for jobs related to your field. In the meantime, the more hands-on experience you have, the better the chances are that you will find a job. Becoming involved in a professional related internship is a way to develop your professional skills and gain experience. Your academic course work is important as well, so be sure to maintain a high grade point average.

Additional Considerations

Practical experience on stage or backstage is imperative in these fields.

Graduate work focusing on cinema exclusively is a necessary prerequisite to some film careers.

A business minor or second major would be helpful if you're interested in the business field.

Proficiency in a second language may be helpful.

Remember to take any necessary exams early; it can take up to six weeks for results to be sent to schools to which you applied.

Job Outlook

Careers in theatre and entertainment arts are expected to grow as fast as average. Due to the very diverse collection of professions, salary can range from very low to as much as top earning Hollywood stars.