



UNIVERSITY OF CENTRAL FLORIDA

**School of Performing Arts**

12488 Centaurus Blvd.  
Orlando, Florida 32816

## **BFA in Musical Theatre**

Greetings! Thank you for your interest in the Musical Theatre BFA program at the University of Central Florida.

Our BFA Musical Theatre program is a conservatory approach in a liberal arts university, meaning that your studies in the Theatre Department will be very intense with technique/ theory classes in addition to University general education requirements (English, math, sciences, computers, history, etc.) You can find those requirements at the UCF website ([www.ucf.edu](http://www.ucf.edu)). If you are taking AP and/or Honors courses, we strongly encourage you to take advanced placement exams to help ease your general education requirements when you get here. Dual enrollment credits also are helpful and will transfer to UCF.

You can find most of the information you will need about the BFA Musical Theatre program at our departmental website ([www.theatre.ucf.edu](http://www.theatre.ucf.edu)), including information about classes and faculty biographies so you can see with whom you would be studying.

### **How Do I Get into the University of Central Florida?**

Acceptance as a student at UCF is a two-step process: First, you must apply to the University for acceptance. You must complete the application process BEFORE you audition for the Theatre Department. Without that University acceptance, we are not able to make you an offer. It is STRONGLY RECOMMENDED you apply to the University as soon as possible (no later than October 1). Acceptance to the University is extremely competitive, so the sooner you apply, the better your chances of getting accepted.

Secondly, you audition for us to get accepted by the Department as a BFA candidate. We accept 16 new students each year into our BFA Musical Theatre program on a “provisional basis.” This means that all new students to our program are accepted as “Theatre Pending” majors their first year. All BFA Musical Theatre students (new and returning) are evaluated by faculty each semester through interview and/or performance jury. At each evaluation period, faculty members decide who will be allowed to continue in the program.

We do not use a “cut system” in our program, meaning that we accept a certain number of students expecting to cut a certain percentage at the end of the first year. We sincerely hope all students in our BFA program will be successful until graduation in their senior year.

### **How Do I Get An Audition Slot?**

We do not hold general auditions on campus for the BFA Musical Theatre program. We only select students through a pre-screen process using Acceptd, an online submission process ([www.getacceptd.com](http://www.getacceptd.com)).

Students upload their audition materials through Acceptd, and the musical theatre faculty pre-screen candidates. Those students who pass the pre-screening process are then invited to attend one of two callback dates on campus in February and March.

Final decisions are made after the completion of the two callback audition days. Notifications to students are usually completed by the first week of April.

### **What Are the Audition Requirements?**

1. Students are asked to present a video demonstrating their BALLET skills. Those who are advanced tap dancers may also include video footage of their abilities.
2. Students must prepare a 30- to 45-second monologue. The monologue can be in any style (modern/classical - comedy/dramatic). We do not want to see Shakespeare!!
3. Students must prepare a 32-bar audition song from musical theatre repertoire. Songs must be sung with piano accompaniment. If you are asked to attend callbacks on campus, you will be asked to bring a second, contrasting song with you. Your songs should represent your acting abilities and vocal range. Any style song from the musical theatre canon is acceptable, whether it is classic or contemporary.
4. You will need to upload a headshot, resume, and three letters of recommendations (from directors, counselors, or teachers who have worked with you). If you are a transfer student, you also need to upload an unofficial copy of transcripts from any previous university you've attended.
5. The musical theatre faculty will not review any file until all the REQUIRED materials have been submitted to Acceptd. Any student who has not uploaded ALL the required audition materials (headshot, resume, three letters of recommendation, monologue video, song video, and dance video) by the final application date in late January will not be allowed to attend a callback. If all materials are NOT submitted by the final deadline, the application file will be considered “Incomplete” and will eliminate the student from the audition process.

## **How Many Shows Do You Do? Can Freshmen Perform?**

We produce 6 shows during the academic year on our main campus in Orlando. All BFA musical theatre majors are REQUIRED to audition each semester for the shows, beginning their first semester in the program. The first audition students participate in happens the week before the Fall semester begins.

If you are not cast, you will be given a technical assignment to work backstage, in the scene shop, in the costume shop, in the Box Office, or as an Usher/House Manager.

We audition each semester for the shows we will be producing. All students do a general audition [monologue(s)/song(s)] and then callbacks are posted by the directors who are casting that semester.

Students are not cast according to their program of study - you can be cast in any of the shows, whether it's a musical or a play. Many of our musical theatre students are cast in the plays, and many of our acting majors are cast in the musicals.

As well, each semester a student-produced Ten-Minute Play and One-Act Festival are mounted. Both are focused on student-written, original work. Auditions for these festivals are not required for BFA musical theatre majors. They are voluntary auditions for any interested students. If you have an interest in directing, playwriting, and/or acting, this is a great opportunity to hone skills in those areas. These theatre festivals are sponsored by Project Spotlight, a Theatre Department club.

We produce shows in the summer as well. It varies each summer how many shows and what types of shows are produced. Students are not required to audition for those shows. They are auditioned on a voluntary basis. UCF requires every student on campus to complete 9 credits during summer session, and many of our students combine general education classes with summer theatre to meet that requirement...usually the summer after freshman year.

## **Do You Sponsor A Senior Showcase?**

Theatre UCF does not sponsor a "Senior Showcase" each year. Instead, every BFA major in our department is required to complete a professional internship before they graduate. This means BFA Musical Theatre students are required to get a paying job as a performer (paying at least minimum wage). Students are allowed to do their internship hours when they have only TWO semesters of coursework left before graduation (usually the summer before the senior year).

Most of our students easily complete this requirement doing summer work at theme parks, dinner theatres, summer stock, and regional theatre work. We have an Internship Coordinator to help students find these internships, and we actively participate in regional auditions to help students get hired. Internships are not authorized during the regular school year unless you are completely finished with all your theatre major requirements.

As well, we have a Professional Advisory Board that includes casting representatives from Disney, Universal, Busch Gardens, and Sea World, and they regularly hire our students during summer, part-time during the school year, and full-time once students graduate. We also are partners with The Orlando Repertory, a youth theatre company, and UCF/Orlando Shakespeare Theatre, who produces Shakespeare, classic works, musicals, and youth theatre.

### **What If I Am Not Selected for the BFA Program?**

If you audition for the BFA and are not accepted, but you still wish to come to UCF and major/minor in theatre, you can complete a separate interview to be accepted to our Theatre Minor or BA programs. Please note that these programs have a completely different curriculum focus and requirements than the BFA degree tracks.

The BA Theatre Studies major is NOT a performance-based degree program. It is a liberal arts study program that requires you to select an associated minor or double major. If you choose to interview for the BA Theatre Studies program, you should be crystal clear on why that program would fit your college training needs. Many students who are interested in two areas of study choose this option so they can complete two majors in the four years of study (i.e., theatre/film, theatre/education, theatre/marketing, theatre/business, theatre/psychology, etc.).

If your desire is to be a performance major, then you absolutely should not interview for the BA Theatre Studies program. You should interview to begin in the Theatre “Minor to Major” program and then audition for our BFA Musical Theatre program a second time. However, there are no guarantees you will be selected for our program even if you attend UCF your freshman year. Once a student has auditioned for the musical theatre program twice, and has not been accepted, he/she can no longer be considered for our BFA program.

### **Are There Any Scholarships Available in the Theatre Department?**

We have a small, limited number of privately-funded, one-time only scholarships available to students. The number of scholarships available varies from year to year. Most scholarship monies are granted through the University financial aid process. Students may apply for individual department scholarships after their first year in the program.

### **What Classes Will I Take in the BFA Musical Theatre Program?**

Our curriculum is equally balanced with intense training in acting, singing, dance, music theory, literature/history, and technical courses. The complete program, including general education requirements, is 129 credit hours. Of those 129 credit hours, 93 are in the theatre major.

Required courses include:

- 8 semesters of Estill Voice Training
- 4 semesters of regular acting
- 2 semesters of musical theatre acting
- 2 semesters of ballet dance
- 2 semesters of jazz dance
- 1 semester of tap dance
- 2 semesters of Music Theory
- 2 semesters of Class Piano
- Survey of Theatre
- Script Analysis
- Theatre History/Literature I and II
- Evolution of Musical Theatre History
- Makeup
- Directing
- Theatre Careers
- Introduction to Stagecraft
- Production Theatre Participation (Crew assignment on a show)
- Management Theatre Participation (Box Office or Ushering for shows)
- Performance Theatre Participation (Performing a role in a show)
- Professional Internship

I hope that answers your questions. If you think of anything specific not covered here, please do not hesitate to contact me.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Earl D. Weaver". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

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