

UAB Department of Theatre Student Designer Proposal Guidelines

Students are encouraged to submit proposals to design main stage productions in the Department of Theatre.

Essentials of the Student Designer Proposal

All proposals must include a completed narrative, current resume, and design portfolio.

Narrative

- A template for the narrative is provided on page five of these guidelines.

Resume should include

- All practical production assignments (designer, assistant designer, running crews, and construction crews) at the college, community, or professional level. Include work as a paid production assistant at UAB for stipend or work-study.
- Special workshops or master classes you have attended.
- Awards and other forms of recognition.

Portfolio

- Examples of work done for theatre and art classes.
- Work performed as an assistant designer.
- Work done as a designer for main stage productions, the Festival of Ten Minute Plays, directing projects, or professional/community productions.

Selection Process

Students should submit the formal *Student Designer Proposal* to the member of the faculty who will serve as a mentor for the design. Copies of the applicant's narrative and resume are distributed to all design and production faculty and staff. The mentor will keep the applicants portfolio in his or her office where other faculty and staff can peruse it. The design faculty and staff will meet to discuss all applicants and, following discussion, only faculty will vote to recommend or not recommend an assignment for each applicant. The results of voting will be forwarded to the Chair of the Department of Theatre for final approval.

The design and production faculty and staff may recommend that a student be offered an opportunity to design a production that they have not asked to design. In this case, the student will be allowed one week following the vote to accept or reject the offer.

Completion of the recommended coursework and practical experience does not guarantee an assignment as a designer on a main stage production nor does a timely, well-written proposal. The number of opportunities each year fluctuates based on the number of suitable productions and the number of qualified applicants.

Students who have not completed the recommended coursework and practical experience may be given the opportunity to design a main stage production based on the quality of their portfolio, practical credits, and other work in or outside the department.

Class rank will be the selection process. Upperclassmen may be given priority over underclassmen for design assignments.

Timeline

The deadline for submitting the proposal is April 1st. Proposals that are recommended by the theatre faculty will be sent to the Chair of the Department by April 15th. The Chair will approve or reject the recommendation by April 30th.

Preparation for Design Assignments

Students should complete or be enrolled in specific courses and have an appropriate amount of practical experience before designing a main stage production. While some latitude is granted under unique circumstances, there are specific recommendations for students who wish to design a main season production.

Students who wish to design **costumes** for a main stage production, are asked to:

- 1) Complete THR125 Introduction to Theatre Technology: Costumes and Makeup with a grade of B or better.
- 2) Complete THR 327 Costume Design with a grade of B or better.
- 3) Complete two semesters as a paid production assistant in the Costume Studio or complete two Practicum costume construction assignments in the Costume Studio. Practicum grades must be a B or better.
- 4) Serve as an assistant costume designer to a faculty or staff designer for one main stage production. (Serving as an assistant costume designer to a student costume designer for a main stage production may also fulfill this requirement under some circumstances.)
- 5) Through coursework and practical experience, demonstrate an ability to meet deadlines and work as a collaborator.
- 6) Through coursework and practical experience, demonstrate an ability to think creatively and communicate visually.

Students who wish to design **scenery** for a main stage production, are asked to:

- 1) Complete THR124 Introduction to Theatre Technology: Scenery and Lighting with a grade of B or better.
- 2) Complete THR 326 Scenery Design with a grade of B or better.
- 3) Complete two semesters as a paid production assistant in the Scene Shop and/or Props Studio or complete two Practicum scenery and/or props construction assignments in the Scene Shop and/or Props Studio. Practicum grades must be a B or better.
- 4) Serve as an assistant scenery designer to a faculty or staff designer for one main stage production. (Serving as an assistant scenery designer to a student scenery designer for a main stage production may also fulfill this requirement under some circumstances.)
- 5) Through coursework and practical experience, demonstrate an ability to meet deadlines and work as a collaborator.
- 6) Through coursework and practical experience, demonstrate an ability to think creatively and communicate visually.

Students who wish to design **lighting** for a main stage production, are asked to:

- 1) Complete THR124 Introduction to Theatre Technology: Scenery and Lighting with a grade of B or better.
- 2) Complete THR 323 Lighting Design with a grade of B or better.
- 3) Complete two semesters as a paid production assistant in Electrics or complete two Practicum electrics construction assignments. Practicum grades must be a B or better.
- 4) Serve as an assistant lighting designer to a faculty or staff designer for one main stage production. (Serving as an assistant lighting designer to a student lighting designer for a main stage production may also fulfill this requirement under some circumstances.)
- 5) Through coursework and practical experience, demonstrate an ability to meet deadlines and work as a collaborator.

- 6) Through coursework and practical experience, demonstrate an ability to think creatively and communicate visually.

Students who wish to design **audio** for a main stage production, are asked to:

- 1) Complete THR 474 Advanced Studio in Audio with a grade of B or better.
- 2) Complete two semesters as a paid production assistant in Electrics or complete two Practicum construction assignments in Electrics. Practicum grades must be a B or better.
- 3) Serve as an assistant audio designer to a faculty or staff designer for one main stage production. (Serving as an assistant audio designer to a student audio designer for a main stage production may also fulfill this requirement under some circumstances.)
- 4) Through coursework and practical experience, demonstrate an ability to meet deadlines and work as a collaborator.
- 5) Through coursework and practical experience, demonstrate an ability to think creatively and communicate visually.

Requirements for Student Designs

Student designers, in collaboration with their faculty mentor, will compose a set of production specific requirements for successful execution of the design. The requirements will include clearly articulated objectives, work product, and deadlines.

In addition to production specific requirements, student designers are expected to attend all pre-production meetings, production meetings, the post-production meeting, the designer's run through (and other rehearsals as required), tech and dress rehearsals, the preview performance, the opening night activities and performance, and the KCACTF response.

If the student is nominated for regional KCACTF competition at the regional KCACTF festival and the student is enrolled at UAB during the regional festival, that student will be required to present his or her work at the regional festival.

All requirements for the design must be outlined on a THR 470 proposal form and given to the Associate Chair of the Department of Theatre prior to registering for THR 470. In order to register for THR 470, the Associate Chair must remove a block on registration for the applicant. Therefore, timely completion of this form is crucial.

The THR 470 proposal form need not be completed until the proposal has final approval from the Chair of the Department.

Registration for Credit

All students who accept an offer to design a main stage production must register for 1 – 3 credits of THR 470 *Individual Project in Design and Production* during the semester the production is performed. The Design and Production faculty will determine the credit value of each assignment.

Evaluation

The faculty mentor for each designer will collect feedback from the other faculty and staff who collaborated on the production. This feedback and the mentor's own observations will be the basis for evaluation. Among other things, mentors will evaluate the student designer's ability to make sound aesthetic and technical choices, represent and communicate aesthetic and technical choices effectively, meet deadlines, manage resources, and collaborate with others.

The project specific method of evaluation is included on the THR470 proposal form.

Perspective

If you are denied the opportunity to design on the main stage, consider other opportunities to design – the Festival of Ten Minute Plays, directing and acting projects, independent student produced work, and local productions off campus. You may also wish to consider designing a “paper project” for the David Weiss Design Competition at the KCACTF regional festival. Faculty mentors will be anxious to assist you with these endeavors.

Designing for a main stage production is an honor. Among other things, it takes dedication, hard work, and perseverance to be offered an assignment. It takes far less to lose an assignment. A lack of focus, poor grades, missed deadlines, or any other behavior that prevents you from producing your best work will be grounds for removing you from the production team. If your faculty mentor determines that your behavior or performance has placed the quality of the production in jeopardy, they will have the option of taking over the design and completing it. If this happens, you will receive a failing grade for THR 470.

UAB Department of Theatre
Student Designer Proposal
Narrative

Name: _____

Projected Graduation Date: _____

Current overall GPA: _____

Area of design interest (circle one):

Scenery Properties Costumes Hair & Makeup Lighting Audio

Production Preference:

Why do you wish to design this specific production?

What have you done to prepare for this experience and why do you feel you're ready for this important role on a production?

How will this design assignment enhance your resume and portfolio and contribute to your preparation for professional work or graduate study?

Please list all design and technology courses you've completed or are currently taking on the back of this form