

**Master of Fine Arts in Theatre - Specialization in Lighting Design & Technology**

FIRST YEAR - Fall		
COURSE	DESCRIPTION	CREDIT
THEA 423	Advanced Lighting Design	4
THEA 435	Professional Lighting Systems	2
THEA 437	Software for Lighting Design	2
THEA 434	Advanced Lighting Seminar	1
THEA 551	Graduate Colloquium in Design, Tech., & Management	1
THEA ____	Departmental Approved Elective	2-4

**Semester Credit Hours: 12-14**

THEA 400	Practicum IV - Lighting Production Assignment	1-3
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SECOND YEAR - Fall		
COURSE	DESCRIPTION	CREDIT
THEA 432	Lighting for Non-Theatrical Spaces and Styles	4
THEA 492	Digital Rendering for Lighting	4
THEA 434	Advanced Lighting Seminar	1
THEA 591	Independent Study (optional)	1-2
THEA ____	Theatre History & Dramatic Literature	3

**Semester Credit Hours: 13-14**

THEA 400	Practicum IV (Lighting Production Assignment(s))	2-6
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THIRD YEAR - Fall		
COURSE	DESCRIPTION	CREDIT
THEA 494	Advanced Problem Solving for Lighting Designers	4
THEA 434	Advanced Lighting Seminar	1
THEA 595	Creative Project: Professional Development	1-3
THEA ____	Departmental Approved Elective	3-4
THEA ____	Theatre History & Dramatic Literature	3

**Semester Credit Hours: 12-16**

THEA 400	Practicum IV (Lighting Production Assignment(s))	2-4
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FIRST YEAR - Spring		
COURSE	DESCRIPTION	CREDIT
THEA 431	The Lighting Laboratory	4
THEA 491	Advanced CAD Drafting for Lighting Designers	4
THEA 405	Assistant & Associate Lighting Design	2
THEA 434	Advanced Lighting Seminar	1
THEA 551	Graduate Colloquium in Design, Tech., & Management	1

**Semester Credit Hours: 12**

THEA 400	Practicum IV (Lighting Production Assignment(s))	2-6
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SECOND YEAR - Spring		
COURSE	DESCRIPTION	CREDIT
THEA 493	Lighting Opera & Musicals	4
THEA 434	Advanced Lighting Seminar	1
THEA 551	Graduate Colloquium in Design, Tech., & Management	1
THEA ____	Departmental Approved Elective	3-4
THEA ____	Theatre History & Dramatic Literature	3

**Semester Credit Hours: 12-13**

THEA 400	Practicum IV (Lighting Production Assignment(s))	2-6
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THIRD YEAR - Spring		
COURSE	DESCRIPTION	CREDIT
THEA 434	Advanced Lighting Seminar	1
THEA 551	Graduate Colloquium (optional in final semester)	1
THEA 595	Creative Project: Professional Development	1-3
THEA ____	Departmental Approved Elective	3-4
THEA ____	Departmental Approved Elective	3-4
THEA ____	Theatre History & Dramatic Literature	3

**Semester Credit Hours: 12-16**

THEA 400	Practicum IV (Lighting Production Assignment(s))	2-4
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Starting Fall 2025, full-time enrollment for graduate students in Fall or Spring term is 8 or more hours. Students may carry as many as 20 hours in a term as the maximum enrollment level. Graduate students planning to register for more than 20 hours in a fall or spring semester must submit a petition to the Graduate College for overload approval.

**Minimum Hours Required for Graduation: 72**

BLACK = Courses in a student's area of specialization  
 ORANGE = Theatre History and Dramatic Literature  
 RED = Departmental approved electives  
 BLUE = Continuous participation in the production program

**DEGREE REQUIREMENTS**

Minimum credit hours in each degree requirement:  
 Courses in a student's area of specialization = 32 / Theatre History and Dramatic Literature = 12 / Departmental approved electives = 28

Other requirements:

Minimum 500-level Hours Required Overall = 12

Students must be in residence for six semesters.

Students in the MFA Program must participate continuously in the production program of the Department of Theatre.

Students must maintain a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.0.

More information may be found here: <https://catalog.illinois.edu/graduate/faa/theatre-mfa/design-technology/#degreerequirementstext>

For additional details and requirements, refer to the Graduate College Handbook: <https://www.grad.illinois.edu/document/handbook>

### COURSES IN A STUDENT'S AREA OF SPECIALIZATION

The Specialization in Lighting Design & Technology provides graduate students with a structured progression through core competencies in both design and technology. The curriculum engages students in a broad range of knowledge areas, including lighting design methodologies, lighting systems and control, CADD and pre-visualization software, design exploration in Krannert Center's light labs, and applications in non-theatrical environments. Emphasis is placed on developing problem solving skills and the ability to integrate artistic and technical considerations across diverse project types.

The specialization includes coursework that addresses professional practice within the entertainment industry. A recently developed course (THEA 405) focuses on the responsibilities, workflow, and collaborative functions of assistant and associate lighting designers. Beginning in Spring 2027, the curriculum will expand to include a course dedicated to lighting console programming. More information on these courses may be found here: <https://catalog.illinois.edu/courses-of-instruction/thea/>

### THEATRE HISTORY AND DRAMATIC LITERATURE

Graduate students are welcome to choose from the following courses to complete the 12 credit hours of this degree requirement. Courses shown are suggested for a well-rounded graduate education. Additional courses that satisfy this degree requirement may be offered each semester. More information on these courses may be found here: <https://catalog.illinois.edu/courses-of-instruction/thea/>

THEA 426 History of Decor, Section A (fall semesters) and Section B (spring semesters)  
 THEA 445 Costume History I (offered in odd year fall semesters)  
 THEA 446 Costume History II (offered in even year spring semesters)

THEA 410 Dramaturgs Workshop  
 THEA 560 Seminar in Theatre History  
 THEA 561 Seminar in Dramatic Literature  
 THEA 562. Seminar in Theatre Theory

### DEPARTMENTAL APPROVED ELECTIVES

In addition to the courses shown on the previous page (such as THEA 434, THEA 551, and THEA 595), graduate students are welcome to choose from the following courses to complete the 28 credit hours of this degree requirement. Courses shown are suggested for a well-rounded graduate education. Additional courses that satisfy this degree requirement are offered each semester. More information on these courses may be found here: <https://catalog.illinois.edu/courses-of-instruction/thea/>

THEA 407 Production Management  
 THEA 451 Principles of Stage Management  
 THEA 452 Principles of Arts Management  
  
 THEA 461 Introduction to Media Design  
 THEA 462 Advanced Media Design  
 THEA 481 Content Creation 1: Camera and Editing for Media Design  
 THEA 482 Content Creation 2: Motion Graphics & VFX for Media Design  
  
 THEA 453 Introduction to Theatre Sound  
 THEA 454 Sound Design I  
 THEA 497 Audio Engineering I  
  
 THEA 413 Advanced Costume Design  
 THEA 414 Figure Drawing for Theatre Design  
 THEA 442 Introduction to Costume Patterning and Draping  
 THEA 447 Costume Rendering  
 THEA 448 Costume Crafts  
 THEA 449 Technology and Costume Crafts

THEA 415 Scenic Design I  
 THEA 419 Theatrical CAD Drafting (AutoCAD)  
 THEA 425 Advanced Scenographic Drafting  
 THEA 427 Scenic Painting I  
 THEA 438 Traditional Rendering Techniques  
 THEA 457 Model Making for the Stage  
 THEA 458 Digital Rendering Techniques  
  
 THEA 456 Properties Design  
 THEA 480 Upholstery Techniques  
 THEA 485 Prop Furniture Construction  
  
 THEA 421 Welding for the Stage  
 THEA 422 Structures for the Stage  
 THEA 424 Automation for the Stage  
 THEA 430 Technical Direction I  
  
 THEA 402 Designing Immersive Adventures: Escape Rooms  
 THEA 403 Topics in Immersive & Interactive Theatre  
 THEA 418 Devising Social Issues Theatre

### CONTINUOUS PARTICIPATION IN THE PRODUCTION PROGRAM

Our theaters are also our classrooms: we consider our venues to be hands-on laboratories for student learning, with mentoring provided by faculty. Each graduate student is required to engage in at least one "Practicum" assignment each semester, receiving academic credit for their production activities. The Lighting Design & Technology program supports an average of 14 productions each academic year in the genres of theatre, dance, opera, and musicals as programmed by the Departments of Theatre and Dance, and the School of Music. These practicum assignments allow our students to deepen their knowledge of both design and technology as lighting console programmers and operators, assistant lighting designers, head electricians, and lighting designers. Course information is provided below.

COURSE	DESCRIPTION (SECTION)	CREDIT
THEA 400	Practicum IV: Lighting Designer (LD)	3
	Practicum IV: Lighting Design Development (LDP)	1
	Practicum IV: Assistant Lighting Designer (ALD)	2

COURSE	DESCRIPTION (SECTION)	CREDIT
THEA 400	Practicum IV: Head Electrician (HE)	3
	Practicum IV: Assistant Head Electrician (AHE)	2-3
	Practicum IV: Console Programmer and Operator (P)	1-2