

# FAQ

Frequently Asked Questions about the Teaching Theatre Arts PK-12 Concentration for Students pursuing a BA in Theatre and the Teaching Theatre Arts PK-12 Graduate Certificate at George Mason University are divided into four categories: General application, Pre-BA, post BA or BFA and General Teaching Theatre Arts PK-12 Education Questions.

## Pre BFA – Undergraduate Students

***I am a first semester freshman in the Theatre department and I'm interested in the Teaching Theatre Arts PK-12 concentration. How do I get started in my eventual goal to be a Theatre teacher?***

Our Theatre Education for Arts PK-12 concentration is part of our BA program and is designed for Theatre artists who want to teach. Admission requirements into the Theatre Education for Theatre Arts PK-12 concentration include:

- Completion of 45 to 60 credits
- Maintain an overall GPA of 2.80 in all course work completed at Mason and in course work at all institutions of higher learning combined.
- Essay detailing goals for the concentration.
- Submission of scores for The Praxis Core (reading, Writing, and Mathematics).\* [It is strongly recommended that students take the The Praxis Core as soon as ENGH 302, a course in literature, and a course in Mathematics have been completed]. For information on the VCLA/The Praxis Core qualifying substitutes visit <http://cehd.gmu.edu/teacher/test/praxis>
- Earn no grade lower than a C in theatre and professional education courses needed for graduation.

\*If Mason is selected as the recipient institution when taking the The Praxis Core exam, the scores will be recorded on your official Mason record.

## BA or BFA Student

***1. I am a BFA or BA student who is interested in eventually applying for the Theatre Education for Theatre Arts PK-12. When can I start taking the Theatre education classes? Since the classes are 300-400 level, do I have to wait until I am a junior?***

You may begin taking any Theatre Education courses that do not have pre-requisites (e.g. EDUC 300) as soon as you desire, you will not be permitted to take some courses however until you have been admitted into the Theatre Education for Theatre Arts PK-12 concentration (completion of at least 45 credits). You will benefit by getting some theatre teaching experience as a volunteer in summer camp, after-school and community programs (e.g. AFYP).

***2. Since I want to eventually teach Theatre, what concentration should I select? Is there an Theatre education concentration?***

Yes, there is a concentration within the BA for students interested in theatre education. Students may apply for the Theatre Education for Theatre Arts PK-12 concentration as soon as they have completed a minimum of 45 credits.

### ***3. Can I make an appointment with the Theatre education advisor?***

You can meet with the theatre education advisor for general information.

### ***4. I'm completing my BFA or BA at another school, not Mason. Will I be eligible for acceptance into the Teaching Theatre PK-12 Graduate Certificate?***

Students, who have completed all endorsements, including The Praxis Core, are eligible to apply to the Teaching Theatre PK-12 Graduate Certificate Program. Endorsements include a passing score on The Praxis Core and the completion of a theatre degree at a regionally accredited college or university. Students completing a BFA or BA in an area other than Theatre must have 33 semester hours distributed among the following area:

- a. Directing: 6 semester hours
- b. Technical Theatre: 9 semester hours
- c. Cultural Context and Theatre History: 3 semester hours
- d. Performance: 6 semester hours
- e. Dramatic Literature: 9 semester hours

Depending on the specific courses in your undergraduate program, we may suggest that you take one or more undergraduate courses to round out your pre-professional knowledge or your practical theatre experience before starting your graduate course work. See the Endorsements Requirements Worksheet for more information.

### **5. Can I take Theatre Education for Theatre Arts PK-12 Graduate courses as an Undergraduate student?**

Undergraduate Students may receive permission to take a **500 or 600** level graduate course for reserve graduate credit using the Reserve Graduate Credit form found on the registrar's website. Permission to take reserve graduate credit is normally granted only to GMU seniors within 15 hours of graduation.

- Student should have at least a 3.00 cumulative GPA.
- A student can accumulate no more than six hours of reserve graduate credit.
- Permission to take reserve graduate credit does not imply approval for admission to a graduate program.

### **6. How do I get placed in a school for my internship?**

Students will be required to complete a Theatre Education for Theatre Arts PK-12 Internship application at the beginning of the semester prior to their internship. Students to be placed in an internship for the Spring semester must file by Septemeber 15 and students to be placed in an

internship in the Fall semester must file by February 15. The online application must be filed before you submit your paper application to the Field Placement Specialist. The link to the online application can be found on the departmental form ([http://cehd.gmu.edu/internapp\\_traditional](http://cehd.gmu.edu/internapp_traditional)). The College of Education and Human Development collects all internship applications and is responsible for student placement.

### **7. Can I choose the School where I complete my Student Teaching Internship?**

Students are free to list a county preference on their internship application however; The College of Education and Human Development Field Placement Specialist collects all internship applications and is responsible for student placement.

### **8. How do I apply for Licensure?**

Upon completion of all degree requirements, students must apply for Virginia State Licensure. The GMU Licensure Specialist will file your completed application at your request.

<http://cehd.gmu.edu/teacher/instructions>

### **9. Is there a field experience requirement for this degree?**

Field experience hours are built into the Theatre Education curriculum. Prior to Student Teaching Internship placement, students who are pursuing work in the elementary education sector will have to complete 20 field experience hours in a secondary education setting, or conversely, students who are pursuing work in the secondary education sector will have to complete 20 field experience hours in an elementary education setting.

## **Post BA or BFA**

### ***1. I am a Non-degree student and I'm planning to apply to the Teaching Theatre PK-12 Graduate Certificate Program. How many courses can I take before applying to the program?***

You can take 2 pre-professional "Post-Bac" courses before applying to the graduate certificate program. Completing the Endorsement Requirements Worksheet ([add LINK](#)) will clarify any outstanding undergraduate requirements needed for admission into the Teaching Theatre PK-12 Graduate Certificate program. Students are responsible for completing the Graduate Credit Transfer Request form to apply their non-degree credits to the certificate program.

### ***2. I want to apply to the Teaching Theatre PK-12 Graduate Certificate Program. What is the first step I should take in this process? Can I make an appointment to meet with an advisor to discuss my plans?***

The first step is to fill out the on-line Theater Education Inquiry Form and the Endorsement Requirement Worksheet if you did not earn an Undergraduate Degree in Theatre. You can also start by enrolling in 2 pre-professional "Post-Bac" courses while preparing to apply to the program. If you have questions, you are always welcome to meet with or email an advisor.

**3. What are the ways I can apply for the Teaching Theatre PK-12 Graduate Certificate?**

Please use the on-line application from

Admissions: <http://admissions.gmu.edu/applyNow/forms.asp>

**4. I am in the process of applying to the Teaching Theatre PK-12 Graduate Certificate Program. Where do I send my application packet?**

Please send your COMPLETE application to Admissions.

**5. What do I send along with the application?**

Send the following items:

- Official Transcript
- Teaching Philosophy Statement: Describe your teaching philosophy, focusing on the integration of the arts in the classroom.
- resumé
- official transcripts (with Undergraduate conferral date on transcript)
- 2 letters of recommendation

Additional information about requirements for admission and how to apply can be found on the CVPA Graduate Admissions website: <http://cvpa.gmu.edu/studies-graduate.html>

**6. I just finished taking the The Praxis Core. Where and to whom do I send the scores?**

Your scores should be sent directly to George Mason University by the Educational Testing Service. On the day of the test, you can specify up to three schools to receive your scores. If you took the test within the last 10 years, you can click [here](#) to request your scores be sent to Mason. George Mason University's recipient code is RA5827. The Praxis Core: Reading, Writing and Math is a required assessment for entry into Virginia Teacher Preparation Program. Certain scores on college-entrance SAT® tests may substituted for the The Praxis Core test required for entry into Virginia teacher preparation program. For SAT® tests taken after April 1, 1995, the required scores are 1100 total, with at least 530 verbal and 530 mathematics. For SAT® tests taken prior to April 1, 1995, the required scores are 1000 total, with at least 450 verbal and 510 mathematics.

For information on the VCLA/The Praxis Core qualifying substitutes visit

<http://cehd.gmu.edu/teacher/test/praxis>

**7. How soon will I be notified about my application status?**

It takes up to a month to process your application. You will be notified by mail from the CVPA Graduate Admission Office.

**8. How do I register using Patriot Web?**

Once you apply to the University, you will be given a G# that you will use to gain access to Patriot Web, where you can access your personal, registration, class schedule, financial aid and grade information. For a brief tutorial on registration, click visit

<http://registrar.gmu.edu/registration/howtoregister.html>

## **9. How do I get placed in a school for my internship?**

Students will be required to complete a Theatre Education for Theatre Arts PK-12 Internship application at the beginning of the semester prior to their internship. Students to be placed in an internship for the Spring semester must file by September 15 and students to be placed in an internship in the Fall semester must file by February 15. The online application must be filed before you submit your paper application to the Field Placement Specialist. The link to the online application can be found on the departmental form ([http://cehd.gmu.edu/internapp\\_traditional](http://cehd.gmu.edu/internapp_traditional)). The College of Education and Human Development collects all internship applications and is responsible for student placement.

## **10. Can I choose the School where I complete my Student Teaching Internship?**

The College of Education and Human Development collects all internship applications and is responsible for student placement. In some circumstances, if the student has an ongoing relationship with a particular school and approval from the University Supervisor, this may help determine placement however, the College of Education and Human Development Field Placement Specialist collects all internship applications and is ultimately responsible for student placement.

## **11. How do I apply for Licensure?**

Upon completion of all degree requirements, students must apply for Virginia State Licensure. The GMU Licensure Specialist will file your completed application at your request. <http://cehd.gmu.edu/teacher/instructions>

## **12. I currently have a Provisional License to teach Theatre. Can I complete the Graduate Certificate concurrently?**

Yes, our program makes it possible for you to do both at the same time. You may also be granted permission to use your teaching position for your internship credit. If you are interested in using your current position to fulfill your internship requirement, you must complete the on-the-job internship application to be reviewed by the Theatre Department and submitted to The College of Education and Human Development Field Placement Specialist for approval. When you have a Provisional License, upon completion of the Graduate Certificate, your hiring school must file your application for full licensure. For more information on Provisional Licensure, visit [http://cehd.gmu.edu/teacher/lic\\_faq](http://cehd.gmu.edu/teacher/lic_faq)

### **\*\*\*\*More FAQ About the Teaching Theatre PK-12 Graduate Certificate Program**

#### ***1. When does the Teaching Theatre PK-12 Graduate Certificate program begin?***

Fall term is late August thru early December; Spring term is late January thru early May. For more detailed schedule information, please refer to the George Mason University academic calendars. At this time, Teaching Theater PK-12 Graduate courses are not offered during the summer sessions but you may be able to take any necessary post-Bac and/or education courses offered in the summer.

**2. *How competitive is your program to get in?***

We receive many applications. Each application is individually considered and thoroughly reviewed, with an emphasis on a quality teaching philosophy statement and strong recommendations.

**3. *Can students work full-time while enrolled in the Teaching Theatre PK-12 Graduate Certificate program?***

Since the Teaching Theatre PK-12 Graduate Certificate is an intensive professional program, we recommend that students consider this while balancing a work schedule and completing the program. NOTE: *During the final semester of Student Teaching Internship (THR 555), student teachers should not work outside of the full-time internship.*

**4. *Where are classes held?***

Classes are held on our Fairfax, Virginia campus. Students will be required to fulfill field experience requirements as part of their curriculum each semester within area public schools. Please visit <http://www.gmu.edu/fairfax/> for full information about George Mason campuses, directions and maps. Transportation information is available at <http://www.gmu.edu/vcenter>

**5. *What type of class schedule can be expected?***

Although most graduate classes at Mason are scheduled once a week from 4:30 – 7:10 pm, some courses have practicum requirements for observations in the public schools during the normal school day.

**6. *Can I take courses if I'm not in the program?***

Yes. As a Non-degree student, you may take the Post-Baccalaureate/undergraduate courses that are required prior to beginning or being accepted into the program, and any undergraduate courses recommended by the Theatre Education advisor. You may also take up to 2 pre-professional “Post-Bac” courses before applying to the graduate certificate program. Students are responsible for completing the Graduate Credit Transfer Request form to apply their non-degree credits to the certificate program. Registration in courses as a non-degree student is on a space available basis.

**7. *Where can I learn more about Virginia Teacher Licensure Requirements?***

Go to the Graduate School of Education’s website on Virginia Teacher Licensure Requirements [http://cehd.gmu.edu/licensure\\_programs/](http://cehd.gmu.edu/licensure_programs/)

**8. *Are there special requirements and provisions for international students?***

There is a great deal of information available for international students on the George Mason University admissions website. Please see the international student pages for TOEFL score requirements, VISA information, application deadlines and special needs if required. International students must be enrolled in degree programs.

**9. *What about Financial Aid?***

George Mason University offers limited scholarship help and has a full range of independent scholarships, financial aid programs, and grant information. You must be a full time MAT student to receive Financial Aid in the form of student loans. Please refer to the George Mason

University Office of Student Financial Aid website. Part-time work-study opportunities may be available for qualified students.

***10. Is campus housing available?***

Yes, there are a variety of housing options available at George Mason University.

\* For information about campus housing, visit the George Mason University Office of Housing and Residence Life.

\* For information about off-campus housing, visit the George Mason University Off-Campus Housing Service.