

SCHOOL OF THEATRE

Illinois State University

Program Learning Objectives

MISSION, GOAL STATEMENT AND OBJECTIVES

All units at Illinois State University must have a mission statement and goals, which are in keeping with the overall mission of the University and its newly adopted action plan for distinctiveness and excellence, "Educating Illinois". The mission of the School of Theatre parallels that of the mission of the University and that of the College of Fine Arts and is stated in the University Academic Plan for 2002-2007. In keeping with our spirit of self-evaluation, we continue to examine our place in the College of Fine Arts. The mission of the College of Fine Arts indicates that its purpose is:

...to educate students as artists, as teachers in the arts, (elementary, secondary, and higher education), as arts researchers, and as life-long audience members who are able to respond to and appreciate the arts. The Schools of the College create and produce studio and performing arts works as well as research in order to support this mission....

We believe that the School of Theatre offers a strong and artistic presence in the College of Fine Arts. Our course offerings, production work and faculty help to energize and promote the profile of the College on campus and in the community at large. The mission statement of the School of Theatre is:

- To educate students in developing informed, discriminating responses to and an appreciation of the art of theatre, its literature, and its history;
- To educate students in all areas of theatre arts;
- To train individuals capable of perpetuating the art of theatre by entering the profession, teaching or continuing with advanced study;
- To produce theatre art in order to assist in fulfilling the first three objectives as well as to serve the University, Bloomington/Normal, and the wider community.

We believe that through our creative and diverse offerings we are a dynamic voice for young artists and the means through which the human condition can be examined, explored and shared in a public area. We believe that we are an excellent example of the university mission's challenge to connect standards and scholarship. Our high academic and artistic standards are evident in our classroom, studios, shops and performance spaces. The goals of the School of Theatre are:

- To train students to be creative artists and critical thinkers;
- To offer an arena in which creative growth can take place and risks can be taken;
- To invigorate our students with creative and intellectual challenges;
- To foster interdisciplinary exploration through the study of theatre, dance, arts technology, and cinema;
- To encourage students to view their education from a global perspective;
- To recruit academically talented and creative students;
- To actively engage in the recruitment of a diverse population of students;
- To prepare undergraduate students for careers in the professional world;
- To prepare students for advanced study;
- To prepare graduate students in terminal degree programs to join the profession or the professoriate;

- To continue our commitment to small class sizes and quality faculty—student interaction and collaboration;
- To discover new ways of connecting with and reaching out to the communities of Normal and Bloomington both artistically and pedagogically;
- To continue the process of making educational and pedagogical connections among all aspects of course work and production;
- To foster understanding and collaboration among all areas of the School’s diverse sequences;
- To continue support of student initiated work.

The objectives of the School of Theatre are the following:

- Continue to explore the relationship between the production needs of the school and curricular expectations;
- Explore further relationships and connections to community colleges in the state of Illinois with the intention of transitioning and integrating those students into the School of Theatre;
- Continue to examine, evaluate and align our courses, sequences and degree programs;
- Continue the monitoring of minors in our sequences so as to aid accountability and involvement.

Bachelor of Science and Bachelor of Arts in Theatre—Performance Sequence/Acting

Program Objectives

1. To introduce students to basic skills and concepts of acting that allows each actor to explore and develop his/her emotional and physical resources;
2. To develop acting exercises that contributes to a focus on playing of objective and action;
3. To develop the ability to act, i.e., to project one’s self believably in word and action into imaginary circumstances, evoked improvisationally or through text;
4. To develop the ability to characterize convincingly from plays drawn from different genres and styles in an ensemble relationship with other actors;
5. To understand the specific demands of acting in plays of each major period and genre of dramatic literature;
6. To develop a flexible, strong, and controlled voice with trained breath support; appropriate vocal range and freedom from vocal and postural tension in rehearsal and performance; to develop the ability to use the voice effectively as an instrument for characterization together with the ability to project the voice effectively in theatre spaces of varying sizes and in media productions.
7. To develop a flexible, relaxed, and controlled body trained in basic stage movement disciplines; demonstrated ability to use the body effectively on stage as an instrument for characterization and to be responsive to changing time/rhythm demands and spatial relationships.