

THEATRE AND DANCE CAPSTONE AND HONORS EXPERIENCE

Theater and Dance majors may pursue either a capstone or an honors project for their senior experience. Both opportunities support majors in developing individualized research that connects performance and scholarship. While the capstone experience lasts the course of a semester and takes place in THDA490, Senior Seminar, an honors project is a year-long experience consisting of both artistic and scholarly components and developed under the guidance of an advisor.

THEATER AND DANCE CAPSTONE PROJECT

THDA490, Senior Seminar is a required course for the Theater and Dance major and typically serves as a platform for THDA majors interested in completing a one-semester capstone experience. Their individual research, paper, and final conference-style presentation fulfill this graduation requirement. THDA490, Senior Seminar welcomes THDA minors. As part of the Honors process, students pursuing Honors will submit a 10-page paper to the Senior Seminar's instructor and members of their committee, but they are exempt from preparing a conference-style presentation.

In this seminar, THDA seniors research and develop their thoughts on a contemporary performance or artist of their choice. The exchange ideas about the various contemporary performances and the artists selected by the students enriches the group's knowledge about the field, and sharpen their analytical skills of aesthetic styles and their connection with the socio-political context in which these performance and artists emerged.

THEATER AND DANCE HONORS PROJECT

The Honors Project in Theater and Dance is a year-long research project advised by a THDA faculty member. Honors Projects usually consist of a creative component in a THDA production, a critical essay of approximately 20 pages, and a 4-page public presentation of their research in which they introduce their project to the audience and reflect on the research process.

After the oral defense, the Honors Committee will recommend conferral or non-conferral of Honors to the Theater and Dance Department. The Department faculty and staff, upon receipt of the Committee's recommendation and with satisfaction that the proper procedures were followed in the advising and examination processes, will officially confer Honors to the student at graduation.

While Honors Proposals are accepted at the Department's discretion, THDA strongly encourages majors with a demonstrated record of excellence in coursework and production in their primary field of study to submit a proposal. The Theater and Dance Department faculty and staff will determine a candidate's primary advisor and the composition of the Honors Project Committee.

THDA majors are eligible to pursue an Honors Project in Theater and Dance if they have received a B or higher grade in department courses, and an A in courses in the field of their projects.

The Department recommends that majors begin planning for the Honors Project as early as possible in their studies in order to complete the required courses and experiences in the area of expertise of their choice. Make sure to approach your academic advisor and other THDA faculty about potential ideas early in your academic career.

The Honors Project should support a major's further development in an area of expertise that they have been studying and practicing during their time at Macalester College—choreography, design, directing, performance (acting or dance), playwriting, stage management, or technologies of performance.

The Theater and Dance Department will produce the projects of seniors pursuing Honors in Choreographing and Directing either in the Mainstage or the James A. Williams Theater. The Department will produce a staged reading of seniors seeking Honors in Playwriting. Students engaged in Honors Projects in design, performance (acting or dance), stage management, or technologies of performance will develop their project in conjunction with a Theater and Dance Department season production. Their participation in THDA's season will be determined around the time they submit their Honors Proposals.

Honors Proposals should be submitted in early spring of a student's junior year. For deadlines, please consult THDA's Honors Timetable; Macalester College's [Honors Program](#) (and its Honors Calendar); and review the Honors Application for guidelines as you plan. Those studying away adhere to the same deadlines. Those pursuing a fall graduation should enroll in the Senior Seminar their junior year.

The Theater and Dance Department usually requests one or more revisions of the original proposal that address the faculty's questions and/or concerns.

EVALUATION OF HONORS PROPOSALS

Each proposal will be evaluated based on the candidate's preparation; quality of preliminary research; clarity of the objectives of the process; and, when applicable, the rationale for staging a given production.

TIMETABLE FOR PRPARING HONORS PROPOSALS

In your junior year:

Last week of fall semester (early December)	Second week of spring semester (early February)	Week before spring break (mid-March)	2 weeks after spring break (early April)	Over the summer
Meet with your project advisor to discuss topic, scope, and proposal timeline.	Submit 3-5 page draft proposal for review and feedback	Submit revised proposal	Honors approvals announced	Write 5 pages with bibliography