



FAQ

(Frequently Asked Questions)

I plan to major in theatre/film. What courses should I take in my first year?

Most first-year students should take one or two theatre/film courses in first year. Students interested in all aspects of **theatre** can choose **one of** (but not two or all three) of: *THFM-1001(6) Introduction to Theatre: Performance* (a practical studio course that focuses primarily on an introduction to acting, though it includes the study of plays and other aspects of theatre) **or** *THFM-1002(6) Introduction to Theatre: General* (a lecture course that includes the study of a larger number of plays and more detailed coverage of a variety of aspects of the modern theatre; this course also involves attending plays performed in Winnipeg and discussing them) **or** *THFM-1003(6) Introduction to Theatre: Indigenous Performance* (a practical studio course similar to THFM-1001 which merges actor training with Indigenous teachings and ways of knowing; this course satisfies the BA Indigenous Course Requirement).

Most students who are primarily interested in acting take *Intro: Performance* or *Intro: Indigenous Performance*. *Intro: General* is often taken by non-acting students in a wide range of disciplines as a general interest course. Note however that *Intro: General* **does** qualify you to take any second-year course including *THFM-2101(6) Acting: Theory and Practice*, and that **any** of these introductory courses can serve as the prerequisite for most other theatre courses.

THFM-1010(6) Introduction to Film is required for those wishing to concentrate on **filmmaking**; it may be taken together with one of the above courses (*THFM-1001* or *THFM-1003* recommended). In addition, in first year you should select several courses from other departments. We recommend that all theatre/film students take a first-year English course and your Academic Writing course (if required). Acting students will benefit from taking a course in a foreign language, though this is not required. One or two electives from other departments which interest you are also a good choice.

I don't plan to major in Theatre/Film. Can I still take a theatre or film course?

Absolutely. Many students who take one of our introductory courses are planning to major in other fields. Science and social science students appreciate the fact that either one of the *Intro: Performance* courses gives them a break from the lecture format, encourages them to develop the physical and emotional sides of their natures, and helps build confidence for public speaking and presentations of all kinds. *Intro: General* is a great preparation for a lifetime as a theatre spectator, and *Introduction to Film* will change how you experience our most popular form of entertainment.

When I applied for admission, I declared Theatre and Film as my major with a concentration in Acting. Can I change my mind?

Of course! Sometimes it's hard to decide where to concentrate your studies at the beginning of your university degree. You're allowed to make an alternate choice, both with the subject of your major and/or the concentration. We encourage Theatre/Film majors to try out all six of our concentrations. Sometimes this results in finding a new passion. Don't wait too long, though, as you will want to be sure to have room in your degree studies for all required courses.

Can I only take Theatre/Film courses to get a degree?

No. UWinnipeg provides a "liberal education." This means that we want our students to graduate with a well-rounded education which teaches you to read, write, think critically, and solve problems. These general skills are valuable for all aspects of your life, including professional work in theatre and film. Because of this approach, students must fulfill the "Humanities Requirement" (12 credit hours); the "Science Requirement" (6 credit hours); the "Indigenous Studies Requirement" (3 credit hours) and the "Distribution Requirement" (i.e. you have to take at least 3 credit hours in each of five different subject areas). See a Student Advisor or the [Academic Calendar](#) for the details of what you need to take to get a degree.

I always thought taking "theatre" at UWinnipeg meant acting. What else do you teach?

Acting is only a part of what we teach in our department. We have six different concentrations. In addition to acting, we teach theatrical design (sets, costumes, lighting, make-up), drama in education, filmmaking, playwriting, and stage management/production. While our acting grads can be found on professional stages throughout Canada and beyond and in films and commercials, our production and design programs are very highly rated; these grads are well-respected in the theatre community and are competitive in finding employment. Our filmmaking concentration is in great demand and growing rapidly. Playwriting is popular with creative writers, and drama in education is an important teachable area in UWinnipeg's B.Ed. Program.

Can I take more than one concentration?

Yes – in fact we actually recommend it! Student directors and actors often find it useful to have experience in our lighting studios, design labs, or scenic shop. You may want to complete all the requirements for a couple of concentrations such as acting and filmmaking, but remember: **careful planning is required** so you should seek the advice of our Department Student Advisor **early in your program**. Or it may be useful to fulfill a single concentration, then complete your optional credits ("electives") by trying out courses from several different areas within the department.

Do I need high-school drama or a lot of acting experience to take theatre courses at UWinnipeg?

No. All students admitted to the University can take any of our introductory (1000-level) courses. Many of our best students had no previous experience in theatre at all before coming to UW. The *Intro: Performance* course is designed to gradually develop your performance skills in easy stages.

I have already done a great deal of acting. Can I skip first year?

Probably not. Even students with extensive acting experience find they can learn a lot from our introductory course. We teach a particular approach which may be different from the one you learned elsewhere – you will not be wasting your time. However, we'd be happy to discuss your situation with you. Make an appointment with the Chair of the department by e-mailing thfm@uwinnipeg.ca calling 204-786-9955.

Do you teach Musical Theatre?

Yes! Due to strong demand in this area and the popularity of musical theatre nation-wide, we offer *THFM-2920(3) Introductory Dance for Musical Theatre* and *THFM-2922(3) Introduction to Music and Singing*. These are second-year courses which require a prerequisite of either of the *Intro Performance* courses or *Intro: General*. Students who pass these courses – and *THFM-2101(6) Acting Theory and Practice* (2nd-year Acting) – can then register for *THFM-3920(6) Musical Theatre*, a senior course in the Acting concentration. **Students with sufficient training/experience in singing and/or dance may be permitted to register for *Musical Theatre* without taking the two preparatory courses.** Please note that these courses are not a full "program" in musical theatre; they are part of the Acting concentration and are meant to be an introduction to the musical theatre genre. When combined with other Acting courses from UWinnipeg, they will give you a rounded performance base.

Can I take 2000-level courses in first-year?

Sometimes. Pre-requisite courses are listed in the *Academic Calendar* (on-line) at the end of each course description's description. Look for the 2000-level course you're interested in taking and note whether or not there is a "Requisite." If there is, you must complete that course first; if not, then you can register for the 2000-level course. But note: these courses are more demanding than 1000-level courses. For example, some students choose to take the compulsory course *THFM-2401(3) Theatre History I* in their first year but this is only recommended for students who did very well in their high-school English or History courses. If you're not sure about whether you'll be able to complete an upper-level course successfully, get advice from the Department Student Advisor at thfm@uwinnipeg.ca or 204-786-9955.

Can I take THFM-2801(6) Production I in first-year?

Yes. Students interested in backstage work can take *Production I* **concurrently** (at the same time as) one of the Intro courses. Remember, though, that it is more advanced than a 1000-level intro course.

How do I know what kind of training I'll get at UWinnipeg?

Our faculty is our strength at UWinnipeg and the Department of Theatre and Film is a good example. No matter what concentration you select, your instructors will not only provide the academic foundation you need but will also bring you a wealth of practical, professional expertise as actors, designers, playwrights, directors, crafts people, and theatrical managers. They are also very approachable and willing to work with students individually. In addition to teaching, our faculty members all remain active in their areas in professional theatre and film. We are proud that our faculty practices what they teach!

Will I be qualified to be a professional actor when I graduate from UWinnipeg?

Students who take an Honours degree in Acting receive a considerable amount of highly-specialized training. It is not, however, fully comparable to that offered in a conservatory-style program (such as the *National Theatre School* in Montréal or *Studio 58* in Vancouver) or a fine arts program (such as York University or the University of Alberta). Technically we consider our Honours Acting BA to be "pre-professional," meaning that normally a student completing that program would go on to further study at institutions such as the *National Theatre School*, and many have. Note, however, that others have developed a successful acting career directly after graduating with an Honours BA, though they continue to study at workshops and training sessions to hone their skills. A lot depends on your dedication, hard work, and ambition!

I enjoyed shop courses or worked backstage on plays in high school. Can this help me with my degree?

Yes. Our production and design concentrations offer credit courses toward your BA. You can take set or props construction, scenic painting, make-up, lighting, and design, or all of the above. While we don't require that students have a background in these subjects, it always helps, and you can get credit for work you already know you like! We also have close ties to local professional theatres and even teach some courses at the Royal Manitoba Theatre Centre.

Why would I take an Honours degree as opposed to a General degree?

An Honours degree offers more intensive, specialized study than a General degree. For example, in the Acting concentration Honours students produce one or two plays annually for public performance, depending on the class you take. In other concentrations such as Design and Stage Management/Production, our Honours students get to work on specialized projects associated with our shows. You need more courses to get an Honours degree (120 credit hours) and you must achieve and maintain a high average both in and outside of the Department to get into – and stay in – the Honours Program. Our BA General students get thorough training in their concentrations but they are required to take just 90 credit hours and their training is not as intensive as that experienced by Honours students.

In our department you cannot make a decision about going into Honours until you have completed 30 credit hours of study. (If you're thinking of Honours Acting, this 30 credit hours must include our second-year Acting course called *THFM-2101(6) Acting Theory and Practice*, and we also recommend that you take a voice course and a movement course.) But it's a good idea to work hard right from the start if Honours might be an option so that you're not faced with great Theatre grades – which would qualify you for Honours – and poor grades outside the department, which might hold you back – no matter how good you are in Theatre. FYI, currently Honours degrees are not available in Drama in Education or Filmmaking.

What courses should I take first in the filmmaking concentration?

Filmmaking courses are sequenced, in other words you must take them in order: *THFM-1010(6) Intro to Film* first, followed by *THFM-2310(6) Filmmaking I*, then *THFM-3310(6) Filmmaking II* and/or either *THFM-3312(6) Sound Editing* or *THFM-3313(6) Picture Editing*. You can add in the other requirements [an Intro course and *THFM-2410(6) History of Film*] at any time, along with any optional courses you might wish to take.

Why do you recommend an acting course to complete the filmmaking concentration?

We feel that it is beneficial for our film students to have a basic understanding of acting in order to make good films so we **recommend** you to take one of the *Intro: Performance* courses at some point while you're doing your degree with us (it doesn't have to be in first year). The acting techniques taught in this course are equally applicable to film and theatre and if you're going to be behind the camera, taking an acting course will help you gain extra insight into the actor's process and how things work in front of the camera. This will make you a better filmmaker.

Are there any extra fees for Theatre and Film courses?

Sometimes. Because of the specialized equipment and facilities required by our courses (an added expense) we charge the "Science" tuition fee for our practical courses, even though we are an Arts department. Students in several courses pay a small amount in lieu of buying texts so that your professor can provide photocopied handouts which will save on the cost of text books. With *THFM-1010(6) Intro to Film*, students pay \$50 with their tuition; this is to cover the cost of making your group film. Upper-level film courses which require the use of our equipment are subject to a \$50 Technical Fee, collected with tuition, to offset the cost of normal wear and tear on equipment, and a refundable \$200 Damage Deposit, due near the start of the term and meant to encourage students to take care of our equipment while it is in their possession. There is also a small levy on all courses in our department; this was voted on and passed by TAFSA (the Theatre and Film Students' Association) who wanted to be recognized for contributing to the construction and furnishing of our new building. Finally, courses with labs have an additional lab fee.

Where do I find information on what courses to take?

UW's website (www.uwinnipeg.ca) is your major resource for student information. Everything you need to research course selection and to register can be found there. Click "Future Students" on the top ribbon to find all the information you need to apply. Once you've been admitted, click on "Students." You'll be taken to a comprehensive list of links to information on registration, financial aid, choosing courses, degree requirements, fees, student services and dates, exam schedules, as well as a number of other interesting topics. You'll also find the [Academic Calendar](#) here; it lists complete information about studying at the university and also contains sections for all academic departments where you'll find full details on each department's requirements together with course descriptions, prerequisites, and experimental courses. [WebAdvisor](#), our student information system can also be accessed there and contains information on what courses are being taught in any given year, when, by whom, and where. Finally, in WebAdvisor, click on Student Planning/Registration to plan your program and register for your courses.

How come I can't find all of the courses listed in the Academic Calendar on WebAdvisor or in Student Planning? When are they offered?

The Theatre/Film Department lists more than 50 courses in the *Academic Calendar* but it is impossible to offer all of these each year because of staffing and space constraints, and because the demand is sometimes not great enough to offer each one annually. We try to rotate our offerings wherever possible to give our students lots of choice. The *Calendar* lists all the courses we EVER offer (our full *repertoire*, if you like); WebAdvisor and Student Planning list all the relevant details of only those courses we are offering IN ANY GIVEN YEAR.

How do I register?

When you get admitted to the university you will be given a user ID and a password so that you will be able to access our on-line Student Planning/Registration module. You will also be assigned a UW Webmail account which you should check daily (or forward it to your personal e-mail address). In late May you will be e-mailed a date/time after which you can begin registering. Prior to your registration date/time, review the helpful information on how to use Student Planning/Registration under "Students" / Student Planning – Information & Videos. Then research what courses you want to take in WebAdvisor/ Student Planning & Registration, plan your courses right on-line, and, if necessary, make an appointment to see the Department's Student Advisor (thfm@uwinnipeg.ca). All your planning should be complete by your appointed registration time. When that time rolls around, simply log in to WebAdvisor/ Student Planning & Registration and register for your classes. Once you've finished, always log out and then back in to double-check that all of your registrations are complete and correct.

Can I take dance courses for credit at UWinnipeg?

Sometimes. We have a specialized program set up in conjunction with Winnipeg's [School of Contemporary Dancers](#) which permits students who have already auditioned for and been accepted into WSCD's Senior Professional Program to take dance courses for credit at UWinnipeg. This option is **NOT** available for students of any other dance studio, or those taking dance classes for fun. (This program is in addition to, and different from, the *THFM-2920(3) Introductory Dance for Musical Theatre* course which is available to anyone who has completed the pre-requisite of *THFM-1001(6) Intro: Performance*, *THFM-1003(6) Intro: Indigenous Performance* or *THFM-1002(6) Intro: General*.) See the [Calendar](#) and [Fact Sheet](#) for additional details regarding the Department of Theatre and Film's Dance Program Stream.

What can I do with a theatre/film degree?

Lots of things. Of course you can work in the specific area for which you are trained, like becoming an actor or a designer or a stage manager or a filmmaker. But because you will get a regular BA or BA (Hons) degree (that liberal education mentioned earlier), you will be trained to succeed in many areas. We have graduates who do everything from teaching and law, to administrating arts organizations and working in the civil service or the media. A knowledge of the performing arts can also be an advantage in many exciting areas of business.

What is the Asper Centre for Theatre and Film?

In 2000, our department moved to the former Salvation Army Citadel building located at 400 Colony Street, in the block just east of the main campus. Since then we've undergone three phases of renovations which have given us a wonderful home for our department and its activities. We now have fully renovated craft areas (design, carpentry, make-up, costumes, sound), specialized performance spaces including a big, flexible studio theatre and other improved acting and rehearsal rooms, enhanced film areas including two state of the art editing labs, additional technical labs and storage, and even a student lounge and lockers!

Where can I get more info about the Department of Theatre and Film?

See Melinda Tallin, the Department's Student Advisor, in Room 3T03 – that's the third floor of the Asper Centre for Theatre and Film at 400 Colony Street – call 204-786-9955, visit <http://theatre.uwinnipeg.ca> or <http://film.uwinnipeg.ca>, or e-mail m.tallin@uwinnipeg.ca.

HELPFUL LINKS:

University of Winnipeg website: www.uwinnipeg.ca

Information about admission to the university may be found at: <http://www.uwinnipeg.ca/index/admissions-main>

You can find more information about our programs, faculty, sample course outlines and all theatre activities at our departmental website: <http://theatre.uwinnipeg.ca> or <http://film.uwinnipeg.ca>

The calendar of theatre course descriptions may be found online at:
<http://www.uwinnipeg.ca/academics/calendar/docs/thfm.pdf>

The General course Calendar outlines degree requirements and all course descriptions may be found at:
<http://www.uwinnipeg.ca/index/calendar-calendar>

The Fall/Winter Timetable is at: <http://www.uwinnipeg.ca/index/timetable-index>

Webadvisor is the student registration tool and allows searches organized by term (Fall, Winter or Fall/Winter) and may be found at: <https://webadv.uwinnipeg.ca/WebAdvisor/WebAdvisor>

You may also want to visit our General Student Information Site at: <http://www.uwinnipeg.ca/index/student>