

Our program is a small, but a very active and accomplished one. We offer a major and a minor in theatre that include such courses as: Basic and Advanced Acting, Scenic, Light and Costume Design, Script Analysis, Dramatic Literature, Theatre History, Music Theatre, Theatre in London, Survey of Theatre, and Directing. Our season typically consists of four main-stage productions (two straight shows, a musical, and a children's show). Other performance opportunities include coffeehouse style productions, acting showcases, and many student-directed plays.

Stand in the spotlight. Actors, designers, directors, technicians inform and entertain us. They use their storytelling gifts, design and build stage sets, create costumes, and give characters personality. They combine the words and ideas of playwrights, the movement and voices of actors, and the scenic support of designers and technicians to educate and entertain.

Energy and excitement. The theatre program has the energy and excitement that are the hallmarks of the performing arts. Students study all aspects of theatre here. Since this kind of learning can't be confined to the classroom, there are plenty of opportunities to hone skills in theatre productions. Theatre majors have the benefit of studying with faculty members who are active thespians working in theatre productions, television and commercial work in the community and beyond.

Ambrose Advantages

Experiential learning. SAU offers experiential learning that is directly tied to the academic curriculum. We have a very active department that does 10 to 12 plays per year. First-year students are encouraged to participate from the get go and are even afforded their very own showcase, called the "Fresh Face Revue."

Customize your degree. Students have the opportunity to study in small classes and to customize their degrees to suit their needs. Upper class students frequently do internships and special projects that are set up with the help and connections of faculty.

Modern proscenium stage. St. Ambrose is fortunate to have a modern 600-seat proscenium stage that can be expanded to seat up to 1,200. The stage is also the convenient setting for many professional touring productions. We also have a small 50 seat Studio Theatre that is home to many student plays.

Scholarships. Our department offers a number of scholarships to students who participate in the theatre department. The scholarships help to encourage students to become involved in every aspect of theatre production and to learn through doing.



Career Opportunities

Theatre majors have gone on to make a career as: **directors, costume designers, technical directors, tour managers, lighting designers, actors, drama teachers** (college, community, and high school), **musical directors, artistic directors and stage managers.**

Theatre majors are also well prepared for advanced study in theatre as well as law school, counseling and social work, or have gone on to jobs in fashion design, event coordinating, arts administration, civic leadership, graphic design and managerial positions.

Career Outlook

- > The job growth outlook for dancers and choreographers is expected to be 13 percent through 2022.
- > Art directors earned a median salary of \$80,880 in 2012.
- > The Bureau of Labor Statistics projects job growth for set designers of 10 percent through 2022.
- > Makeup artists earned a median salary of \$51,000 in 2012.

Theatre Success Stories

St. Ambrose has fared extraordinarily well in our experiences with the Kennedy Center/American College Theatre Festival. SAU has garnered a number of KC/ACTF Certificate of Merit awards for directing, scenic design, lighting design, costume design, stage management and ensemble acting. Many SAU students have been selected by visiting adjudicators to compete in the Irene Ryan Acting competition—15 students have advanced to the Ryan semi-final round, and nine have advanced to the final round.

- > In 2000 we had an entire production invited to perform at the regional festival (5 plays invited from a pool of over 300). That same production was then held for consideration for production at the national festival.
- > In other years SAU alum Daniel Sheridan was 1st runner up to the national festival as a student director.
- > In 2003 SAU's Dan Rairdin-Hale (now a faculty member), and in 2005 Daniel Sheridan won the regional acting competition and went on to be one of 16 undergraduates and graduates nationwide to compete at the Kennedy Center.
- > In 2005 Corinne Johnson was named Acting Coach of the Year for KC/ACTF Region V. She also acted as regional coordinator of the Irene Ryan Acting Auditions from 2010 to 2013.
- > In 2009 SAU theatre major Rachel Mayer won the regional student directing title and was invited to spend a week at the Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C. studying directing with renowned professionals.
- > In 2010 SAU had the largest number of students represented in the final round of the acting competition (3 out of 16 region wide). Also in 2010 alumna Sarah Ulloa won the first prize in Musical Theatre Performance and senior Dan Hernandez won the title of Best Scene Partner.
- > Professor Dan Rairdin-Hale's 2010 production of *Oedipus Rex* was invited to the 2011 Regional Festival.
- > For the past two years our technical team, under the guidance of Professor Kris Eitheim, has won first place in the stage crew Olympics. The SAU team bested teams from seven states representing small and large universities alike.
- > In 2013 theatre major Anthony Stratton won the Regional Irene Ryan prize, taking SAU to the Kennedy Center a record 4th time.

What Some of Our Graduates Are Doing

- > "Saturday Night Live" and "Sesame Street," Emmy-winning costume designer
- > St. Croix Festival Theatre, theatre artist
- > Downtown Cabaret Children's Theatre, production manager

- > Davenport Junior Theatre, artistic director
- > Broadway, costume designer for *Honeymoon in Vegas*
- > The Numad Group, principal
- > Los Angeles, actor and teaching artist
- > Davenport, actress, producer, instructor
- > Flixpress, casting director, production coordinator
- > QC Family Focus, photographer
- > Bettendorf, Iowa, singer, songwriter, recording artist
- > Rivermont Collegiate, speech and theatre teacher
- > Chicago, actor, singer, teaching artist
- > Augustana College, coordinator of theatre technical services
- > Webster High School, theatre program director
- > Davenport, assistant theatre professor, actor, mime
- > Curtainbox Theatre, artistic director

Your Career: Networking, Internships and Jobs in the Quad Cities

The Quad Cities is a welcoming and fun place to live as a college student. More than that, it offers a great community to help you prepare for—or even start—your career. Quad City Arts, a local arts consortium, makes art and the fine arts accessible to thousands with its Visiting Artist program. The Adler Theatre and the iWireless Center feature performances ranging from Broadway plays and symphonies to Taylor Swift. Circa 21 Dinner Playhouse and Genesius Guild present musicals and plays, spotlighting area actors, vocalists and musicians. These organizations contribute to the Quad Cities' reputation as a center for the arts, and provide exceptional opportunities for networking, internships and jobs.

Get in Touch With Us Today

We invite you to visit St. Ambrose to learn more about the opportunities here. Our quality academic programs provide one of the best private education values in the Midwest. Check it out for yourself: contact our Admissions Office, 563/333-6300 (toll-free 800/383-2627) or admit@sau.edu, or go online to www.sau.edu.

St. Ambrose University offers a Bachelor of Arts in Theatre degree. A minor also is offered in this discipline. A major and minor are also available in Secondary Speech and Theatre Teaching (7–12). For complete curriculum information and course descriptions, consult the Course Catalog at www.sau.edu/catalog.