

Master of Fine Arts—Costume Design & Production

About the MFA in Costume Design & Production

The Master of Fine Arts in Costume Design/Production includes general and advanced courses in costume design, history, construction, and crafts. The program is sufficiently flexible to meet individual needs and interests, and also provides the knowledge and experience to move successfully into professional and/or educational theatre careers. A total of 60 semester hours is required for the degree.

Students participate in an intensive sequence of academic and studio work, and a variety of design and production experiences. University classwork and production assignments provide training in period patterning, tailoring, millinery, craftwork, dyeing, and various other methods of fabric manipulation. Students have opportunities for a variety of practical experiences such as designing for dance and studio or mainstage productions. Other possibilities include being a designer's assistant, make-up designer, hair stylist, crafts-person, cutter/draper, or milliner on a given production.

Admission to the program and assistantship awards are based upon a portfolio review and an interview at the USITT, the Southeastern Theatre Conference convention or the Tuscaloosa campus.

About the Program Director

Donna Meester, Associate Professor; Director of Costume Design/Production

Donna Meester, Associate Professor of Theatre, is Director of Costume Design/Production at The University of Alabama. Some of her favorite designs while at UA include: Ragtime, All's Well That Ends Well, and The Threepenny Opera. Other design credits include work for The Alabama Shakespeare Festival, The Oklahoma Shakespearean Festival, The Memphis Black Rep, The Red Light Theatre (Washington D.C.), Arkansas State University, University of Louisiana-Monroe, Ouachita Baptist College, Henderson State University, Louisiana State University and The University of Northern Iowa.

Meester recently served as Design Chair for the Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival-Region IV and was the 2011 Recipient of the Kennedy Center Golden Medallion Award. Her costume designs have won several awards from KCACTE, including designs for Picasso at the Lapin Agile, Voices and A Bright Room Called Day. An active member in the United States Institute for Theatre Design/Technology, Donna is currently serving as the Costume Commissioner. She holds a BS in Apparel Technology from Purdue University and an MFA in Stage Design from Southern Methodist University.

Assistantships

Degree candidates in our programs may be awarded research assistantships that provide a stipend of \$1,416 per month, plus full tuition-waiver and health benefits. Please note that a number of student fees are not waived under the assistantships awarded. Additional information is available by visiting The University of Alabama Graduate School website.

To schedule an interview and/or meeting, email dmeester@ua.edu or call 205.348.9032.

* Please note: some classes are subject to change and availability.

Please consult your advisor on available courses

Curriculum

First Year

- Costume Design I
- Costume Design II
- Costume Construction I
- Costume Construction II
- Drawing for Theatre Designers
- History of Theatre I
- History of Theatre II

Second Year

- Costume Design III
- Costume Design IV
- Period Costume Construction
- Costume History
- Advanced Stage Makeup
- Advanced Tailoring Techniques
- Drawing for Theatre Designers
- Problems in Theatre Arts: Costuming
- Script Analysis and Interpretation
- Period Costume Construction
- Research Not Related to Thesis
- Period Decor

Third Year

- Professional Portfolio Presentation
- Fabric Modification
- Scenic Design I
- Scenic Design II
- Lighting Design I
- Lighting Design I
- Costume Design V
- Costume Design VI
- Period Decor
- Research Not Related to Thesis
- Dramatic Theory and Criticism