Master of Fine Arts—Directing

About the MFA in Directing

The Directing program at Alabama is a small and intense 3-year program with a focus on production for the entire residency. Course work includes a directing studio every semester in which directing candidates explore a variety of genres and problems commonly encountered by directors professionally and within academia. Additional courses are taken in the areas of design, performance, history and criticism. While some courses are required for the degree, students have many electives to choose from, allowing them to focus on areas of interest to supplement their directing work. The course of study is individualized and is planned with the program director, whose consent is necessary for approval.

Candidates in the directing program meet regularly with the program director for instruction, rehearsal techniques, and analysis/criticism of directing projects on both the Mainstage and in the Studio Theatre, which serves as the directors’ primary lab throughout the three years of study. First year candidates normally serve as Assistant Directors. Second year and third year students direct two full-length productions each academic year. The exceptional student may be invited to direct on the Mainstage.

About the Program Director

Jeffrey Tangeman, Assistant Professor; Director of MFA Directing

Jeffrey is the Head of the MFA Directing Program at the University of Alabama Department of Theatre and Dance where he teaches Directing and Stage Management courses. He is a proud member of the Society of Directors and Choreographers (SDC).


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 jptangeman@as.ua.edu or call 205.348.2116.

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

Please consult your advisor on available courses.
Curriculum

First Year
- Directing Studio
- Theatre History I
- Theatre History II
- Elective (4)

Second Year
- Directing Studio
- Dramatic Theory & Criticism
- Elective (2)

Third Year
- Directing Studio
- Acting Course
- Thesis Production
- Elective (2)

Recommended Electives
- Scenic Design
- History of Costume
- Lighting Design
- Sound Design
- Acting Course
- Playscript Interpretation