



UNIVERSITY OF CENTRAL FLORIDA

### **School of Performing Arts**

12488 Centaurus Blvd.  
Orlando, Florida 32816

## **BFA in Musical Theatre**

Greetings! Thank you for your interest in the Musical Theatre BFA program at the University of Central Florida.

Our BFA Musical Theatre program is a conservatory approach in a liberal arts university, meaning that your studies in the Theatre Department will be very intense with technique/theory classes in addition to University general education requirements (English, math, sciences, computers, history, etc.) You can find those requirements at the UCF website ([www.ucf.edu](http://www.ucf.edu)). If you are taking AP and/or Honors courses, we strongly encourage you to take advanced placement exams to help ease your general education requirements when you get here. Dual enrollment credits also are helpful and will transfer to UCF.

You can find most of the information you will need about the BFA Musical Theatre program at our departmental website ([cah.ucf.edu/performingarts](http://cah.ucf.edu/performingarts)), including information about classes and faculty biographies so you can see with whom you would be studying.

### **How Do I Get into the University of Central Florida?**

Acceptance as a student at UCF is a two-step process:

- First, you must apply to the University for acceptance. You should begin the application process before you audition for the BFA Musical Theatre program. You do not have to know if you've been accepted as a UCF student before you audition for our program. However, we cannot finalize an official offer to you until you have been fully accepted by UCF Undergraduate Admissions. It is **STRONGLY RECOMMENDED** you apply to the University as soon as possible. Acceptance to the University is extremely competitive, so the sooner you apply, the better your chances of getting accepted.
- UCF offers an optional **Early Action (EA)** admission process for domestic first-time-in-college (FTIC) applicants. The EA option provides prospective students with a more structured timeline and earlier notification of their admission status, while maintaining flexibility for students who wish to partake in regular rolling admission.  
<http://www.ucf.edu/admissions/undergraduate/question/what-is-early-action-at-ucf/>

- Secondly, you audition for us to get accepted by the Department as a BFA candidate. We accept 16 new students each year into our BFA Musical Theatre program. We do not have a quota of how many freshmen and/or transfers we accept – we select the best 16 students from everyone who auditions for our program. And, YES, we do accept transfer students!! Transfer students with completed credits from another accredited institution are evaluated by UCF, and then appropriate transfer credits are applied to our BFA Musical Theatre program requirements.

You may audition for our BFA Musical Theatre program **ONE** time as a new freshman. If you elect to come to UCF and pursue another major, you will not be allowed to audition for the BFA Musical Theatre program a second time.

However, if you audition for us and are not selected the first time, you may re-audition for us a second time if you attend another college or university and are accepted to UCF as a transfer student, having completed your AA degree.

All BFA Musical Theatre students (new and returning) are evaluated by faculty each semester through interview and/or performance jury. At each evaluation period, faculty members decide who will be allowed to continue in the program.

We do **NOT** use a “cut system” in our program, meaning that we accept a certain number of students expecting to cut a certain percentage at the end of the first year. We sincerely hope all students in our program will be successful until graduation in their senior year.

### **How Do I Get An Audition Slot?**

We do not hold general auditions on campus for the BFA Musical Theatre program. We only select students for on-campus callbacks through a pre-screen process using Acceptd, an online submission process ([www.getacceptd.com](http://www.getacceptd.com)). Our Acceptd account is open from early-September, through Mid-January. We will not accept any audition applications past the final deadline date.

**ALL APPLICATION MATERIALS** (headshot, resume, monologue video, song videos, and dance video) must be uploaded prior to the final deadline. If **all** materials are not fully uploaded by the deadline date, we cannot consider you for the BFA Musical Theatre program.

For **CURRENT UCF STUDENTS** who wish to be considered for the BFA Musical Theatre program, the final deadline to submit online materials is the first Friday in November.

### **What Are the Audition Requirements?**

Theatre UCF participates in the Musical Theater Common Prescreen audition process through Papermill Playhouse and GetAcceptd. Full audition information can be found at this link: [The Musical Theater Common Prescreen: Requirements & Tips | Acceptd \(getacceptd.com\)](#)

# Requirements & Guidelines

## OVERALL

Each piece should be filmed/uploaded as a separate piece of media. No continuous videos. Students are encouraged to use standard technology/recording devices that are available to them (i.e. smartphones, tablets, etc.)

## INTRODUCTION (“SLATE”)

- Record one introduction "slate" video stating your name. If you would like to include your pronouns, state them as well. Please speak loudly (project your voice) and clearly (articulate) directly at the camera.
  - This is an opportunity for the auditors to get a sense of your personality and to learn the pronunciation of your name.
- There is no need to slate your individual performance videos & pieces. Instead, clearly label each video with your name and the title of the piece you are performing (see more details below).

## SONGS

Students should prepare two contrasting pieces. Each institution is responsible for indicating which options are accepted.

- Style: one song should be a ballad (where the piece has longer, sustained vocal lines) and one song should be an uptempo (where the vocal line moves at a conversational pace) so as to contrast style.
- Length: Each song file should be 60-90 seconds (*This time limit includes the slate at the beginning of the piece and is strictly adhered to; please do not upload media files longer than 90 seconds*).
- Accompaniment: Students must sing to musical accompaniment, which could include live or pre-recorded accompaniment. No “a cappella” singing (*meaning singing without music*).

***Universities may ask for one or either of the following Song Options. Check the individual university website to see which Option is required:***

### **UCF FOLLOWS OPTION B**

- One musical theatre song from any time period.
- One song of your choice from any time period in any style that best suits you (musical theatre, pop, hip-hop, folk, rock, rap, soul, country, punk, etc..). This song should contrast the style of the first selection

- One of the two songs (*student's choice*) should be filmed in a full frame shot to see your full range of expression, and the other one in a close-up shot (top of the head to the chest should be visible in the frame).

## **MONOLOGUES**

Students may be asked to prepare either one or two pieces Each institution is responsible for indicating which options are accepted.

- Monologues must be from a published play.
- Monologues cannot be from musicals.
- Each monologue file should be 60-90 seconds in length (*this time limit includes the slate at the beginning of the piece and is strictly adhered to; please do not upload media files longer than 90 seconds*)

***Universities may ask for one or either of the following Monologue Options. Check the individual university website to see which Option is required:***

## **UCF FOLLOWS OPTION A**

- One monologue from a published play or written by a professional writer.
- A professional writer is someone whose plays have been produced but may not have been professionally published.

## **DANCE**

Students may be asked to execute one or both of the following options. Each institution is responsible for indicating which options are accepted.

- All dance media should be filmed in a “full body” shot taking care to keep the student’s entire body in the frame at all times. (*This time limit includes the slate at the beginning of the piece and is strictly adhered to; please do not upload media files longer than 60 seconds*)
- Regardless of which style of dance you execute, the choreography and the movement should be connected to the music where the applicant is dancing with a sense of purpose.

**Universities may ask for a required Dance option. Universities may offer an optional Ballet submission:**

## **DANCE OPTION A**

- Show us your best version of dancing or moving. Please include at least one turn, one jump, and one kick (or other suitable rotation, elevation, and extension that works for your body).

## **BALLET OPTION B**

- Ballet Optional

## **WILD CARD**

Students may execute an Optional “Wild Card” submission

Submissions should be no more than 60 seconds.

- Applicants **do not** need to slate in any wild card media.
- This media can be **ANYTHING** you want - a special skill, an interesting story about yourself, a passion speech, an instrument you play, etc. *“What do you want us to know about you?”* and *“What makes you unique?”* (See the resources page for ideas on Wild Card submissions).

### **ADDITIONAL MATERIALS**

- You will need to upload a headshot and resume.
- If you are a transfer student, you also need to provide an unofficial copy of transcripts from any previous university you’ve attended.
- Three letters of recommendation are **NO LONGER REQUIRED** for our audition process.

### **BFA Musical Theatre Callback Process**

Students complete the audition process through Acceptd and the Musical Theater Common Prescreen. The UCF Musical Theatre Faculty evaluate submissions on a rolling basis and select “finalists” for the program. Those finalists are invited to an on-campus callback, which will take place in February 2025.

Students will be notified via email in early March regarding musical theatre faculty decisions for the new, incoming class.

### **How Many Shows Do You Do? Can Freshmen Perform?**

We produce 6 shows during the academic year on our main campus in Orlando. All BFA musical theatre majors are **REQUIRED** to audition each semester for the shows, beginning their first semester in the program. The first audition students participate in happens the week before the Fall semester begins.

If you are not cast, you may choose a technical assignment to work backstage, in the scene shop, in the costume shop, in the Box Office, or as an Usher/House Manager. These positions satisfy Theatre Participation courses in Production and Management, required of all BFA Musical Theatre majors. Those cast in shows register for the required Theatre Participation Performance class.

We audition each semester for the shows we will be producing. All students do a general audition [monologue(s)/song(s)] and then callbacks are posted by the directors who are casting that semester.

Students are not cast according to their program of study - you can be cast in any of the shows, whether it's a musical or a play. Many of our musical theatre students are cast in the

plays, and many of our acting majors are cast in the musicals.

As well, each semester a student-produced Ten-Minute Play and One-Act Festival are mounted. Both are focused on student-written, original work. Auditions for these festivals are not required for BFA musical theatre majors. They are voluntary auditions for any interested students. If you have an interest in directing, playwriting, and/or acting, this is a great opportunity to hone skills in those areas. These theatre festivals are sponsored by Project Spotlight, a Theatre Department club.

We also produce a Spring Dance Concert every year, which consists of new, original dance works by students and faculty. Auditions for this are not mandatory and happen each Fall semester.

We produce a new works festival in the summer as well. It varies each summer how many shows and what types of shows are produced. Students are not required to audition for those shows. They are auditioned on a voluntary basis. UCF requires every student on campus to complete 9 credits during summer session, so many of our students combine general education classes with summer theatre to meet that requirement...usually the summer after freshman year.

### **Do You Sponsor A Senior Showcase?**

Theatre UCF does sponsor a “Senior Showcase” each year. But, every BFA major in our department is required to complete a professional internship before they graduate. This means BFA Musical Theatre students are required to get a paying job as a performer (paying at least minimum wage). Students are allowed to do their internship hours when they have FOUR semesters of coursework left before graduation (available the summer after their sophomore year).

Most of our students easily complete this requirement doing summer work at theme parks, dinner theatres, summer stock, and regional theatre work. We have an Internship Coordinator to help students find these internships, and we actively participate in regional auditions to help students get hired. Internships are not authorized during the regular school year unless you are completely finished with all your theatre major requirements.

As well, we have a Professional Advisory Board that includes casting representatives from Disney, Universal, Busch Gardens, and Sea World, and they regularly hire our students during summer, part-time during the school year, and full-time once students graduate. We also are partners with Orlando Family Stages, a family theatre company, and UCF/Orlando Shakes, who produces Shakespeare, classic works, musicals, and youth theatre.

### **What If I Am Not Selected for the BFA Program?**

If you audition for the BFA Musical Theatre program and are not accepted, but you still wish to come to UCF and major/minor in theatre, you can complete a separate interview/audition for another BFA program (Acting, Design-Tech, Stage Management), our BA Theatre

Studies program, or our Theatre Minor program. Check the Theatre Department website for guidelines on how to interview/audition for any of these programs.

The BA Theatre Studies major is NOT a performance-based degree program. It is a liberal arts study program that requires students to select an associated minor or double major. If students choose to interview for the BA Theatre Studies program, they should be crystal clear on why that program would fit their college training needs. Many students who are interested in two areas of study choose this option so they can complete two majors in the four years of study (i.e., theatre/film, theatre/education, theatre/marketing, theatre/business, theatre/psychology, etc.). If your desire is to be a performance major, then you absolutely should not interview for the BA Theatre Studies program.

### **Are There Any Scholarships Available in the Theatre Department?**

We have a small, limited number of privately-funded, one-time only scholarships available to students. The number of scholarships available varies from year-to-year. Most scholarship monies are granted through the University financial aid process. Students may apply for individual department scholarships after their first year in the program.

### **What Classes Will I Take in the BFA Musical Theatre Program?**

Our curriculum is equally balanced with intense training in acting, singing, dance, music theory, literature/history, and technical courses. The complete program, including general education requirements, is 129 credit hours. Of those 129 credit hours, 93 are in the theatre major.

#### **Required courses include:**

- 2 semesters of Estill Voice Training™ based Voice classes
- 6 semesters of Applied/Studio Voice Training
- 4 semesters of foundational acting including Shakespeare
- 2 semesters of musical theatre acting (MT Monologue & MT Scene Study)
- 2 semesters of ballet dance
- 2 semesters of jazz dance
- 1 semester of tap dance
- 2 Semesters of theatre dance (MT Storytelling through Dance & Adv. MT Dance Repertoire)
- Musical Theatre Audition Technique
- 2 semesters of Music Theory
- 2 semesters of Class Piano
- Survey of Theatre
- Script Analysis
- Theatre History/Literature I and II
- Evolution of Musical Theatre History
- Makeup
- Directing
- Theatre Careers

- Introduction to Stagecraft
- Production Theatre Participation (Crew assignment on a show)
- Management Theatre Participation (Box Office or Ushering for shows)
- Performance Theatre Participation (Performing a role in a show)
- Professional Internship