

Department of Theatre Production Practicum FAQ

What is a production practicum?

A production practicum is an opportunity for you to be involved in actual theatre and get your “hands dirty” so to speak. This is a chance to build resume credits for the future job whether it is doing summer theatre or after graduation. This is a chance for you to try something new, learn a new skill, improve upon old skills, or just enjoy the magic of theatre.

Who works on the shows?

Department of Theatre faculty and all the students and who want to be involved in the Department of Theatre Company and build a better resume. This includes all the students in THR135, the more advanced students who have been asked to be TAs in the Scene Shop, Costume Shop, or Electrics Department, as well as all the students in the Practicum sections. There are approximately 80 company members each semester.

What are my crew options?

There are crews for scenery, props, electrics, costumes, sound, paint, run crew, wardrobe crew, sound board operation, light board operation, publicity, stage management, and acting.

What do I do on a crew?

You get the chance to assist the rest of the company in the creation, acquisition, installation, execution, and conservation of all theatre elements within each area.

Of which crew should I be a part?

Whichever one you would like. Each crew provides new skills or the chance to improve on existing skills as you contribute to the company as a whole.

Do I have to have experience to be on a specific crew?

No. As part of your lab hours you will be taught the skills you need to be on the crew. However, if you would like to really gain experience and assume a larger role in the company by being a crew head, you will need to have experience which stems from having been on the crew in the first place.

Who runs the crews?

Crews are run by students who have been here for a while, have expressed an interest in a particular area, and have shown they are ready to handle the responsibility. As many crews as possible are run by students, giving them the opportunity to build a better resume and get some management experience.

When does crew work start?

It varies based on the crew. Approximate start dates can be found on the Department of Theatre callboard. This is located on the 2nd floor of the Performing Arts Center on the south side (Theatre side) of the building.

What is the callboard?

The callboard is the place where information about the productions and the Department of Theatre are posted. It is located on the 2nd floor of the Performing Arts Center on the south side (Theatre side) of the building.

How do I join a crew?

Read over the descriptions for each and make sure you have the requisite time available. Check in with the Production Manager to make sure the position is not already filled. Then fill out the form available here. Once the form is filled out, print it and bring it to the Production Manager so they can give you the appropriate Permission #. You can also check the callboard at the end of a semester for the following semester and get a jumpstart on it. If you wish to be cast in a show you must audition. General auditions for each show are normally held over 2 days and then there is a third day for callbacks. Check the callboard or [click here](#).

Are there attendance requirements?

All students must show up for their assigned crew hours, the company meeting, the strike of the show and all other activities listed in the individual assignment descriptions. If you are ill you must call your crew supervisor.

What is strike?

Strikes occur after the closing performance of a production and are when all scenery, electrics, sound, props and costumes are removed from the theatre and returned to storage or disposed of properly. Everyone in the class is required to attend the strikes for the departmental productions. No one is released from strike until the Production Manager says so. Strike is a lot of work but usually it goes fairly quickly. Sometimes people are goofing around and not really working. This makes it take forever. The faster people work, the sooner everyone gets to go home. Each student will be assigned to a work crew by the Production Manager.

What is the company meeting?

For each show there is a meeting early in the rehearsal process. It is a chance for everyone on the show to meet and find out what everyone else is doing on the show. The designers and director will talk about the show a little bit so everyone knows what is happening and how it is going to work.

Where should I look for other information?

On the callboard. Information pertaining to the shows as well other departmental business will be posted here.

Are the crews graded?

Yes.

What is the difference between THR101, THR102, THR201, THR202, THR301, and THR302?

Each crew is assigned to a specific class at the beginning of the semester by the Production Manager and the Director of Performance. The determination is based on the crew, the amount of time required, and the level of responsibility.