Student Handbook

THEATRE

**Getting Started**

**First Year**

We are pleased you’re here. The mere fact that you are reading this is already testimony that we are of the belief you will succeed and do well here. That in and of itself is already a significant accomplishment. Congratulations! Now for the future, please do not rest on that accomplishment. The Theater is a demanding vocation. To increase your chance of success, you will need to work long hours and practice self-discipline. We expect that you will be ready, willing and able to learn and grow over the next few years.

This handbook is being developed to better aid you in accomplishing your goals as well as helping you understand what is expected of you. The handbook is considered a work-in-progress, and will continue to be developed and adapted.

We often measure success here a project, design, or performance at a time. We look for your best effort. Many are often surprised when they are passed over for a new responsibility after having just “phoned it in” or done less than their best. Be straight in your own mind as to what your motivations are. Deliver on your promises. We understand that it will be an adjustment for you to settle in. You’ll have good days and some less so. That’s true for us, too. It’s critical that we work as a group and in teams. Every time we confront a problem ask yourself how you are working on solutions.

While we love theatre, it greatly taxes our energy. Don’t let the fact that you are frequently competing with one another for assignments or roles get in the way. Life is too short and a life at college, shorter. Allow the faculty and staff as many opportunities as possible to get a better sense of you and your skills.

Get involved. Don’t hang back. Volunteer to be on the running crew for a show, work in the costume shop, scene shop, FPAC load-ins/outs, or help with publicity and promotions.

If you auditioned and were accepted under one track and your goal becomes another track, speak to your advisor for assistance.

**Returning Students**

For those who are returning, some of the information in this handbook is new and represents a change in policies or guidelines for both students and the faculty. As stated earlier, this will remain a work in progress, and grow and change with our programs. Your primary interest and responsibility will likely be in those changes.