

THR 498 or 499 Procedures and Guidelines

THR 498 Honors Directed Study in Theatre (3). Individual creation of an original product that integrates theatre knowledge and skills. Selected in advance with advice, approval, and supervision by an instructor. Prerequisite: Consent of instructor, senior level status, and 3.5 GPA in Theatre and 3.25 GPA overall at the time of enrollment.

THR 499 Directed Study in Theatre (3). Individual creation of an original product that integrates theatre knowledge and skills. Selected in advance with advice, approval, and supervision by an instructor. Prerequisite: Consent of instructor and junior or senior level status.

Student Responsibilities

1. Directed studies are independent research/performance projects *self-directed* and conducted *independently* by students. *You* initiate and decide on a particular topic of investigation and research question of interest to you. Write up a detailed, 1-page proposal that explains what and why you want to investigate a specific question and topic. Be sure to explain what you plan to do to meet the criteria for KU Core Goal 6. Read and study the rubric posted under Directed Study at <http://theatre.ku.edu/advising>.

2. You should consider projects that are *not* offered in THR course rotation or projects that involve a deeper engagement with a particular topic already explored in a course.

3. BFA Theatre Design students may have different obligations (e.g., UT assignments).

4. Choose one faculty mentor by exploring professors' areas of expertise at <http://theatre.ku.edu/faculty>. *Before* the next fall or spring semester begins, share your proposal with one professor and/or meet with a professor to flesh out your proposed ideas in detail.

5. Once a professor agrees to mentor you on your project, create your own "syllabus" or planned schedule of what you will do and turn in by specific due dates over the course of the semester.

6. Fill out the Directed Study Form, sign it, and get signatures from your professor and department chair. Make copies for you and your professor. Submit another copy of this form with your detailed proposal and semester schedule to Karen Hummel in 356 Murphy. She will give you a permission number to enroll in THR 498 or 499.

7. If you meet the criteria for THR 498 (above) *at the time of enrollment*, you may enroll in THR 498 to achieve departmental honors. Otherwise, you will enroll in THR 499.

8. The Center for Undergraduate Research offers tips for getting started and additional opportunities for funding, sharing your work, and submitting papers to the *Journal of Undergraduate Research*: <http://ugresearch.ku.edu/student/overview>.

9. If your project involves a performance or public presentation, you must reserve the use of the Inge Theatre or other spaces well in advance. Use the Academic Activity Application (PDF).

Faculty Responsibilities

1. Upon agreeing to mentor a student, make suggestions for improving the student's initial proposal. Discuss the student's proposed schedule for turning in evidence of his/her work-in-progress to you by due dates.
2. At the very beginning of the semester, agree upon what will happen if the student fails to meet specified deadlines. In some cases, you may prefer to create a syllabus/contract with the student in advance; for example, 50% adequate progress on weekly work and 50% final project. Or you may break down portions of the final project by due dates but still include substantial points for weekly progress (75%) and less for the final performance (25%). If a student repeatedly fails to turn in adequate work by deadlines, then give zeroes for late work. In other words, students may fail THR 499 for not taking independent responsibility for their own learning.
3. Ideally, it is recommended that faculty meet (or check in) with students at least once a week for 30-60 minutes to discuss any obstacles and questions that arise during the process. Keep the student on task and on schedule by providing feedback on everything you receive as soon as possible. If desired, you may also create and use your own rubrics to evaluate portions of projects over the semester (e.g., rubrics for writing, critical thinking, oral communication).
4. At the end of the semester, evaluate the student's final project using KU Core Goal 6 rubric inside Directed Study Approval Form (pdf) at <http://theatre.ku.edu/advising>.
5. Encourage students to participate in Undergraduate Research initiatives at <http://ugresearch.ku.edu/student/overview>, in part, to bring greater visibility to student achievements in the Department of Theatre.

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