

Undergraduate Capstone Requirements

ACU Department of Theatre

The Theatre Department has three different experiences in place for our students to meet the Capstone requirements as set by the University. The first, and most comprehensive, is our January short course The Arts and Culture: A Christian Aesthetic. This course is taught by Visiting Professor Jeff Berryman, and is a required course for all upperclassmen Theatre Majors. Learning Outcomes for this course cover topics that include theology, history, philosophy, high culture, folk culture, and pop culture. Students are encouraged to engage in study and discussion of their discipline from a wide variety of perspectives. The course also requires three 500-600 word essays to demonstrate comprehension and engagement of assigned readings. The course also requires a major research paper to help students “engage, analyze, reflect, and evaluate” artistic experiences.

The second capstone experience is our Senior Showcase – a requirement for all Acting and Musical Theatre majors. The Showcase requires performers to choose monologues, scenes, and songs that represent the actor’s strengths as a performer. The showcase is presented to talent agents, casting agents, and producers from New York, Dallas, and other major cities. The performers also will have prepared a full audition book with a comprehensive collection of their work during their time at ACU. They must be prepared to perform anything in their book by request during a callback time. They also interview with the agents, discussing their worldview, artistic goals, and vocational calling.

The students who major in Directing, Design/Tech, and Theatre Education are required to have a portfolio presentation and exit interview at the end of their senior year. The requirements for this experience are presented in the student handbook as follows:

- *Portfolio Presentation*
- *Articulation of artistic process and training*
- *Expression of mission or vocation*
- *Discussion of future options*

The student will arrange these elements into a 10-15 minute presentation. This will be followed by responses and questions from the faculty. The expectation of the faculty is that students will be able to articulate their training, mission, and goals in addition to performance or portfolio. The student should also expect faculty responses to the questionnaire and the student’s overall achievements during his or her time at ACU.