The University of Oklahoma Helmerich School of Drama traces its roots to 1903 and the “Program of Elocution and Expression.” Named the School of Drama in 1927, it is the second-oldest university theatre school in the United States. The Helmerich School of Drama prepares students for professional careers in theatre and the entertainment industry and to successfully move forward to the next level of their career development. As a unit within a major university, the Helmerich School of Drama offers students opportunities for broad study outside their major field while pursuing their degrees.

Prospective students may arrange auditions, campus and theatre tours, interviews with academic advisors and faculty, and to see productions by scheduling appointments in advance. Interested students should contact the Drama Recruitment Office at (405) 325-0546 or e-mail drama_recruitment@ou.edu.

Undergraduate Degrees and Curricula

Bachelor of Fine Arts in Drama

Acting: for undergraduate students interested in pursuing a career as a performer in professional theatre, television or film.

Design: for undergraduate students interested in pursuing a career in scenic, costume or lighting design, and sound.

Dramaturgy: for undergraduate students interested in pursuing a career and/or graduate study in dramaturgy, theatre history, directing, or play writing.

Stage Management: for undergraduate students interested in pursuing a career in stage or production management.

Course work on the undergraduate level includes acting; directing; movement and dance; voice and speech; stage combat; graphics; stagecraft; theatre history; costume history, construction and design; lighting and scenic design; stage and theatre management; and play structure and analysis.

Faculty

The faculty consists of outstanding artists and scholars that blend academic skill and professional experience, producing theatre training of the highest caliber. They are a highly regarded and nationally recognized team of professionals committed to the training and education of young artists. The low student-faculty ratio in the School of Drama assures the student extensive individual attention during each step of the program. Visiting artists and artists-in-residence supplement the faculty and staff in providing a wide range of student experiences.

Facilities

The Helmerich School of Drama is located in the Fine Arts Center, constructed in 1965 on the northwest corner of The University of Oklahoma Norman campus. The center contains the 600-seat Elsie C. Brackett Theatre and the highly flexible 230-seat Weitzenhoffer Theatre. The school also mounts student-directed productions in the 80-seat Gilson Lab Theatre and in the Drama Studio, a 25-seat theatre at Beatrice Carr Wallace Old Science Hall. The close proximity of the other schools in the Weitzenhoffer Family College of Fine Arts creates an environment in which dancers, actors, artists, musicians, technicians and their educators work and collaborate within sight and sound of one another. Students also have access to the Fine Arts Library and the Fred Jones Jr. Museum of Art.
Admission
Admission to the Helmerich School of Drama requires an on-campus audition (for Acting concentration), portfolio review (for Design or Technology concentrations) or an interview (for Stage Management or Dramaturgy concentrations). The application information and the preliminary audition schedule are available online at www.ou.edu/finearts/drama/apply-audition

School Officers
Mary Margaret Holt, Interim Director
Alyssa Mortimer, Performance Area Coordinator
Jon Young, Coordinator, Design/Tech area

Scholarships and Awards
A number of scholarships and awards are available to qualified students. Applications for scholarships may be obtained from the Helmerich School of Drama office or online. Students who wish to have scholarships renewed must reapply each year. Additional non-drama scholarships and financial aid are available to qualified students through the cash.ou.edu. Early application is advised.

Performance and Production Opportunities
The University Theatre season consists of 9 main stage productions, a lab productions season and a professional summerstock season. Fall and spring shows are cast from the student body in August and November. OU offers a wide variety of performance and design opportunities with a selection of dramas, comedies, full-length ballets, opera and musical theatre productions. Classic, contemporary and new scripts are produced as part of the learning process. Productions are seen by more than 23,000 people each year. All phases of the production work are assigned to students working closely with faculty and staff.

Recent Productions
A Christmas Carol
A Midsummer Night’s Dream
Alice in Wonderland
Arcadia
Clybourne Park
Dracula
Is He Dead?
Julius Caesar
Let the Right One In
Little Women
Noises Off
Shakespeare’s Other Women
She Kills Monsters
Summer and Smoke
The Trojan Women

The University of Oklahoma
Created by the Oklahoma Territorial Legislature in 1890, The University of Oklahoma is a doctoral degree granting research university serving the educational, cultural, economic and health-care needs of the state, region and nation. The Norman campus serves as home to all of the university’s academic programs except health-related fields. Both the Norman and Health Sciences Center colleges offer programs at the Schusterman Center, the site of OU-Tulsa. The OU Health Sciences Center, which is located in Oklahoma City, is one of only four comprehensive academic health centers in the nation with seven professional colleges. OU enrolls more than 30,000 students, has more than 2,400 full-time faculty members, and has 21 colleges offering 163 majors at the baccalaureate level, 166 majors at the master’s level, 81 majors at the doctoral level, 27 majors at the doctoral professional level, and 26 graduate certificates. The university’s annual operating budget is $1.5 billion. The University of Oklahoma is an equal opportunity institution. www.ou.edu/eoo.