

What Is Stage Properties?

The MFA in Stage Properties is a professional training program for talented and motivated students who wish to pursue a career in Theatre, Opera, Film production, or related fields. Stage Properties involves the management, acquisition and creation of items used practically or decoratively onstage: furniture, draperies, weaponry, puppets, fake food, and much more. A Properties Master's bag of skills might include carpentry, leatherwork, mold-making, welding, electronics and digital imaging, to name just a few.

Success Factors

The successful Stage Properties graduate student comes to this program with demonstrated skill and experience in Stage Properties. The student must be highly motivated, engaged, and excellent at creative problem solving. Property Masters must be passionate about developing their talents as they work collaboratively with Stage Designers, Stage Managers and Directors to realize productions successfully both aesthetically and pragmatically.

Working on drama, musical theatre and opera in theater spaces requiring three distinct scales, the MFA student will hone existing craft and managerial skills and develop a range of new skills following a course of study tailored to their individual backgrounds and needs.

Career Possibilities

Undergraduate and graduate Stage Design and Stage Properties students of the University of Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music (CCM) have been, or are now currently employed in design, drafting, model making, scenic painting, and prop making, and film, media and television design with Disney, Cirque du Soleil, Broadway, national tours, The Metropolitan Opera, Playwright's Horizon, Central City Opera, Teatro Colon in Buenos Aires, South Coast Repertory, Opera Theater of Saint Louis, Wolf Trap Opera, Minnesota Opera, Pittsburgh Opera, The MUNY in Saint Louis, Shakespeare Theater St. Louis, The Denver Theatre Center, The Cincinnati Playhouse in the Park, Toledo Ballet, Utah Shakespearean Festival, Spoleto Opera Theatre, Chicago Lyric Opera, Goodman Theatre, Steppenwolf Theatre, Stages St. Louis, American Players Theatre, Santa Fe Opera, The Ensemble Theatre of Cincinnati, The Shakespeare Theatre (DC), Glimmerglass Opera and the Cincinnati Ballet, as well as Art Direction and Set Design for commercial and independent film companies. Representative film titles are: *Carol*, *Goat*, *James and the Giant Peach*, *Angels and Demons*, *House of Cards*, *X-Men: First Class*, *Spider Man 3*, *Shrek 2*, *Saving Private Ryan*, and *Little Voice*.

Additional career options are listed on the [Center for Exploratory Studies](#) website.

UC Advantages and Special Opportunities

CCM's exemplary faculty and teaching staff are supported by exceptional facilities. This synthesis optimizes the graduate experience informing and supporting the superb level of instruction.

The department of Theatre Design and Production (TDP) is a separate, centralized department that produces the mainstage and studio productions for the departments of Drama, Musical Theater, Opera and Dance.

Beyond the classrooms and drafting studio, the Design, Scenic Painting and Properties students spend much of their time perfecting their skills and developing their talents in the CCM Scenery, Props and Painting Workshops and theatres. The CCM Scene Shop is a generously sized 8,500 square foot space with 24' clear vertical space and is extremely well equipped. The Scenic Workshop is the centerpiece of the Corbett Center for the Arts and came on line in the late 1990's and was designed by the architecture firm of Pei, Cobb, and Freed.

Students design for all three main performance spaces: The 740-seat **Corbett Auditorium** underwent a five-million dollar renovation - the result is one of the most visually striking and acoustically balanced college theatres in the nation. Corbett Auditorium is very well equipped with a 54'-0" proscenium, hydraulic orchestra lift, dimmer-per-circuit lighting and extensive sound and video circuiting. Corbett Auditorium won the prestigious 1997 USITT Meritorious Achievement Award for Outstanding New Theatre.

The 400-seat **Patricia Corbett Theater** features a modified-thrust stage with a 42'-0" proscenium opening. The Theater recently underwent an extensive half-million dollar lighting system renovation. Designed by Ming Cho Lee - this theater has a Bayreuth style pit and steeply raked intimate seating.

The **Cohen Family Studio Theater** is a one-of-a-kind flexible space. This venue incorporates a unique architectural 'apse' within the outer structure of a more traditional large black-box with a multitude of staging possibilities through the use of modular seating. The theater, with flexible seating for approximately 150, serves as the home for CCM's workshop series and laboratory productions.

Admission Requirements

This is a graduate-level degree course. It is not necessary that the applicant have an undergraduate degree in theatre studies and/or theatrical design or production. However an applicant must demonstrate prior experience and an appropriate level of mastery of skills and technique compatible with a graduate level study of *theatrical* design. The interviewing faculty will also assess the applicant's professional aptitude and potential for success during the degree course and post graduation.

Admission to the program is by an on-campus interview and portfolio review. In some circumstances a SKYPE interview may be conducted. However we strongly feel that it is very important for applicants to visit the UC Campus, the Conservatory and our facilities and witness first-hand our complex production and educational demands to better understand what they may expect from the program and what the program will expect from them.

A full day visit is recommended. This gives the applicant time to experience the working and academic environment as well as ask questions of the faculty, staff and students with whom (s)he will be interacting daily if accepted into the program.

For consideration into Stage Properties the applicant must present a portfolio demonstrating artistic proficiency in drawing, painting and crafts work compatible with the study of theatrical design and production.

The GRE is not required for admission to the MFA in Stage Design.

Transferring to UC Requirements

Students who have completed graduate courses at another institution can request an evaluation for the transfer of these credits into a CCM degree program. The evaluation of such credits is performed by the divisional faculty who have the instructional responsibility for the particular course(s) in question. Once the evaluation has been completed, a recommendation will be submitted to the director of graduate studies for final approval. No more than 12 semester hours can be transferred, and only courses with at least a grade of B will be considered.

Changing Majors within UC Requirements

Acceptance of transfer credit in those major theatre production courses specifically required for the respective degree programs will be determined by an appropriate audition or examination. In addition to fulfilling UC and CCM changing majors within UC admission requirements: for consideration into Stage Properties the applicant must present a portfolio demonstrating artistic proficiency in drawing, painting and crafts work demonstrating, among other skills and talents, a flair for the dramatic and theatrical and an ability to perceive and manipulate space. Prior experience in applied theatrical design and technical production work would be necessary to be considered for entrance into the MFA Stage Properties degree program.

International Student Requirements

See the CCM Bulletin for TOEFL score information and other guidelines for International Students.

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Graduation Requirements

Awarding of the degree is dependent upon the successful completion of the final design/research project. For stage properties majors, this project will include the research, design, and execution of all necessary paperwork (see course description) for an actual or theoretical design assignment. The project will be accompanied by a written argument of the conceptualization/approach and will be presented and defended orally by the candidate before a selected faculty committee.

Application Deadlines

Admission to any of the graduate programs requires the bachelor's degree, or its equivalent, in an appropriate field. For unconditional admission, the applicant must have a quality point average of 3.0 (based on a 4.0 scale) or higher from a fully accredited institution of higher learning. Applicants showing unusual ability in performance, whose previous record falls short of this standard, or whose study was at an institution not accredited by a regional agency, or the National Association of Schools of Theatre may be admitted conditionally or with the status of academic probation.

The same application serves as an application for an assistantship or scholarship.

Although the official application deadline is December 1 for other CCM programs **TDP will consider applications into the MFA Stage Properties course up through May 1 pending any open slots in program.**

Special Audition/Interview Requirements: For consideration into Stage Properties the applicant must present a portfolio demonstrating artistic proficiency in drawing, painting and crafts work compatible with the study of theatrical design and production.

Please refer to the CCM Application Handbook for all current audition and interview requirements. Visit ccm.uc.edu and click on "Apply Now," or contact CCM Admissions at ccmadmis@uc.edu for more information.

Accreditation

The University of Cincinnati is accredited by the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools, National Association of Schools of Theatre (NAST) University and Resident Theatre Association (URTA)