

# THEATER AND PERFORMANCE STUDIES

## Major Map

*Immerse yourself in the study of performance as a mode of inquiry, creativity, and public engagement.*

The **Bachelor of Arts degree in Theater and Performance Studies** in the College of Letters & Science allows students to engage with performance on physical, intellectual, and aesthetic levels, growing not only as performers but also as artists, thinkers, makers, viewers, and participants in the artistic event. The practical focus of the major is creating theater of all kinds using all its art forms. Equally important is the study of theater and dance performance theory, history, culture, and literature.

Students study with faculty known for their scholarly research and creative work. Opportunities include student-directed theater projects and performances, honors projects, internships in local theaters, teaching courses in the department, and invitations to diverse and exciting lectures and performances.

## HIGHLIGHTS

- Get involved in a performance arts **student group**.
- Audition for one of the department's many **productions and workshops**.
- Bring together your undergraduate studies with a **Capstone Experience**.



Photo credit: Alessandra Mello

*“My time with TDPS taught me how to interact with performance on a deep level, how to ask questions, and that concrete answers don’t always exist.”*

—Hannah Bailey, class of 2023

# UC Berkeley

# UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAM

## Theater and Performance Studies

### CURRICULUM

The theater training and academic courses offered by our department are geared toward the student who is interested in learning about theater and performance from multiple perspectives. Whether new to theater or seasoned with years of training and skill, all students receive an education that engages them fully.

The program curriculum consists of lower division courses in performance practice and performance studies, followed by upper division courses in performance studies, histories of performance, technical theater, and production and design. Students also engage in upper division electives in stage management, playwriting, directing, choreography, sound design, scenic design, costume design, or lighting design, as well as a myriad of performance opportunities.

*Learn more at [tdps.berkeley.edu/undergrad/theater](https://tdps.berkeley.edu/undergrad/theater)*

### DECLARING THE MAJOR

Upon acceptance to UC Berkeley, you are admitted to the College of Letters & Science as an undeclared student. You may **declare the major** after completing two required lower division courses:

- One performance practice course (THEATER 10, 14, or 60)
- One performance studies course (THEATER 25AC, 26, or 52AC).

After completing the above courses, contact the **Undergraduate Academic Advisor** to declare the major. Transfer students should meet with the advisor as early as possible to discuss transfer credit and create an academic program plan.

### OPTIONS IN TDPS

We offer two sets of majors and minors: one in **Theater and Performance Studies** and one in **Dance and Performance Studies**. Both provide students with the opportunity to define a focus area in their upper division elective courses before pursuing capstone experiences. We also offer a summer certificate in **Performance and Culture in the US**, an opportunity to develop or deepen your U.S. cultural literacy and intercultural communication skills as you study acting or public speaking, explore performance modalities, and learn how performance intersects with media and society.



Photo credit: Elena Zhukova

## WHAT CAN I DO WITH MY MAJOR?

The flexibility and integration of our curriculum makes TDPS graduates excellent candidates for a variety of professions in the social, corporate, legal, and arts sectors, as well as for admission to graduate programs in the arts and in professional schools. Graduates have used their critical and expressive skills toward successful careers as professional artists in dance, theater, and experimental performance, as well as in law, advertising, human resources, publishing, radio, technology, social work, and in all aspects of for-profit and non-profit administration.

UC Berkeley offers a number of career resources for TDPS students. The College of Letters & Science spotlights **career pathways** for students in the Arts & Humanities, and offers **advising** for undergraduates pursuing medical or health professions programs, law school, or masters and PhD programs. Additionally, **Berkeley Career Engagement** provides career and graduate school advising, job and internship listings, and events such as career and graduate school fairs.



**SPOTLIGHT**  
Tai, class of 2022

Tai White received his BA in Theater & Performance Studies in 2022, where he earned the Mask and Dagger award and the Travis Bogard award. In 2023 he earned his MA in Classical Acting from LAMDA. Tai has worked with Burnt Orange Theatre, Patch Plays, and Page2Stage, Lyric Hammersmith's Evolution Labs, TAW Entertainment Ltd., and Marin Shakespeare Co.

During his time at UC Berkeley, Tai learned the foundational skills of a professional actor, including how to balance technique with instinct, how to take direction quickly and effectively, and how to work with heightened text or styles.

## EMPLOYMENT

Alumni find employment in a variety of fields and industries after completing graduation. Examples include:

Actor  
Costume Construction  
Director  
Filmmaker  
Lighting Designer  
Music & Entertainment Lawyer  
Opera Coordinator  
Playwright  
Producer  
Production Manager  
Public Speaking Coach  
Publicist  
Sound Designer  
Stage Manager  
Technician

## GRADUATE STUDY

Alumni pursue graduate education to gain more depth of knowledge in their field as well as prepare for jobs that require advanced degrees. Examples include:

Acting  
Costume Design  
Directing  
Film  
Journalism  
Law  
Lighting Design  
Medical School  
Production Management  
Scenic Design  
Stage Management  
Theater and Performance Studies

# FOUR-YEAR STUDENT TIMELINE

## Theater and Performance Studies

	FIRST YEAR	SECOND YEAR
Plan your studies	<p>Start exploring with <b>L&amp;S 1</b> and first-year guides from <b>L&amp;S</b> and <b>Arts &amp; Humanities</b>.</p> <p>Visit <b>L&amp;S Advising</b> for help with <b>major exploration</b> and <b>degree requirements</b>.</p> <p>Join <b>Berkeley Connect</b> for 1:1 mentoring and to meet peers with shared interests.</p> <p>Review the <b>TDPS Handbook</b>; start on lower division requirements.</p> <p>Discover new interests in a <b>Freshman Seminar</b>, <b>Berkeley Changemaker</b>, or <b>A&amp;H Compass</b> or <b>Gateway</b> course.</p>	<p>Meet with your <b>major</b> and <b>college advisor</b> to discuss your academic plans.</p> <p>Think about a focus for your upper division electives.</p> <p>Look into <b>study abroad</b>; check out options for <b>Performing Arts abroad</b>.</p> <p><b>Declare the major</b> after completing two of the required lower division courses in practice and performance studies.</p> <p>Enrich your studies with a <b>course thread</b>, <b>certificate</b>, or minor.</p>
Engage outside the classroom	<p>Get involved with a <b>performance arts student group</b> like <b>A.N.T.I.</b> or <b>BareStage Productions</b>.</p> <p>Visit <b>Berkeley Discovery</b> to get started with research, entrepreneurship, public service, and creative projects.</p> <p>Learn how to <b>prepare for office hours</b> and build relationships with faculty.</p> <p>Attend department events such as the <b>TDPS Speaker Series</b> or <b>New Play Reading Series</b>.</p>	<p>Check the <b>TDPS Callboard</b> for production calls and auditions.</p> <p>Develop your skills in the <b>Berkeley Student Leadership Academy</b>.</p> <p>Explore research opportunities on the <b>OURS</b> website; apply to <b>URAP</b> to work on a faculty research project.</p> <p>Explore the <b>Arts Research Center</b>.</p> <p>Teach theater in local schools through the <b>CREATE</b> program.</p>
Pursue your career goals	<p>Visit <b>UHS Career Counseling</b> and <b>Berkeley Career Engagement</b>.</p> <p>Start exploring <b>career paths</b> for the major; check out career resources on the <b>Arts &amp; Humanities</b> website.</p> <p>Begin <b>making a plan</b> to get career ready.</p> <p>Create or update your <b>resume</b> and LinkedIn profile.</p> <p>Use <b>Handshake</b> to start connecting with career events and opportunities.</p>	<p>Meet with a BCE <b>career educator</b> to discuss career options and goals.</p> <p>Begin building your <b>network</b> and exploring career fields via <b>job shadowing</b> and <b>informational interviews</b>.</p> <p>Pursue an <b>internship</b> to build skills and explore fields.</p> <p>Considering graduate school? Explore resources from the <b>Graduate Division</b>, <b>L&amp;S Advising</b>, and <b>BCE</b>; look into the <b>Mellon Mays Undergraduate Fellowship</b>.</p>



# UC Berkeley

## THIRD YEAR

Begin taking **upper division requirements** in performance studies, histories of performance, technical theater, and production and design, as well as electives.

Review your **degree progress** with your major and college advisor.

Develop your writing and critical thinking in an **Art of Writing seminar**.

Consider applying to the **TDPS Honors Program**; look into the **Haas Scholars** and **SURF** programs.

Help other students as a **TDPS peer advisor** or member of the **A&H Dean's Leadership Team**.

Check out **College Corps** and the **Haas Public Service Leaders Program**.

Browse grants from the **Center for Race and Gender** and **Center for Interdisciplinary Critical Inquiry**.

Interested in arts policy or administration? Intern in public service/non-profit centers with **UCDC**.

Welcome new students to Berkeley as a **Golden Bear Orientation Leader**.

Speak with faculty, advisors, and career educators about post-graduate options.

Interested in public service careers? Look into the **John Gardner Fellowship**, **Huntington Award**, or **Truman Scholarship**.

Look into post-graduate programs such as the **Berkeley Rep Next Generation Fellowship** or **London Academy of Music & Dramatic Art**.

## FOURTH YEAR

Bring together your studies with a **Capstone Experience**.

Finish all upper division requirements and electives.

Join a thesis writing workshop at the **Townsend Center** or **Student Learning Center**.

Complete any remaining **degree requirements** and **prepare for graduation**.

Interested in teaching? Give it a try by teaching your own **DeCal course**.

Submit a course research project for the **Library Prize**, **American Cultures Student Prize**, or other awards.

Get published! Submit your thesis or research paper to the **Berkeley Undergraduate Journal**.

Pursue a special project after graduation with the **Stronach Prize**.

Check in with a BCE **career educator**.

Start connecting with **alumni groups** and **events**.

Apply to graduate school or post-graduate programs.

Meet employers at **info sessions**, **on-campus recruiting**, and **career fairs**.

Utilize **job search tools** from BCE and apply for job opportunities.

Learn about **alumni career services**.

## SUMMER

Make progress on degree requirements with a **Summer Sessions** course such as THEATER 10 or 118AC.

Go abroad through **Berkeley Study Abroad** or **UCEAP**.

Look into a summer internship with **Cal in the Capital**, **Cal in Sacramento**, or **Berkeley Global Internships**.

Complement your degree with a **summer minor or certificate**—check out programs in **Digital Humanities** and **Film and Media Industries**.

Learn about applying to graduate school with the **PhD Admissions Bootcamp**.

*Use this major map to help plan your undergraduate experience, including academic and co-curricular opportunities. Activities in this map are suggestions—always consult with your advisors whenever possible.*

# TRANSFER STUDENT TIMELINE

## Theater and Performance Studies

	FIRST SEMESTER	SECOND SEMESTER
Plan your studies	<p>Get your bearings with <b>L&amp;S 198 Transitioning to Cal</b> and transfer guides from <b>L&amp;S</b> and <b>Arts &amp; Humanities</b>.</p> <p>Review the <b>TDPS Handbook</b> and meet with your <b>major</b> and <b>college advisor</b>.</p> <p>Work on <b>lower division requirements</b>; think about a focus for your upper division electives.</p> <p>Enroll in an <b>upper division Performance Studies course</b> so that you can qualify for a senior <b>Honors Project</b>.</p> <p><b>Declare the major</b> after completing two of the required lower division courses in practice and performance studies.</p>	<p>Enroll in <b>upper division requirements</b> in performance studies, histories of performance, technical theater, and production and design, as well as electives.</p> <p>Meet with a design lecturer to discuss <b>senior capstone</b> options as an assistant designer or designer of a TDPS production.</p> <p>Look into <b>study abroad</b>; check out options for <b>Performing Arts abroad</b>.</p> <p>Consider applying to the <b>TDPS Honors Program</b>; look into the <b>Haas Scholars</b> and <b>SURF</b> programs.</p>
Engage outside the classroom	<p>Check the <b>TDPS Callboard</b> for production calls and auditions.</p> <p>Get involved with a <b>performance arts student group</b> like <b>A.N.T.I.</b> or <b>BareStage Productions</b>.</p> <p>Find support at the <b>Transfer Student Center</b> or <b>Re-entry Student Program</b>.</p> <p>Visit <b>Berkeley Discovery</b> to get started with research, entrepreneurship, public service, and creative projects.</p> <p>Learn how to <b>prepare for office hours</b> and build relationships with faculty.</p>	<p>Attend department events such as the <b>TDPS Speaker Series</b> or <b>New Play Reading Series</b>.</p> <p>Explore research opportunities on the <b>OURS</b> website; apply to <b>URAP</b> to work on a faculty research project.</p> <p>Browse grants from the <b>Center for Race and Gender</b> and <b>Center for Interdisciplinary Critical Inquiry</b>.</p> <p>Explore the <b>Arts Research Center</b>.</p> <p>Teach theater in local schools through the <b>CREATE program</b>.</p>
Pursue your career goals	<p>Visit <b>UHS Career Counseling</b> and <b>Berkeley Career Engagement</b>.</p> <p>Begin exploring <b>career paths</b> for the major; check out career resources on the <b>Arts &amp; Humanities</b> website.</p> <p>Create or update your <b>resume</b> and <b>LinkedIn</b> profile.</p> <p>Use <b>Handshake</b> to start connecting with career events and opportunities.</p> <p>Meet with a BCE <b>career educator</b> to discuss career options and goals.</p>	<p>Begin building your <b>network</b> and exploring career fields via <b>job shadowing</b> and <b>informational interviews</b>.</p> <p>Pursue an <b>internship</b> to develop skills and explore fields.</p> <p>Considering graduate school? Explore resources from the <b>Graduate Division</b>, <b>L&amp;S Advising</b>, and <b>BCE</b>.</p> <p>Speak with faculty, advisors, and career educators about post-graduate options.</p>

# UC Berkeley

## THIRD SEMESTER

Continue upper division requirements and electives.

Bring together your undergraduate studies with a **Capstone Experience**, such as leading a **TDPS Workshop Production** as a director, playwright or performer.

Review your **degree progress** with your major and college advisor.

Develop your writing and critical thinking in an **Art of Writing seminar**.

Help other students as a **TDPS Peer Advisor, Transfer Peer Advocate**, or member of the **A&H Dean's Leadership Team**.

Develop your skills in the **Berkeley Student Leadership Academy**.

Check out **College Corps** and the **Haas Public Service Leaders Program**.

Interested in arts policy or administration? Intern in public service/non-profit centers with **UCDC**.

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Submit a course research project for the **Library Prize, American Cultures Student Prize**, or other awards.

Get published! Submit your thesis or research paper to the **Berkeley Undergraduate Journal**.

Pursue a special project after graduation with the **Stronach Prize**.

Meet employers at **info sessions, on-campus recruiting**, and **career fairs**.

Utilize **job search tools** from BCE and apply for job opportunities.

Start connecting with **alumni groups** and **events**.

Learn about **alumni career services**.

## SUMMER

Get ready for Berkeley with **RHETOR 100 Writing at the University**.

Thinking about a PhD? Apply to the **Mellon Mays Undergraduate Fellowship** the summer before your first semester.

Make progress on degree requirements with a **Summer Sessions course** such as THEATER 118AC.

Go abroad through **Berkeley Study Abroad** or **UCEAP**.

Look into a summer internship with **Cal in the Capital, Cal in Sacramento**, or **Berkeley Global Internships**.

Pursue a **summer minor** or **certificate**—check out programs in **Digital Humanities** and **Film and Media Industries**.

Learn about applying to graduate school in the **PhD Admissions Bootcamp**.

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# LEARN MORE

## *Undergraduate Advising*

*Have questions about Theater and Performance Studies or choosing a major?*

The Department of Theater, Dance, and Performance Studies offers **undergraduate advising** to students interested in TDPS majors, minors, and certificate programs. Current or prospective students may contact the Undergraduate Academic Advisor about course requirements, declaring a major or minor, capstone experiences, or any questions related to TDPS undergraduate programs. Students can also speak to Peer Advisors, majors who are familiar with the department, actively use student advising, take advantage of the opportunities and courses offered here, and are willing to talk about their TDPS experience. For more information, visit [tdps.berkeley.edu/undergrad/advising](https://tdps.berkeley.edu/undergrad/advising).

The College of Letters & Science helps students with non-major-specific academic topics, including major exploration, general program planning, finding campus resources, and pre-professional graduate programs. L&S College Advisors are available for in-person and virtual meetings. Visit [lsadvising.berkeley.edu](https://lsadvising.berkeley.edu) or email [asklins@berkeley.edu](mailto:asklins@berkeley.edu).



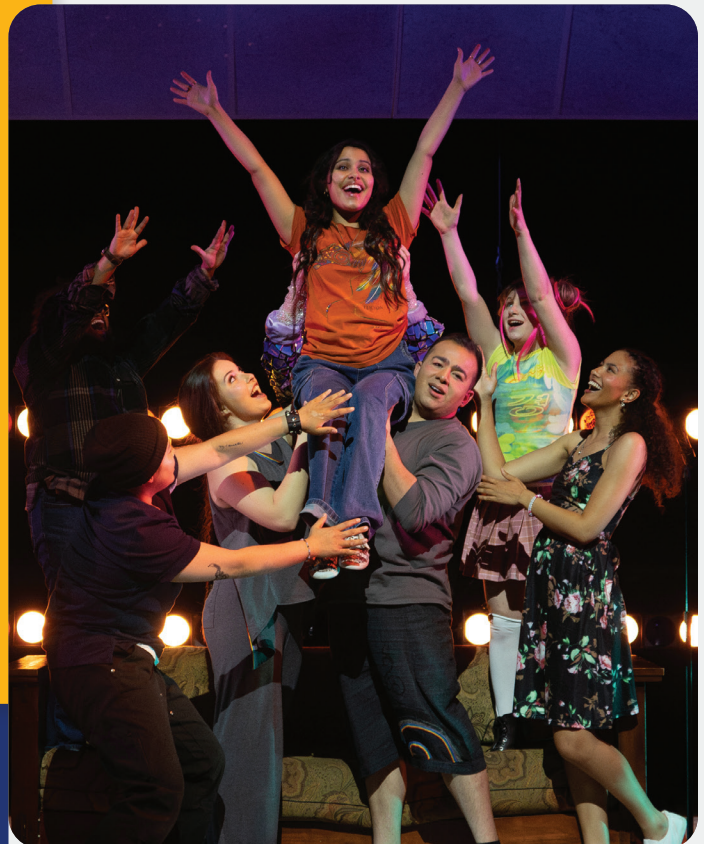
Scan to explore more  
Major Maps!

[majormaps.berkeley.edu](https://majormaps.berkeley.edu)

## *Related Programs*

*Looking for programs similar to Theater and Performance Studies? UC Berkeley also offers the following major, minor, and certificate programs:*

- **Architecture**
- **Creative Writing**
- **Dance and Performance Studies**
- **Digital Humanities**
- **English**
- **Film and Media**
- **Music**
- **New Media**
- **Performance and Culture in the US**
- **Psychology**



*Photo credit: Ben Dillon*

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