Minor in Theater/Drama

Program Mission Statement
The drama minor offers courses that focus on the study of dramatic literature, on acting, and on producing plays. They provide students with opportunities to read dramatic literature critically, reflectively, and with sensitivity to aesthetic values. They also provide students with the means of exploring the nature of role-playing in general and of taking on the specific personas of differ characters in particular, and of doing so in order to gain an appreciation of the psychological self-transformation that dramatic performance requires. Finally, they provide students with practical experience in producing plays (in designing and constructing sets, in determining appropriate costuming and props, in selecting music and other sound effects, and so on) and putting on performances before live audiences.

In addition to immersing students in dramatic literature and its performance, the courses of the drama minor help students develop and refine interpersonal communication skills, think in right-brain fashion, appreciate the bodily and emotional basis of the ways in which we use language, reflect on how humans infer one another's motivations from our communicative gestures (our words, our body language, our emotional cues), understand how human conflicts can lead to tragedy, learn what enables some dramatic situations to end happily, celebrate and make a resource of human differences, and thereby teach students to reflect critically on the relation of self and other and the meaning of community.

Student Learning Outcomes

Graduates will be able to:

Content/Discipline-Specific Knowledge/Skills
- demonstrate understanding of basic drama terms and concepts

Communication Skills
- deliver the words spoken by characters in dramatic works.
- evoke the mood or moods associated with a dramatic character's self-presentation
- memorize a dramatic character's speech

Critical Thinking Skills
- demonstrate understanding of the meaning of a dramatic speech.
- enact a character's inner life through the character's speech
- interpret a character in the course of delivering the character's speech

Assessment Approaches
Department faculty teaching drama-designated course directly assess student learning with holistic grading, trait-specific rubric scoring, and objective testing.