Directing (BA)

This program is offered by the Leigh Gerdine College of Fine Arts/Conservatory of Theatre Arts.

Program Description
It is our mission to train our future colleagues to become visionaries, creators, and leaders in the next generation of American professional theatre.

Webster University's directing program is designed to educate student directors in the craft of stage direction, focusing on play analysis, visual storytelling, team collaboration, and creative thinking. Directing students at Webster are exposed to a wide variety of coursework both in the department and across the campus. Classes in theatre include Voice, Movement, and Acting; Visual History, Fundamentals of Design, and Lighting; History of Theatre, Stage Management, and Directing. In the senior year of study, students spend the fall semester abroad.

Learning Outcomes
At the end of their training, students will demonstrate an effective directing process that integrates their abilities to:

- Practice with skill each artistic discipline that makes up the team effort of theatre production, including acting, stage management, and design.
- Analyze a play comprehensively, identifying and interpreting given circumstances, character relationships, objectives, themes, and metaphors.
- Implement strong research skills that encompass theatrical style, historical context, biographical relevance, and theatrical and visual metaphor.
- Display critical thinking and creative experimentation in their coursework and individual production work--culminating in the senior capstone--that allows for the presentation of plays through stage movement and pictures, character behavior, and object/costume use.
- Participate in professional apprenticeship experiences through assistant director assignments in the Conservatory and in the Repertory Theatre of St. Louis and model professional organizational, time-management, collaborative, and leadership skills.
- Recognize cultural and historical forces that form the background for dramatic literature, culminating in a semester of study abroad senior year.

Special Requirements
Only courses completed with a grade of C- or above will count toward fulfilling the specific requirements of the major.

Auditions/interviews are required for all students planning to major in theatre at Webster University. Auditions/interviews are held each year during the spring semester for entrance into the following fall session. Both on-campus and off-campus audition sites are available to prospective theatre students. No video auditions are accepted.

Degree Requirements
A minimum of 128 credit hours consisting of the following:

- 69 required credit hours
- Applicable University Global Citizenship Program hours
- Electives

Required Courses
- THEA 2030 History of Theatre: Greeks to Elizabethan (3 hours)
- THEA 2040 History of Theatre: Restoration to 1915 (3 hours)
- THEA 2050 History of Theatre: 1915 to Present (3 hours)
- THEA 4500 London Theatre (3 hours)