



# ACTING (BFA)

## Information for Admissions

### ABOUT OUR PROGRAMS

Visit [bw.edu/acting](http://bw.edu/acting) (BFA) or [bw.edu/theatre](http://bw.edu/theatre) (BA) for detailed information on:

- Audition requirements
- Curriculum/program sequence
- Faculty bios
- Professional opportunities and partnerships
- Production season and photos

**Note:** All prospective students are offered **complimentary tickets** to any of our on-campus productions. Email [theatre@bw.edu](mailto:theatre@bw.edu) to reserve.

### COMPARING PROGRAMS

What are the differences between the [acting](#) (BFA), [theatre: acting & directing](#) (BA), and [music theatre](#) (BM) programs?

| <u>Acting (BFA)</u>   | <u>BA in Theatre: Acting &amp; Directing</u>   | <u>BM in Music Theatre</u>   |
|---|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 76 credits</li><li>• BFA core</li><li>• No minor required</li><li>• Focused study</li><li>• Audition-based</li><li>• Vocational</li><li>• Emphasis in classical drama</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 44 credits</li><li>• University core</li><li>• Required minor</li><li>• Broad</li><li>• No audition</li><li>• Liberal arts</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Over 100 credits</li><li>• Conservatory core</li><li>• No minor required</li><li>• Focused</li><li>• Audition-based</li><li>• Vocational</li></ul> |

# AUDITIONS

## Audition Requirements for Acting (BFA)

- Prospective students should prepare **two contrasting monologues**, of which at least one must be a Shakespeare verse speech. Total audition time should not exceed three minutes. Bring a current headshot and resume to the audition.
- **On campus auditions** in November and February. Details can be found at [bw.edu/acting](http://bw.edu/acting).
- **Students may audition for both Music Theatre & Acting (BFA)**. The \$75 audition fee covers multiple auditions should you choose to audition for the acting (BFA) as well as a Conservatory major.
- The time commitment for the Acting (BFA) audition is approximately two to three hours. If you are auditioning for the Conservatory of Music, please do not schedule the auditions on the same day.
- No audition required for theatre: acting & directing.

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

### Why would a student select BW over another school that offers a similar program?

#### 1. One-of-a-kind partnership with Great Lakes Theater – Cleveland’s professional classical company:

- Acting (BFA) students understudy and earn equity points at Great Lakes Theater.
- Students can audition for Great Lakes Theater’s partner theatres – Lake Tahoe Shakespeare Festival or Idaho Shakespeare Festival.
- One of only a handful of partnerships between an equity theatre and an undergrad program.

#### 2.) Faculty of professional artists working in theatre and film

(visit [bw.edu/acting](http://bw.edu/acting) for bios).

#### 3.) Training - emphasis in classical drama:

- A fresh take on the classics, a classic approach to new works.
- We train actors that can do sitcoms *and* Hamlet.
- Small class sizes, individualized instruction.

#### 4.) Immediate and multiple performance opportunities:

- All auditions for university productions are open to all BW students.
- *Guaranteed* roles in sophomore and junior Shakespeare productions.
- Freshman are allowed to audition and perform in productions.
- Five mainstage productions, 6-8 studio productions, countless student-led productions.

## What types of plays does BW produce each year?

- Two Shakespeare plays
- A mix of contemporary and classic full-length plays
- Three musicals
- One opera
- Three dance productions
- Two 10-minute play festivals
- Countless studio projects – faculty and student led

## If I am not accepted into the acting (BFA) program, can I major in Theatre: Acting & Directing?

**Yes.** The theatre: acting & directing program requires no audition.

## Can I re-audition for the Acting (BFA)?

**Yes.** Nearly all of the theatre: acting & directing courses are included in the Acting (BFA) curriculum. Courses completed in the theatre: acting & directing program count towards the acting (BFA). theatre: acting & directing students are allowed to re-audition once every academic year.

## If someone is not in the Acting (BFA) program, does that mean that they won't get an opportunity to perform in any of the productions?

**No.** All auditions for university productions (including musicals) are open to all BW students.

**Is there a probationary period where you could be dropped from the program? We are not a cut program.** Like all BW students, acting (BFA) students must adhere to the university academic guidelines and maintain acceptable GPAs. Acting (BFA) students meet with acting faculty at the end of each academic year to evaluate progress, discuss strengths and challenges, and set goals for the future.

## When will I find out if I am admitted into the program?

Because the application process for the acting (BFA) requires an audition, a decision notification regarding your admission status will be sent by December 15 or March 20, depending on when BW receives your application materials and when you complete your audition.

### **Can I take voice lessons?**

**Yes.** Private voice lessons are available through the Conservatory of Music and its Community Music School. Declared music minors can take lessons for credit (an additional fee is required; subject to instructor availability); non-music minors can take extracurricular lessons (cost based on number of lessons). For more information on lessons for credit at BW, please contact Ellen Hansen-Ellis at [ehansene@bw.edu](mailto:ehansene@bw.edu). For non-credit options, contact the Community Music School at (440) 826-2365.

### **Can I take dance classes?**

**Yes.** There are many dance classes required within the major, and additional courses may be taken.

### **Are there master classes with industry professionals?**

**Yes.** Offerings vary from year to year, dependent upon graduate school representatives, casting directors, guest artists, movement, commedia, etc.

### **Can an Acting (BFA) student transfer to Music Theatre if an opening comes up in that program?**

**Yes.** Anyone can audition or re-audition for the music theatre program or acting (BFA) program (once a year).

### **Can Acting (BFA) students participate in other school activities? (i.e. Greek life, study abroad, athletics, etc.)**

**Yes.** We believe a life outside the theater is essential to actors. If you want to portray humanity, you need to experience its many facets.

### **How large is the department?**

The BW department of theatre & dance averages around 150 students each year. This number consists of students in acting, directing, stage management, design, and those completing minors in theatre and dance.