

ACADEMIC POLICY

Memo No. 15

Revised April, 2004

DIRECTING THESIS PROJECT

Directing students are required to complete a thesis project in their third year. The thesis project consists of three parts: direction of a play in the subscription season (designed and acted primarily by students from the graduate programs), a manuscript documenting the process, and a final presentation for their thesis committee.

It is the student's responsibility to:

Select a *three or four person* committee. Commitments from thesis committee members should be secured by the student **prior to** the beginning of rehearsals.

This committee should include a faculty production advisor, the Head of the PTP and two or three additional School of Drama faculty members, at least two of whom are directing faculty from the MFA Directing program.

Schedule the meeting of the thesis committee during the week following the last performance of the thesis production. The Graduate Program Coordinator is to be invited to attend this meeting, although his/her attendance is not mandatory. This meeting constitutes the thesis "defense" and is required for graduation from the program.

Notify the staff administrative graduate assistant of all scheduling in a timely fashion to allow the usual paperwork to be prepared prior to the thesis committee meeting. Examples of earlier thesis manuscripts are available for reference.

The thesis manuscript includes the following:

1. Play analysis
2. Concept
3. Research: written and visual
4. Design
 - a. discussion of design process (all areas and phases)
 - b. scale groundplan of every scene
 - c. images of scenery and costumes
5. Discussion of rehearsal process (including specials areas of focus such as choreography, sound and music)
6. Production photographs (4-6)
7. Post-production critique

A copy of the Thesis manuscript must be delivered to each member of the thesis committee three days prior to the thesis defense. Upon final approval of the thesis project, a copy of the thesis manuscript is to be delivered to the Drama Library for their permanent records.

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Academic Policy Memo Number 15 first established March, 1998

Subsequent revisions:

Executive Committee approval: April 13, 2004

Faculty approval: April 19, 2004