Doctoral Degree in Theatre [directly from the Catalog (as of 8/20/15)]

The Doctor of Philosophy degree given for scholarship in theatre history, theory, or criticism, not creative or artistic work, is offered in four areas: (a) Western theatre, (b) Asian theatre, (c) comparative Asian-Western theatre, and (d) performance studies. The PhD degree is not conferred for the acquisition of academic credits. It is granted only to candidates who demonstrate outstanding ability to do imaginative research and who present the results in a cogent dissertation.

A candidate for the degree is required to successfully complete three semesters of full-time residence, required courses [detailed below], other courses as deemed necessary by the student’s doctoral committee, examination in at least one non-English language, a written and oral comprehensive examination, and an oral defense of the student’s dissertation. The minimum residence requirement is three semesters of full-time work or the equivalent in credits at UH Manoa. At the end of the second semester in residence, the graduate faculty will provide the candidate with an assessment of his or her progress to date.

Required courses in the Western area are THEA 600, THEA 692, plus three other 600 to 700 level courses from a departmental list of approved courses; required courses in the Asian area are THEA 692, 464, 465, and 466, as well as THEA 660 if the candidate’s dissertation requires field research; required courses in performance studies area are DNCE 651 or THEA 615; DNCE/THEA 671; DNCE 653 or THEA 611; THEA 692; and 3 credits in a creative area. The curriculum of the comparative Asian-Western theatre area is determined by the student’s doctoral committee and must include THEA 692. A high level of accomplishment in the foreign language or languages appropriate to the proposed area of research (as determined by the advisor) is required, and language competency will be determined by examination.

Proficiency in teaching, whether lecturing before large classes or teaching smaller classes and leading discussions, is considered part of the training of all PhD candidates, who should demonstrate this proficiency by giving several such lectures and by serving as teaching assistants.

Written comprehensive examinations and two and a half hours of oral comprehensive examinations are required of all candidates before admission to candidacy. These are given after a student has completed the language requirement and before embarking on the dissertation. Written comprehensive exams shall consist of nine questions. The comprehensive includes questions on both Asian and Western drama and theatre and/or performance studies; further guidelines are available from the graduate advisor. The questions on the written portion are posed by the theatre and dance graduate faculty and members of the student’s committee. The doctoral committee consists of at least five graduate faculty, of whom a majority are from the Department of Theatre and Dance and at least one from another department. There is a seven-year time limit for PhD students to complete all requirements. For unusual circumstances, one extension may be granted.

Applicants for admission to the program must submit a detailed statement of the dissertation research they propose, three letters from those acquainted with their academic work and a sample of their research (such as a seminar paper or a master’s thesis). The application deadline for admission in the fall semester is January 15 for U.S. and foreign applicants. Spring semester application deadline is August 15 for U.S. and foreign applicants. Requirements include a broad background in the humanities, a master’s degree in theatre or its equivalent, and competence in dramatic production.
Departmental Policies

Theatre Procedure for Doctorate in Same Discipline
MA or MFA Theatre students seeking a Doctorate in Same Discipline should submit a formal dissertation proposal and a writing sample by these deadlines: March 1 for Fall admission and October 1 for Spring admission. Theatre students applying for Doctorate in Same Discipline with focus on Performance Studies should also provide three letters of recommendation. Send to Director of Graduate Studies in Theatre.

Required Course work
Course requirements for all Theatre Ph.D. students are determined by student competency in addition to a small group of core courses. The goal is for students to acquire an in-depth knowledge of the discipline, and selected topics pertinent to the topic of the dissertation. Each student is required to work closely with his/her advisor each semester prior to registration for the next semester to identify appropriate and relevant courses.

For the Western Theatre Ph.D., students must take THEA 600 (if they have not already had a similar research course), plus three courses from the list below.

- THEA 611 Seminar in Major Dramatic Theories
- THEA 612 History of Western Theatre I
- THEA 613 History of Western Theatre II
- THEA 614 (Alpha) Topics in Dramaturgy (repeatable)
- THEA 615 Performance Theory
- THEA 617 Seminar in Performance Studies (repeatable)
- THEA 619 Advanced Topics: Playwriting and Dramatic Theory (repeatable)
- THEA 705 Seminar in Western Theatre and Drama (repeatable)
- THEA 778 Issues in Youth Theatre (DNCE 790) (repeatable)
- DNCE 617 Seminar in Performance Studies (repeatable)
- DNCE 652 Seminar in Dance Theory & Criticism
- DNCE 654 Advanced Topics in Dance (repeatable)
  (as topics treat historical or theoretical issues)

For the Asian Theatre PhD, students must take THEA 660 and the three courses in cultural areas (THEA 464, 465, 466) or, if they have already taken one or more of the area courses or their equivalent, the corresponding area seminar (THEA 763B, 763C, 763D) and/or a topical seminar (THEA 663B, 663C, 663D). All candidates must take at least three seminars in addition to the above four-course requirement.

Comparative and Performance Studies PhD students will develop an appropriate sequence of coursework in consultation with their advisor.

Teaching Experience
Proficiency in teaching, whether lecturing before large classes or teaching smaller classes and leading discussions, is considered part of the training of all PhD candidates, who should demonstrate this proficiency by giving several such lectures or by serving as teaching assistants. All doctoral students are required to serve as a teaching assistant (T.A.) for THEA 101 for at least one semester (THEA 692). Each doctoral student will also present a written paper at one or more of the annual Theatre and Dance Graduate Research Symposia.

Language Requirement
A high level of accomplishment in at least one foreign (non-English) language is required and will be determined by examination consisting of a 1.5 hour written translation of an academic text in the field of specialty. The exam is to be administered by the respective language department at UHM in consultation with the student’s advisor. If the candidate is a native speaker of the non-English language directly applicable to the area of research, the requirement for the language exam will be waived. If an additional language is integral to the dissertation research (to be determined by advisor), an additional language exam will be required.
**Advancement to Candidacy**
The departmental graduate faculty conducts annual evaluations of each doctoral student at the end of their first and second years. A student becomes a Ph.D. candidate after successfully completing the required language exam(s), and earning at least one successful annual evaluation.

**Dissertation Committee Formation**
The chair of the committee, who is the student’s academic advisor, must be a full member of the graduate faculty from the Theatre area. The committee usually consists of FIVE faculty members, although a student may opt for a sixth member. At least THREE (including the chair) must be from the Dept. of Theatre and Dance. The committee must include one faculty member from outside of the department who serves as the University Representative; s/he must be a tenured member of the graduate faculty. Doctoral committees in the Department of Theatre & Dance must consist of at least four faculty who hold a doctoral degree.

**Dissertation Proposal**
The proposal should include the following sections:

- clear and brief statement of purpose (to include a hypothesis or proposed argument)
- background information on the proposed topic
- justification/significance (how does this research further the field)
- sources review (to include value of sources to this proposed research and explanation of how this research goes beyond these sources)
- statement of methodology of research and of analysis
- proposed timetable of research and writing
- budget
- preliminary bibliography

The page-limit for the proposal (excluding bibliography) shall be 20 pages.

The proposal should be submitted first to the dissertation advisor, who determines when it shall be submitted to the entire committee. The dissertation committee meets as a whole for a proposal defense. Student submits Human Subjects declaration of exemption for approval immediately following the proposal defense.

**Comprehensive Examination**
All students are expected to complete all necessary course work and to have had their proposal approved before taking the comprehensive examination. This examination consists of written and oral components. The comprehensive examination committee will overlap significantly with the dissertation committee. The chair of the dissertation committee will also chair the examination committee.

A student should notify his/her academic advisor of his/her intention to take the examination at least 10 months before the examination date. The student will work with his/her advisor to determine the nine general examination areas and the faculty member who will write each question. After individual consultation with the student, those faculty will then meet collectively with the advisor to determine the appropriate scope of each question. The advisor will then inform the student of the approved question areas.

Comprehensive questions are usually written by Theatre and Dance faculty who are members of the candidate’s committee. However, in consultation with his/her advisor and/or committee, the candidate may choose to have one or both of the two “open” questions written by the committee’s “university representative,” and in some cases committee members from outside the department who are not the “university representative” may write one or more questions, as well. Additionally, in some cases a faculty member who is not a committee member may be asked to write a question; for instance, if the committee includes only one member of the Western theatre faculty, in consultation with her/his advisor the candidate may choose to have that committee member write one Western question, and ask another member of the Western theatre faculty to write the second Western question.
The student organizes a reading list for each question in consultation with the faculty member writing that question. For each reading list, the guideline is typically 30 bibliographic entries. The student receives approval of each reading list from the relevant faculty member at least six months before the scheduled examination.

After all reading lists have been approved, student is responsible for scheduling the examination, and the oral examination defense. There should be a minimum of one week between the final written examination and the oral defense. The student is expected to defend the written answers during the oral examination, which will be administered and evaluated by all members of the comprehensive examination committee.

**Written examination:**
Students are allowed 90 minutes to write each question. Exams are taken in a designated department location and students may not bring references with them in the form of books, notes, or materials on computer disks. All examinations must be completed within a 2 week period, excluding holidays. Examinations may take place in the summer, but the oral defense must take place during the spring or fall semester when faculty is on duty. Students may use their own computer; students are on their honor not to consult notes or the internet. Cheating is a violation of the Student Conduct Code that may result in suspension or expulsion from UH Manoa. "Cheating includes, but is not limited to, giving unauthorized help during an examination, obtaining unauthorized information about an examination before it is administered, using inappropriate sources of information during an examination, altering the record of any grade, altering an answer after an examination has been submitted, falsifying any official UH Manoa record, and misrepresenting the facts in order to obtain exemptions from course requirements."

**Oral examination:**
The oral exam will take place after the completion of the written exams, with enough time to allow all faculty and the student to review the written exams. It will last for 2.5 hours. The student is expected to bring a copy of the written exams and notes to the oral exam, and will be allowed to make brief corrections or remarks on each question.

Depending on the quality of the written and oral answers, the examination as a whole will be marked by one of the following: high pass, pass, and low pass. Any student who fails any one part of the examination must retake that part. The Graduate Division stipulates that any student who fails the comprehensive examination twice will be dropped from the program. Upon passing the comprehensive examination, the student officially becomes ABD.

A. **WESTERN THEATRE CANDIDATES**

[ ] Western specialists answering questions on Western theatre will pick 8 items from among 5 sections on the Western menu: one from A, one from B, two from C, three from D, and one from E. The candidate will answer 6 questions based on these 8 categories: three questions on Western theory drawing on areas chosen from the menu, three questions on Western history drawing on areas chosen from the menu. Candidates will also answer a question in the area of specialization. Total: 7 questions.

[ ] Western specialists answering questions on Asian theatre will develop 2 topics working with one or two Asian theatre faculty members. Total: 2 questions.

B. **ASIAN THEATRE CANDIDATES**

Each candidate will write essays in response to a total of 9 questions. Five of the questions are the most truly comprehensive:

[ ] 2 Western theatre questions, from the Western comp “menu” for Asian focus students,
  ○ one focused more on history,
  ○ one focused more on theory;

[ ] 3 Asian area questions, each covering a different one of the four areas featured in our curriculum:
Four questions are more specifically tailored to the individual candidate:

1. Specialization question, on the dissertation topic area;
2. Comparative/topical question, relating aspects of performance in 2 different cultural areas; and
3. Two additional “open” questions, to be determined by the candidate and her/his advisor and/or committee:
   - One may cover an additional area from the Western comp “menu,”
   - One may cover an additional Asian area (either the fourth area, or a different aspect of one of the three already covered), and/or
   - One may be an additional comparative/topical question;

C. COMPARATIVE ASIAN-WESTERN CANDIDATES

The candidate’s committee will develop a program of coursework and comprehensive examination at the discretion of the committee.

D. PERFORMANCE STUDIES CANDIDATES

The candidate’s committee will develop a program of coursework and comprehensive examination at the discretion of the committee.

Dissertation

After the examination, students must have continuous enrollment in 800 level courses in order to maintain their full-time status. Failure to enroll continuously will result in being dropped from the program. The student is expected to work closely with the committee chair at all stages of research and writing. It is the student’s responsibility to inform the rest of the committee members of his/her progress. The advisor will determine when the dissertation draft is ready to be submitted to the dissertation committee. To ensure that committee members will have sufficient time to read and comment on it, it is required that the completed and polished draft of the entire dissertation must be in the hands of the committee members a minimum of four weeks before the scheduled dissertation defense date. The student should consult with the Graduate Division website for final preparation guidelines for the final draft.

http://manoa.hawaii.edu/graduate/content/thesis-dissertation

Dissertation Defense

The date of the oral dissertation defense will be determined by the availability of all members. It is important to consult each member in advance before setting the date. Graduate Division requires that all students be enrolled during the semester they will graduate. It is the candidate’s responsibility to consult the Graduate Division for details and procedures. The student must notify Graduate Division three weeks before the oral examination so the date can be announced.

Final Submission

Once the student passes the dissertation defense, he/she must complete all revisions and amendments as directed by the committee. Students should continue to work closely with the advisor on this process. Check with the Graduate Division about graduation, filing fees and attending the commencement exercises. The Graduate Division sets deadlines for completion of the dissertation for graduation within a given semester. For more details see:

http://manoa.hawaii.edu/graduate/content/graduation

Time allowed

There is a seven-year time limit for Ph.D. students to complete all requirements. For unusual circumstances, one extension may be granted.