

Performance Production Model Program

The Performance Production Department recommends that you plan your program of study around the following sequence. A dash indicates the course is not offered that semester.

Performance Production Credits	90
Humanities & Sciences Credits	30
Arts Electives	6
Total Credits for BFA in Performance Production	126

First Year	fall	spring
PP111-112 Theater Graphics I-II	3	3
PP141-142 Fund of Tech Production I-II	3	3
PP151-152 Production Lab I-II	2	2
PP165 Introduction to Production Design 2D	–	2
PP181-182 Literature of Theater I-II	2	2
H&S Integrated Studies	6	6
Total Credits	16	18

Second Year	fall	spring
PP211 Scenic Fundamentals	–	3
PP231 Lighting Fundamentals	3	–
PP261-262 Theater History I-II	3	3
PP265 Introduction to Production Design 3D	2	–
PP371 Scenic Painting	2	–
PP 201 Drawing for Performance Production	–	2
PP Elective	–	3
PP251-252 Production Lab	3	3
H&S Course	3	3
Total Credits	16	17

Third Year	fall	spring
PP311-312 Intermediate Studio	6	6
PP351 Production Practicum	3	3
PP361 Contemporary Theater Studies	3	–
PP481 Technical Management	2	–
Drawing or Life Drawing	–	2
H&S Course	3	3
Total Credits	17	14

Fourth Year	fall	spring
Advanced Studios	4	4
PP351 Production Practicum	3	3
PP451 Internship (Variable Credit 1-9 total)	1	–
PP491 Final Project	–	1
Arts Elective	3	3
H&S Course	3	3
Total Credits	14	14

Course Descriptions

The Schedule of Classes and course descriptions, including new course offerings, are regularly updated on the Cornish Website at www.cornish.edu/academic-programs.

PP 101 / Production for Actors

2 credits Fall/Spring

This course introduces the beginning acting student to all of the production disciplines. Provides a working vocabulary and basic understanding of backstage organization. Open to non-majors with permission.

PP 111 & 112 / Theater Graphics

3 credits Fall/Spring

The introductory course for all performance production majors. Covers basic vocabulary and production organization, in addition to drafting rendering and model-making techniques. Open to non-majors with permission.

PP 141 & 142 / Fundamentals of Technical Production

3 credits Fall/Spring

A year-long course that provides training in the skills and techniques related to the operation of modern scenic and costume construction shops, along with an introduction to the historical background and traditions of the related crafts. Open to non-majors with permission.

PP 151 & 152 / Production Lab I & II

2 credits Fall/Spring

A year-long course providing hands-on production experience in carpentry, props, costumes, sound, lighting, and stage management. Students perform duties on actual staged productions. Open to all majors.

PP 165 / Introduction to Production Design 2D

2 credits, Spring

Basic principles and elements of design in two dimensions, and beginning elements of color theory. Open to non-majors with permission.

PP 181 & 182 / Literature of Theater for Performance Production

2 credits Fall/Spring

Explore a wide range of classical and modern plays, as well as important writing on performance and design. Reading from the plays,

exploring their dramatic structure, and discussing the relevance of each text will be the focus of class time. Open to PP majors only.

Note: Students should be prepared to buy anthologies plus supplemental readings each term.

PP 201 / Drawing for Performance Production

2 credits Fall/Spring

Drawing is the lingua franca of all fine and applied arts. Through analysis, synthesis, and composition, we will explore the practice of drawing as a better way to communicate our knowledge of the physical world. Includes introduction to both basic drawing and life drawing technique.

PP 265 / Introduction to Production Design 3D

2 credits Fall

Basic principles and elements of design in three dimensions and continuing elements of color theory. Open to non-majors with permission.

PP 211 / Scenic Fundamentals

3 credits Spring

Provides basic skills in the scenic design area, including drafting, perspective drawing, model making, and an introduction to period style. Open to non-majors with permission.

PP 231 / Lighting Fundamentals

3 credits Fall

Provides basic skills and knowledge required in the area of stage-lighting design. Covers topics such as electricity, color theory of light, stage-lighting equipment, and light plots. Open to non-majors with permission.

PP 251 & 252 / Production Lab III & IV

3 credits Fall/Spring

This year-long course is a continuation of PP 151-152 Production Lab I & II. Students take on increasingly more responsible production assignments while working in a supervisory capacity with first-year lab students. Open to PP majors only.

PP 261 & 262 / Theater History

3 credits Fall/Spring

Study the evolution of the art and crafts of theater through the ages. Consider the relationship of drama, acting styles, playing space, social conditions, methods of production, and aesthetic values within their historical contexts in selected eras from the Greeks to the twentieth century. Open to PP majors only.

PP 271 / Basic Sound Engineering

2 credits Fall

Provides a basic understanding of sound, its measurement, and the equipment used to control and produce it. Also examines various aspects of sound reinforcement and recording systems. Open to all majors.

PP 311 & 312 / Intermediate Studio I & II

Variable credits Fall/Spring

Making up the core in-major component of the third year, Intermediate Studio classes explore the theory and practices of all the design and technical areas of Performance Production. Students, faculty from all production areas, and occasional guest artists meet together weekly in seminar format to explore the process of a functioning performance company, with the emphasis placed on the collaborative experience. Additionally, students will meet once a week with head instructors of specific areas for in-depth study in their chosen concentration of either Scenic, Lighting, Costume, Sound Design, or Technical Direction. In each concentration, students will study the theories and practices of the profession, together with the history and traditions of the discipline. Class projects are designed to closely mirror the realities of the working performance company and may occasionally involve actual productions. Students may study more than one area of concentration during the course of the semester, depending on the number of credits in which they are enrolled. Open to non-majors with permission. Prerequisites: completion of Fundamentals Series (PP141-142, 211, 231) and junior standing, or permission from department chair.

PP 351 / Production Practicum

3 credits Fall/Spring

Students assume major responsibilities for mainstage productions, under faculty supervision. Open to all majors. Prerequisite: permission from department chair.

PP 353 / Production Practicum

2 credits Fall/Spring

Students assume major responsibilities for mainstage productions, under faculty supervision. Open to all majors. Prerequisite: permission from department chair.

PP 355 / Production Practicum

1 credit Fall/Spring

Students assume major responsibilities for mainstage productions, under faculty supervision. Open to all majors. Prerequisite: permission from department chair.

PP 361 / Contemporary Theater Studies

3 credits Fall

An extension of PP 261-262. Covers trends in world theater during the twentieth century. Open to PP majors only.

PP 371 / Scene Painting

2 credits Spring/Fall

A hands-on study of the basic techniques and materials of the scenic artist. Open to all majors.

PP 381 / Video Techniques

2 credits Fall/Spring

A combination of lecture and hands-on production work guides the student through the basic techniques of a video production unit. The class works as a team in the preparation of a short video project during the semester. Open to all majors.

PP 382 / Advanced Video Production

2 credits Spring

A hands-on, project-based exploration of video production techniques, building on the foundation of PP 381. Students will choose areas of focus such as live performance video-recording techniques, portfolio documentation, dance video recording, editing video to music or sound effects, and others. Open to all majors. Prerequisite: PP 381

PP 396-399 / Independent Study

1-4 credits Fall/Spring

Individual research projects in topics unavailable within the regular curriculum. Open to all majors. Prerequisites: junior standing and permission from department chair.

PP 401 / Advanced Sound Design

2 credits Fall/Spring

Individual projects in designing sound for theatrical productions. May include assignments on actual productions. Open to non-majors with permission.

PP 411 / Advanced Scene Design

2 credits Fall/Spring

Individual projects in designing scenery for theatrical productions. May include assignments on actual productions. Open to non-majors with permission. Prerequisite: PP 312

PP 421 / Advanced Costume Design

2 credits Fall/Spring

Individual projects in costume design. May include assignments on actual productions. Open to non-majors with permission. Prerequisite: PP 312

Performance Production Faculty

PP 431 / Advanced Lighting Design

2 credits Fall/Spring

Individual projects in lighting design. May include assignments on actual productions. Open to non-majors with permission.

Prerequisite: PP 312

PP 441 / Advanced Technical Production

2 credits Fall/Spring

Individual projects and instruction related to modern stage technology. May include assignments on actual productions. Open to non-majors with permission. Prerequisite: PP 312

PP 451 / Internship

Variable credits Fall/Spring

A supervised assignment with a pre-approved professional arts organization. Junior standing and permission of department chair. Open to PP majors only.

PP 461 & 462 / Stage Management I & II

2 credits Fall/Spring

Explores the stage manager's duties throughout the production process. May include assignment as stage manager of a Cornish production. Open to all majors.

PP 481 / Technical Management

2 credits Fall

Prepares the student for management duties in a production organization. Topics covered include personnel management, budget management, and production organization. Open to PP majors only.

PP 491 / Final Project

2 credits Fall/Spring

Students in the Performance Production Department are required to complete a final project in their area of specialization. This project is documented with sketches, drawings, pictures, and an appropriate narrative. These items are bound in book form and become the property of the department. Open to PP seniors only.

PP 496–499 / Independent Study

1-4 credits Fall/Spring

Individual research projects in topics unavailable within the regular curriculum. Open to PP majors only. Prerequisites: senior standing and department chair approval.

Dave Tosti-Lane, *Department Chair, Professor*
Sound Design Area Head

MFA · Virginia Polytechnic Institute
BS · Virginia Polytechnic Institute

Carl Bronsdon, *Adjunct Instructor*
Costume Design/Technology

BFA · Cornish College of the Arts

Greg Carter, *Assistant Professor*
Stage Management Area Head

MArch · University of Washington
BA · Duke University

Ronald Erickson, *Professor*
Costume Design Area Head

BFA · University of Washington

Karen Gjelsteen, *Professor*
Scenic Design Area Head, Props & Paint Area Head

MFA · University of Minnesota

Peter Guiles, *Professor*
Studio Coordination, Video Production
BA · University of Washington

Jennifer Lupton, *Adjunct Instructor*
Scenic Painting

MFA · University of Washington
BFA · University of New Mexico

Roberta Russell, *Professor*
Lighting Design Area Head
MFA · University of Washington
BA · University of Northern Iowa
AA · Marshalltown Community College

John Kendall Wilson, *Professor*
Theater History

MFA · University of Georgia
BA · LaGrange College