Performing Arts

 Marketable Skills

Performing Arts majors develop professional skills including:

- The ability to think critically about art, culture, history, and aesthetics
- Experience writing, performing, and directing theater productions, dance routines, and music programs
- An aptitude for communicating themes and concepts through performance
- Experience adapting techniques, tools, and materials to different creative processes, budgets, and final uses
- The ability to design performances to meet the needs and tastes of diverse clients and audiences
- Experience reviewing, evaluating, and explaining works of performance art
- The ability to memorize and follow detailed instructions
- Costume, set, and effect design skills

Relevant Fields

- Advertising
- Art Administration / Management
- Art Criticism
- Art Education
- Dance / Theater
- Event Planning
- Fashion
- Museum / Gallery Services

Sample Occupational Titles

Bachelor’s Degree:  
- Actor
- Costume / Fashion Designer
- Dancer
- Teacher
- Television / Film Production Assistant
- Theatre Technician / Craftsperson

Advanced Degree:
- Art Critic
- Art / Music Journalist
- Arts Program Director
- Curator
- Music Therapist
- Scenic Designer
Print Resources

Find these titles and additional books, periodicals, and handouts in the Career Resource Library:

- Career Opportunities in Theater and the Performing Arts by Shelly Field
- Great Jobs for Theater Majors by Jan Goldberg
- Opportunities in Music Careers by Robert Gerardi
- Resumes for Performing Arts Careers: With Sample Cover Letters by the Editors of VGM Career Horizons
- The Fine Artist's Career Guide: Making Money in the Arts and Beyond by Daniel Grant

Online Resources

Visit these websites and others listed in our School-Specific Resources:

- Art Career at www.artcareer.net
- Backstage Jobs at www.backstagejobs.com
- Idealist at www.idealist.org
- Occupational Outlook Handbook at www.bls.gov/oco
- O*NET Resource Center at www.onetcenter.org
- Showbiz Jobs at www.showbizjobs.com
- The Actors’ Center at www.actorscenter.org
- Theatre Jobs at www.theatrejobs.com

Professional Associations

The following professional associations offer career-related information and job listings:

- Association of Performing Arts Presenters at www.apap365.org
- College Art Association at www.collegeart.org
- International Society for the Performing Arts at www.ispa.org

Find more professional associations at American Society of Association Executives at www.asaecenter.org/Directories/AssociationSearch.cfm