Thriving Minds
At Truman State University, you will have an honors college experience in every classroom. You will enjoy smaller classes taught by professors instead of graduate students. You will participate in class discussion, work on group projects, and talk with professors after class.

You will learn from the people who sit next to you in class and the people who live down the hall. With a 16:1 student-faculty ratio, you will get the personal attention you need from a world-class faculty. All of our professors have an open-door policy, meaning you can stop by their office during their office hours to discuss class, get extra help on an assignment, or just chat about the day’s events. Many professors will even provide their home phone numbers in case you need unexpected help with an assignment.

In an age when most colleges put a premium on faculty research, at Truman, your success is our top priority. As an undergraduate student, you will gain the hands-on experience that will prepare you for graduate school or for any leading company, Truman students have had exciting internships as early as their freshman year working with government leaders, business executives, broadcast and print media professionals, accountants, archeologists, marine biologists, advertising agents, doctors, musicians and artists. Truman also participates in the Truman in Washington Program and sponsors the Missouri Government Internship Program.

Along with internships, you will discover real opportunities for research. Research at Truman spans all disciplines, and each year Truman awards approximately 40 institutional grants to undergraduates pursuing research projects. Last year, more than 1,200 students participated in undergraduate research. These types of real life experiences can open windows of opportunity and provide a link between the classroom and the world beyond campus.

An Active Student Outside the Classroom
At Truman, we realize that college is more than just the classroom experience. The Truman Experience is the combination of factors that will make you feel like Truman is a place you can call home. It is about making friends, living independently, and exploring the world around you. This is why we have created an environment that encourages student activity and interaction. We have highlighted a few of the ways that you can become involved and have fun at Truman.

Truman provides a supportive, open environment that will enable you to learn about yourself while you learn about the world around you.

The Truman Experience means you will see friends as you walk to class. You and your roommate will stay up late talking about your life before college. You will join a campus or community organization (or maybe five or six!). You will make lifelong friends. You will experience new cultures and try new things. You will accomplish more than you ever thought possible.

A Vibrant Community
At Truman and Kirksville, you will be a part of a variety of cultures, nationalities, interests, talents, abilities, values and experiences.

Regardless of where you come from, you will find a comfortable blend of social, economic, religious, and ethnic backgrounds at Truman. It is our hope that as a part of your Truman Experience you will open your mind to the arts, to different cultures, and to new experiences. The cultural events on and off campus will broaden your horizons by exposing you to new viewpoints. Whether it is a production by the Truman Theatre Department, a Blues Festival at the local Round Barn, or a volunteer project within the community, cultural opportunities at Truman abound.

Quick Facts

Main Stage Season

Little Women
February 27 - March 2
James G. Severns Theatre, 8:00 p.m.
Spring Lab Show
April 3 - 6
Black Box Theatre, 8:00 p.m.
The Big Meal
April 17 - 20
James G. Severns Theatre, 8:00 p.m.
Director's Showcase
May 1 - 3
James G. Severns Theatre, 8:00 p.m.
Truman State University THEATRE Department Quick Facts

Passion for Theatre

Facility

Randy Barne, Instructor
David Charles Goyette, Assistant Professor
Nikki Glaros, Assistant Professor
Ronald M. Rybkowski, Professor
Dana Smith, Professor

Our program emphasizes practical experience at every level of production. Students perform, design, direct, choreograph, stage manage, do research and concept analysis for faculty directors, construct and circuit, paint, sew, learn and teach. Incoming students frequently ask if we limit auditions to upperclassmen or restrict casting to theatre majors/minors, as is common in larger theatre programs across the country. . . the simple answer to both questions is no.

Work Experience

There are several opportunities to work with the faculty outside of the normal classroom or production situations through Work-Study, Scholarship Service or Student Employment. Openings in the past have included office workers, house management, promotions/publicity, Auditorium scheduling, and internships in the sound, scenic and costume areas. Student technicians and designers also have the opportunity to work with (and add to their working resumes) the professional touring theatre, opera, and ballet companies that perform annually through Truman's outstanding Kohlenberg Lyceum series. Past companies have included the Guthrie Theatre, Arkansas Repertory, American Shakespeare, St. Louis Opera, etc.

Long Term Career Options

Our program enforces broad-based learning and practical applications of Truman's Liberal Arts and Sciences core curriculum. Students must perform, design, construct, direct, assist . . . COLLABORATE. In every area of study and practical training, we demand research, independent analysis, critical thinking and a high degree of on-the-spot problem-solving.

Our students are well prepared for graduate study in theatre and/or closely related fields (literature, journalism, communications/media, anthropology, psychology -- especially if they have taken double majors or minored in one of these) as they are required to study theoretical and historical impulses from acting to costume design from drama to the theatre structures and audience/cultural formations.

For the multiple-career future, theatre majors have more options than most majors because they have been trained to seek those options out and take advantage of sudden reversals; their study has been intensively people-oriented; their imaginations have been exercised - especially in terms of working with what “is” in order to make what “might be.” In addition to several graduates who are currently in graduate theatre programs (about 35% and on the increase) or who are working in professional/commercial theatre (35-45%), Truman theatre graduates have gone on to professional training in education, medicine, theology, literature, and law. We have graduates who are successful in carpentry, electrical maintenance, sales, marketing, small business management, personnel consulting, and publications. All of our recent graduates (of the past six years) are currently employed.

Recent Student Research

• s.o.s., an original student written play performed at the Kansas City Fringe Festival. Kyle Smith, playwright Prof. Joan Larkins-Mather, Faculty Mentor
• Living on the Fringe: An Oral History of the Kansas City Fringe Festival Max D. Glenn Prof. Janet Albanese (Drake University) and Dr. Dana Smith, Faculty Mentors
• Smetius: A One-Act Play Arthur L. Vemig, Max D. Glenn, Gavin B. Conkling, and Nate J. Sullivan Prof. Joan Larkins-Mather, Faculty Mentor
• Unearthing Hidden Bridges: The Identification of Noh Theatre with the Aesthetics of Rasa Zeeshan Reshamwala Dr. Dana Smith, Faculty Mentor
• 9 Parts of Desire, 3 Roles, 1 Woman - A Character Sketch Casey J. Scoggins, Elizabeth A. Necka, Amber N. Collins, and Jennifer L. Clark Mr. Randy W. Barne, Faculty Mentor

Our students are not specialists; they are not encouraged to stake their futures on a single talent or skill. They are prepared for life and careers of changing conditions and challenges. Our students are characteristically independent both in mind and in their work; they know how to maintain self-discipline and focus even as circumstances alter or the best plans fail. This program emphasizes generalist study and collaboration as it cultivates each individual’s talents, temperaments, and potential.

Organizations

Two student-groups help to support and sustain our program:

• Alpha Psi Omega, the National Honorary Theatrics Society. Member credits through sustained commitment to production work offstage and on.
• Theatre Steering Committee, student elected representatives/liaisons working with the faculty and responsible for the student-directed laboratory season and the end of the year banquet.

Facilities

• James G. Sevems Theatre 240 seat state-of-the art courtyard theater with stage and seating that can be easily moved to create thrust or proscenium style settings
• Black Box Theater Fully equipped with a lighting grid and booth
• Scene Shop
• Costume Shop
• Acting Lab
• Design Lab
• Dressing Rooms
• Make-up Room
• Green Room

[website: theatre.truman.edu] [email: theatre@truman.edu]