



Thank you for your interest in the theatre program at Aurora University!

We look forward to meeting you and answering your questions about the program and scholarships. To learn more about the program, please visit aurora.edu/theatre or contact us directly via our information below.

Within this packet, you'll find the following information:

- Commitment requirements of a scholarship recipient
- Descriptions of suggested first-year courses
- Audition/Interview information
- Audition/Interview application (page 5-6)

Scholarship award amounts depend on the strength of your application and your demonstrated ability in preparation and execution of your interview/audition, written statement, and recommendation.

Please schedule an audition online at aurora.edu/theatrescholarship. If you have questions, please contact Stacy Searle, Program Chair, at 630-844-7589, or email theatre@aurora.edu.

We look forward to meeting you soon! "Break a leg" with your current studies, as you look forward to your Aurora University education.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Stacy Searle". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Stacy Searle
MFAA, Acting Pedagogy
Program Chair
Associate Professor of Theatre
ssearle@aurora.edu
630-844-7589

Scholarship Commitment

1. Participate in at least two departmental main stage productions within the academic year.

- If the scholarship recipient is a performer, s/he must audition for all productions of the theatre department and must accept any role offered. Please note that, while auditioning is required of scholarship recipients, these students are in no way guaranteed a role in any production. All students are considered on an equal basis at auditions.
- If the scholarship recipient works as staff or backstage personnel, or if a performer does not win a role in a production, s/he must work on the production in another capacity, usually in the technical areas, but possibly as stage manager or publicity assistant, depending on the director's and technical director's needs. Students will be asked their preference for these assignments, but if assigned differently, must abide by the faculty's decision.

2. The student must complete, with a grade of B or higher, two theatre courses during the academic year, usually one per semester. Courses suggested for first-year students are, Introduction to Acting, Stagecraft I, and Introduction to Musical Theatre Performance. Please see the course descriptions on page three for further information.

- Overall GPA of 2.0 must be maintained to be considered for continuing scholarship.
- The student will meet with the theatre faculty each spring to review academic progress and scholarship status.

Please note: It is the student's responsibility to follow through on scholarship commitments.

- Theatre faculty and advisors will be notified of the student's scholarship commitments and will monitor their progress; however, faculty will not provide continual reminders.
- The student will be notified once if s/he is in danger of not meeting expectations, with enough time to correct behavior.
- A student who does not meet his or her commitments while on scholarship will not be awarded a scholarship for the subsequent semester.
- Failing to meet commitments also endangers the likelihood of receiving scholarship funding in any future years.
- Repeated lateness or skipping classes, not showing up to rehearsal, not meeting deadlines or turning in assignments will necessitate loss of scholarship.

Recommended Courses for First-Year Students

THE-1300 Introduction to Acting (4 semester hours)

This course is an introduction to the study and fundamentals of acting. Through exercises in movement, voice, imagination, and game playing, the student actor will develop control over body and movement, learn techniques to reduce performance anxiety and stage fright, sharpen focus and concentration, heighten imagination, and develop skills needed to define and support the life of a character.

THE-1500 Stagecraft (4 semester hours)

This course is an introduction to the terminology and techniques used in technical theatre. The course examines two-dimensional and three-dimensional scenery, the physical theater, stage and scene shop equipment, project organization and process, technical theater graphics, materials, and theatrical construction techniques. Students in this course will be actively involved in AU Theatre Department productions and students will be required to schedule scene shop time outside of class.

THE-2400 Introduction to Musical Theatre Performance (4 semester hours)

This course is an introduction to musical theatre scene study, in which acting, singing, and movement skills are blended in the performance of songs and scenes. The course will require students to research musical theatre productions and characters, train in vocal technique and work with a collaborative pianist.

Theatre Scholarship Audition/Interview

Audition/Interview Guidelines:

- Schedule an audition/interview online at aurora.edu/theatrescholarship.
- If you are a performer, prepare a short piece (one to two minutes) of your choosing; please no improvisations “on the spot.” After your prepared presentation, there will be an informal interview with faculty members.
- If your main interest is technical/production, bring a portfolio of work you have done. Examples of portfolio work include sketches, photographs of work, prompt books, etc. If you do not have a portfolio, we encourage you to bring what you do have available and we will discuss your experiences as part of the interview process. After your prepared presentation, there will be an informal interview with faculty members.
- Bring the application on pages 5-6 with you the day of your audition.

Audition/Interview Information:

- Auditions/interviews last approximately 15 minutes.
- Award amounts range from \$500 to \$5,000.
- Open to students regardless of major or minor.
- Please dress professionally for your audition.
- Upon completion of your application and audition/interview, your Admission Counselor will contact you regarding the scholarship.
- Scholarship will be awarded pending acceptance to Aurora University.
- Auditions/Interviews are held in Perry Theatre (349 S. Gladstone Ave.) between 1:00-3:00 p.m.

Auditions/Interviews dates:

- Saturday, January 27, 2024
- Saturday, February 24, 2024
- Saturday, April 20, 2024

Please make every effort to audition on one of the above dates. We understand, however, that schedules can be difficult. Alternate audition dates are available and can be arranged with three weeks advanced notice. Contact Stacy Searle at theatre@aurora.edu to request an alternate audition date.

- Confirmation of your audition date and time will be emailed to you.
- Upon completion of your application and audition/interview, your Admission Counselor will contact you regarding the scholarship. Please note, that you must be admitted to Aurora University before your scholarship is revealed to you.



Theatre Scholarship Application

Name _____ Email address _____

Address _____ Preferred phone # _____

City/State/Zip _____

High school _____

High school City/State _____

Do you have any interest in majoring in Theatre? ___ Yes ___ No ___ Undecided
(You do not need to be a major to receive scholarship funds)

Area(s) of interest (check all that apply):

___ Acting ___ Set/Costume/Lighting/Sound Design ___ Musical Theatre

___ Backstage Crew/Tech ___ Directing ___ Playwriting ___ Stage Management

Please provide a brief resume below (or on a separate page) of your previous theatrical experience:

Play

Ex: Our Town

Ex: Bye Bye Birdie

Acting role or production assignment

Emily Webb

Costume crew

Venue

Springtown High School

Smithville Park District

Please list any theatre classes you have taken and the name of your instructor:

Please describe why you want to participate in university theatre and how it pertains to your future plans.

Please provide two references that we can contact:

Name _____ Relationship to applicant _____

Email address _____ Phone number _____

Name _____ Relationship to applicant _____

Email address _____ Phone number _____

I understand that upon completion of my application and audition/interview, an Admission Counselor will contact me regarding the scholarship. I understand I must be admitted to Aurora University in order to learn the results of my scholarship application.

I understand that in order to maintain any scholarship received I need to conscientiously participate in at least two departmental main stage productions within the academic year.
I understand that if I audition for the Aurora University mainstage productions, I must accept any role offered.

I understand that while auditioning is required of performance scholarship recipients, I am not guaranteed a role in any production. I understand that if I am not cast, I am required to accept another assignment backstage or in the front of the house.

I understand that technical/production scholarship recipients are required to apply for technical assignments for two mainstage productions each year. I understand I must accept my position as assigned.

I understand that theatre scholarship students must complete, with a grade of B or higher, two theatre courses during the academic year in order to be considered for continuing scholarship.

I understand an overall GPA of 2.0 must be maintained to be considered for continuing scholarship.

Signature

Date

Print Name

Please bring this complete form to your audition
If you have any questions, please contact Stacy Searle,
Associate Professor of Theatre | Program Chair, ssearle@aurora.edu