



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

Theatre is a deeply collaborative art form, bringing together actors, designers, and technicians to create a unified vision. At Aurora University, we offer scholarships for students excelling in these areas of expertise.

Scholarship Eligibility:

- Full-time student status at Aurora University
- Minimum cumulative GPA of 2.0

Included in this Audition Packet:

- Commitment requirements for scholarship recipients
- Audition/Interview information
- Application forms (pages 5-6)

Your scholarship award will depend on your preparation and performance during the audition/interview, the quality of your written statement, and the strength of your recommendations. Award amounts range from \$500 to \$5,000.

To schedule an audition, please visit aurora.edu/theatrescholarship. If you have any questions, feel free to reach out to Trevor Dotson, Program Chair, at (630) 844-7589 or via email at theatre@aurora.edu.

We look forward to meeting you and wish you the best of luck in your studies. "Break a leg" as you prepare for the next step in your Aurora University journey!

Best,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "TREVOR DOTSON". The signature is stylized with a large, sweeping "T" and a cursive "DOTSON".

Trevor Dotson
MFA Theatre
Department Chair
630-844-7594
tdotson@aurora.edu

Theatre Scholarship Audition/ Interview

- Schedule an audition/ interview online at aurora.edu/theatrescholarship.
- Award amounts range from \$500 to \$5,000.
- Open to all students regardless of major or minor.
- Performers, designers, and technicians can all apply.

What you will need for your audition

- **Performers** prepare two monologues (one to two minutes) of your choosing and one song (a track must be used for the song - no a capella auditions are permitted). After your prepared presentation, there will be an informal interview with faculty members.
- **Designers/ Backstage**, 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.
- **Letter of recommendation:** Applicants must submit a letter of recommendation from one person who knows them as a theatre artist commenting upon character, demonstrated work ethic, team participation and ability of the applicant. This may be submitted via email or at the time of your audition.

Helpful information:

- Auditions/interviews will last approximately fifteen minutes.
- Please dress professionally for your audition.
- Auditions/Interviews are held in Black Box Theatre, Stephens 119, (349 S. Gladstone Ave.) between 1:00-4:00 p.m.

Please make every effort to audition on the above date. We understand, however, that schedules can be difficult. Alternate audition dates are available and can be arranged with three weeks advanced notice.

If you have any questions, please contact Trevor Dotson,
Professor of Theatre | Department Chair tdotson@aurora.edu



Theatre Scholarship Commitment

2025-2026 Academic Year

In granting you a scholarship in theatre, the Aurora University Theatre Faculty has placed their confidence in your dedication to our Theatre Department. Your scholarship award can be maintained by meeting the following criteria:

Participation in Mainstage Productions

Scholarship recipients are required to actively participate in at least two departmental mainstage productions during the academic year.

- If you are a performer, you must audition for all theatre department productions and accept any role offered to you. While auditioning is mandatory, please be advised that casting is not guaranteed, as all roles are awarded based on merit and the artistic vision of the director. In the event you are not cast, your participation is still essential.
- If you are not cast in a production or if you are primarily a technical theatre member, you are expected to contribute in other capacities. This may include working on technical crews (set construction, lighting, sound, costumes, etc.), serving as a stage manager, or assisting with publicity and promotions, depending on the department's needs for each production. While we will consider your preferences for assignments, final decisions will be made by the faculty in accordance with production requirements, and your full cooperation is expected.

Academic Requirements

You must complete a total of 16 credits (4 classes) of theatre courses, achieving a grade of B or higher in each. First-year students are typically encouraged to enroll in foundational courses such as Introduction to Theatre, Acting I, or Stagecraft I. A cumulative GPA of 2.0 or higher must be maintained to remain eligible for the scholarship.

Students will be evaluated by the theatre faculty each semester to review academic progress and scholarship status based upon the above criteria. It is the student's responsibility to fulfill all scholarship obligations and maintain open communication with the faculty regarding their commitments. The student will be notified if they are in danger of not meeting scholarship commitments, with enough time to correct behavior. A student who does not remedy the deficiencies will not be awarded the scholarship for subsequent semesters.

We look forward to your continued contributions to the Aurora University Theatre Department and your growth as both an artist and a scholar.



Theatre Scholarship Application

Name _____ Email Address _____

Address _____

Preferred Phone _____

High School _____

High School City, State _____

Do you have an interest in majoring in Theatre? YES NO UNDECIDED

Areas of Interest (check all that apply)

- ☐ Acting
- ☐ Scenic Design
- ☐ Costume Design
- ☐ Lighting Design
- ☐ Sound Design
- ☐ Stage Management
- ☐ Musical Theatre
- ☐ Backstage Crew
- ☐ Playwrighting
- ☐ Directing

Please submit a brief resume of your previous theatre experience

Example:

<u>Play</u>	<u>Acting Role or Production Assignment</u>	<u>Year + Venue</u>
<i>Our Town</i>	Emily Webb	2023, Springtown High School
<i>Bye Bye Birdie</i>	Costume Crew	2024, Smithville Park District

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

In 200 words, please describe why you want to participate in university level theatre and how it pertains to your future.

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 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, 16 credits of theatre courses during the academic year to be considered for continuing scholarship.

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

Signature _____

Printed Name _____

Date _____