Core course work
• Design and Technology Seminar
• Structural Design I (Wood)
• Structural Design II (Metals)
• Technical Management Techniques
• Mechanical Design for the Stage
• Automation System Design
• Tutorial Internship for the MFA
• MFA Terminal Project

Sample specialization courses
• Show Control System Design
• Industrial Safety
• Fluid Power (with Mechanical Engineering Technology program)
• Advanced Fluid Power (with Mechanical Engineering Technology program)
• Controls and Instrumentation for Automation (with Mechanical Engineering Technology program)
• Introduction to Sound Studios
• CAD for the Stage
• Advanced Scenic Design
• Advanced Lighting Design
• Technical Writing

For more information
Email, call, or write Rich Dionne (address on below) or head to the Purdue Theatre Technical Direction MFA web page at:

http://www.purdue.edu/theatre/academics/graduate/technicaldirection.html

Where you can find additional details about the program, including a sample plan of study.

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The scene shop at Purdue Theatre
**State-of-the-art equipment**

The Nancy T. Hansen and Carole and Gordon Mallett Theatres, opened in 2006, offer students in the program the opportunity to work in both a large prosenium theatre and a flexible block-box theatre. The scenery shop includes both traditional wood construction equipment and metal-working equipment; additionally, students have the opportunity to work with chain motors, non-traditional rigging, and computer-controlled stage machinery (including motor drives, motor-driven winches, PLC controls, and pneumatics).

**Production work**

Every semester during the program, students in the program are assigned as a technical director to one of the Department’s main stage productions. These assignments are discussed with the student in advance, and are selected to provide challenges appropriate to the student at that time in their course work.

This work is undertaken as part of the Design and Production Seminar course, in which students in the program are enrolled every semester. Throughout the production process, students in the program meet with their advisor and their peers to discuss their progress and to offer suggestions and critique.

**Partial equipment list**

- Table saw
- Band saw
- Wood lathe
- Jointer
- Router table
- Stationary sander
- Planer
- Molding cutter
- Cold saw
- Abrasive saw
- MIG welding rig
- Plasma cutter
- Ring roller
- Hossfeld bender
- Ironworker
- Metal lathe
- Single-axis hot-wire foam cutter
- 1 ton/0.5 ton chain motors
- 2 hp/chp 3Ø AC motors
- Creative Conners Stagehand AC motor drives
- DirectLogic 250 PLC
- Pneumatic cylinders

**Individual attention**

Upon entering the program, students develop individual plans of study with their advisor, based on their background, experience, and career goals. While every student is expected to fulfill a core curriculum of courses, he or she also selects 24 credit hours of specialization courses that are appropriate to their needs and goals. Some students choose to place an emphasis on engineering skills; others on management skills; still others can choose to further develop a design discipline to their repertoire of skills.

**Dracula looms over Lucy in a 2009 production of Dracula, a third-year MFA technical direction project. The settee on which Lucy lies was custom-built for the production, incorporating a steel plate which lifted her (by means of a winch-controlled lift) from the couch as Dracula levitated her; Lucy’s gown draped down to mask the lift from the audience.**

A scene from the production of Urinetown: The Musical, 2006, an MFA technical direction terminal project. The Public Amenity No. 9 wagon was driven by a 2 hp motor; behind it can be seen a large door, also controlled by a 2 hp motor, which opened to allow the Amenity to pass through. Both units were controlled through Creative Conners Stagehand ACs and Avista software.

**Assistantships**

All MFA technical direction students receive assistantships either in the scene shop or teaching, or both. Purdue pays highly competitive stipends and provides an affordable medical plan. Contact us for details.