



Dear Prospective Theatre Student,

Thank you for your interest in our theatre programs at Aurora University. We are excited about meeting you and answering your questions regarding the program and scholarships. To learn more about our program, please visit the department web page ([www.aurora.edu/cas/theatre.htm](http://www.aurora.edu/cas/theatre.htm)). Or ask us your questions directly using the contact information at the end of this letter.

Along with this letter you will find some information that should help answer your initial questions.

- A checklist which explains the application process and commitment required of a scholarship recipient.
- A list of contacts and dates for this year's scholarship auditions/interviews.
- Descriptions of suggested first year courses at AU
- An application form with basic information for us to track your scholarship application and interview.

Award amounts depend on the strength of your application, both in interest and ability, demonstrated in preparation and execution of your interview/audition, written statement and recommendation. Please look over all the enclosed material and feel free to contact us with questions to help you make your decision. If you decide to apply for a scholarship, please contact the Admissions Office to set up an interview/audition during one of the planned sessions.

We hope to see you at one of the audition/interview sessions and look forward to meeting you. "Break a leg" throughout the rest of your current studies and as you look forward to an Aurora University education!

Sincerely,

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AURORA UNIVERSITY

## First-year Scholarship in Theatre

### Applicant profile:

- Ability to work collaboratively with and support others
- Self-motivated to develop craft
- Interested in learning in an interdisciplinary way, both on- and backstage
- Somewhat experienced, with demonstrated ability in some aspect of theatre arts
- Organized and able to manage time well

### Application requirements:

- One-page essay describing why you wish to study/participate in university theatre and how it may apply to your future plans
- One letter of recommendation from a teacher or employer who is able to comment on your character and demonstrated work ethic, “team” participation and talent
- A basic resume of your experience in theatre
- Participation in a group exercise session with theatre faculty at AU, if possible
- An interview/audition with members of the theatre faculty at AU.

If you are a performer, you will need to prepare a short piece (one-to-two minutes) of your choosing; please no improvisations “on the spot.” If your main interest is backstage, you will need to choose a play you know and prepare a short presentation about how you might direct or design set, costumes, props or sound for a production of that script. After your prepared presentation there will be an informal interview with faculty members.

### Scholarship commitments:

- Conscientiously participate in at least two departmental productions within the academic year.
  - If the scholarship recipient is a performer, s/he is expected to audition for all productions of the theatre department, open to accepting any role. Please note that, while auditioning is required of scholarship recipients, these students are in no way guaranteed any roles in any productions. All students are considered on an equal basis at auditions. If offered a role, a scholarship student may not turn it down.
  - If the scholarship recipient works as staff or backstage personnel, OR if a performer does not win a role in a production, s/he is expected to work on the productions 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 choice.
- Complete, with a grade average of B or higher, two theatre courses during the academic year, usually one per semester. Courses suggested for first-year students are Introduction to Theatre, Acting I and Stagecraft I. Please see the enclosed course descriptions for further information.
- Maintain a cumulative GPA of at least 2.0.
- Accept faculty feedback on work (class and production) and devise future plans.

*Please note: It is the student’s responsibility to follow through on scholarship commitments. Advisors will be notified of the student’s scholarship commitments. Faculty will be available to advise student and will monitor progress, however, faculty will not provide continual reminders. The student will be notified once if s/he is in danger of not meeting commitments, with enough time to correct behavior. Repeated lateness or skipping any classes, not showing up to rehearsals, not meeting deadlines or turning in assignments are part of the commitment. A student who does not meet his or her commitments while on scholarship will lose the scholarship, which will not be reinstated.*



## **Dates and times for auditions/interviews for 2010-2011 Scholarships**

Students interested in applying for a theatre scholarship must attend a group session and an individual interview/audition, which may be arranged through the Office of Admissions. Group session lasts 20-30 minutes and then individual auditions/interviews take place, lasting approximately 15 minutes each. These sessions will occur after scheduled open houses in the Spring semester.

Completed applications should be received no later than one week prior to requested audition/interview date. Applications may be sent to the admissions office at:

**Office of Admissions  
Attn: Theatre Scholarships  
347 S. Gladstone Avenue  
Aurora, IL 60506  
  
Email: [theadric@aurora.edu](mailto:theadric@aurora.edu)  
  
Fax: 630-844-5535**

Questions, call Ms. Chelsey Headrick, Freshman Admissions Representative, at 630-844-5791.

### **The 2010 audition/interview dates are:**

**Saturday, January 30, 2010 (application deadline January 25)**  
Performance applicants' group session begins at 1:00 p.m.  
Individual auditions/interviews begin at 1:30.

**Saturday, April 17, 2010 (application deadline April 10)**  
Performance applicants' group session begins at 1:00 p.m.  
Individual auditions/interviews begin at 1:30.

**Transfer students may be accommodated on these dates (preferably) or at either the individual student event on February 15, 2010, or the Transfer and Adult Open House on March 30, 2010. To request an interview/audition at either of these events, you must submit your application at least two weeks in advance, so that we may make sure a faculty member is available, and a group experience can be arranged. Students transferring in at the freshman level should include recommendations from recent work—either most recent only, or a recent recommendation in addition to one from high school.**



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## **Recommended Courses for First-Year Students**

### **THE1200 Introduction to Theatre (3 semester hours)**

Definition and examples of the elements of theatrical production provide half of this course's foundation. This includes the roles of producers, directors, designers, actors and others in the theatrical industry. How the theatre works is linked to why the theatre works to round out the students' foundation. Theories exploring why theatre exists, how it could be practiced and its purpose to a society are surveyed. As often as possible, the words and examples of actual practitioners and their cultural contexts are used as the basis of discussion. All this combines to develop critical ability in the context of being an audience member.

No prerequisites

Meets General Education "Aesthetic and Philosophical Expression" B requirement

### **THE 1300 Acting I (3 credit hours)**

Begins the process of developing the self as a honed communication tool through stage acting technique. Comfortable naturalism on stage is the aim, as students explore their personal awareness, as well as their awareness of others and their surroundings. Basic tools of the body, imagination and rationale are developed. Appreciation of not only acting technique, but also the work needed in production values to support the script and acting are part of study. Students work with exercises, improvisation and contentless scenes, leading to a final scripted scene.

No prerequisites

### **THE 1500 Stagecraft I (3 credit hours)**

An introduction to the terminology and techniques used in technical theatre. 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 Theatre Department productions.

No prerequisites.



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### **Aurora University Theater Scholarship Application**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Age (or current year in college): \_\_\_\_\_

High School or College currently attending: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Home phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Other phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Prepared Presentation:

Play Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Your role (character name, director or design area): \_\_\_\_\_

Preferred date for audition/interview (please circle from the list below):

- April 17, 2010

Preferred date for Transfer Students (if the above dates cannot be made):

- February 15, 2010
- March 30, 2010

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Staff notes (please do not write in this space):

Interview date and time: