

# School of Drama

*Scott Zigler, Dean*

## I. Overview

The School of Drama High School Program trains talented young students to be dynamic, versatile and self-aware citizen artists. The school emphasizes foundational skills in its training and responds to a definite need in the profession for actors to be technically well-equipped and versatile, as well as creatively inspired. This is the primary focus of the faculty, giving close attention to each individual's development. Students grow through rigorous practice, creative techniques, scholarship, and generative work; evolving skill sets and an artistic sensitivity that is capable of discerning standards of quality and integrity. We provide tools to hone their creative voice and process, and strive to foster a humane, community-oriented and culturally responsive program that prepares each student for their unique goals and career path. As part of this process, the faculty supports the partnership of courses in High School Academics, offering a diverse learning environment that nurtures and develops the whole person.

The High School Drama Program is an intensive course of study, focusing on the craft of acting. The program utilizes diverse methodologies to deliver instruction and practice in acting for stage and screen, movement, voice and speech, singing, dance, stage combat, collaborative devising, theatre studies, audition techniques, and college and industry professional preparation. The carefully planned curriculum emphasizes development of the student's artistic voice and aesthetic growth, capacity for collaboration, and understanding of theatre's cultural and social context, while also guiding the creation of portfolio materials that reflect their strengths and stage of development. The high school drama program strongly supports the High School Academic Program as an integral component of developing a well-rounded and knowledgeable citizen artist.

## II. Requirements

Enrollment in the High School Drama Program is limited to North Carolina residents who qualify for in-state tuition status, as defined in North Carolina General Statute 116-143.1, as well as some of out-of-state students. This program is designed for rising high school seniors who have demonstrated artistic interest, dedication, enthusiasm and talent. Audition and interview are prerequisites for admission. Previous training is not a requirement. Final decisions concerning admission are based on the artistic potential of each applicant, letters of recommendation and a high school transcript, followed by an on-campus interview with the student and his/her parent/guardian.

## III. Evaluation

### A. High School Diploma

The UNCOSA High School Diploma with a concentration in Theatre Arts is awarded to students who satisfactorily complete the requirements of the High School Drama Program and the UNCOSA academic diploma requirements set by the UNCOSA High School Academic Program. The High School Academic Program requires that all 12th graders remain enrolled in at least two academic courses for the year. Refer to the High School Academic Program section of this Bulletin for high school credits required for high school graduation.

### B. Continuance in the Program

Students are expected to maintain a 2.3 average in drama classes and an average 2.3 in academic courses in order to be continued for the next semester. Students who fail to meet these standards will not be invited to continue their training.

After grades have been considered at mid-term and again at the end of fall semester, the faculty determines whether or not each student is demonstrating substantial growth toward artistic excellence. For the high school student who

does not demonstrate such growth, the faculty decides if he or she should receive an official Letter of Warning, advising the student and the parents/guardians of the lack of substantial progress. Letters of Warning are based on these criteria: (1) ability to absorb instruction, (2) assessment of talent, and (3) ability to work and adapt in both arts classes and resident life situations. A student who fails to meet the stated criteria will not usually be invited to continue in the program.

The School of Drama reserves the right to dismiss from the program without probation or an official letter of warning any student whose social, professional or academic behavior prevents the School's classes or rehearsals from proceeding in a creative and productive fashion, or interferes with the training of the other students.

It should be noted that each student in the High School Drama Program is unique, and there may be cases when progress within the drama program is limited by emotional or physical immaturity. It is the observation of the faculty that it would be detrimental to ask a student to continue to move forward in the program if his/her personal rate of growth does not coincide with the work demanded. In such cases, the student is asked to withdraw. This is in no way a reflection of the student's future abilities, but it is a recognition of the High School Drama Program's unique curriculum.