It's dedication.
Not a daydream.
Unlike other schools that incorporate design and production within a theatre studies program, ours is an independent conservatory with an innovative and comprehensive curriculum that sets it apart. Attend UNCSA and we’ll help you stand out as well.

Our students are prepared for careers in theatre, film, television, dance, opera, live and themed entertainment, and more. Your skills will be versatile. Your options will be limitless.

Tell your story and see it come to life. You’ll gain hands-on experience working on fully-staged productions in theatre, opera, dance, film, and more.

HIGH SCHOOL | UNDERGRADUATE | GRADUATE

CONCENTRATION

Costume Design

Costume Technology

Lighting

Production and Project Management (Fall 2018)

Scene Design

Scene Painting

Scene Art

Scenic Technology

Sound Design

Stage Automation

Stage Management

Stage Properties

Technical Direction

Visual Arts Program

Wig & Makeup Design

SCHOOL OF DESIGN & PRODUCTION

A ONE OF A KIND OPPORTUNITY
A CAMPUS CULTURE UNLIKE ANY IN THE COUNTRY

A COMMUNITY OF ARTISTS
The University of North Carolina School of the Arts is composed of five conservatories - Design & Production, Dance, Drama, Filmmaking, and Music. As a result, you’ll find artistic passion and inspiration all around you. You will learn by doing. And every day, your fellow artists will help bring out your very best.

ARTISTIC COLLABORATION
Our environment creates unique opportunities for collaboration, and no discipline collaborates more than Design & Production. You’ll learn to work effectively with dancers, actors, filmmakers, and musicians, as well as your production team - a critical skill you’ll carry into your professional career.

"Networking isn’t just with other D&P students. It’s with film and drama students, dancers, and musicians. These are friendships and connections that you’ll have throughout your career."

Elizabeth Distante - Student, Design & Production, Scenic Artist
A CONSERVATORY EXPERIENCE

UNCSA is an intensive conservatory where you’ll immerse daily in the study of your craft. With rigorous courses, coupled with hands-on training in venues of all sizes and styles, you’ll perfect the skills needed to thrive in your discipline. Your instruction will be professional-level. Your focus will be your career.

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COMPREHENSIVE TRAINING

The School of Design & Production offers more than 150 courses each year, spanning all areas of theatrical design, technical theatre and management. You will learn the history of your craft, as well as the cutting-edge technologies reshaping the industry. Guided by an experienced faculty, working on numerous productions each year, you’ll develop into a creative yet pragmatic thinker who gets the job done.

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EDUCATING THE WHOLE ARTIST

Our comprehensive liberal arts college curriculum and high school academic program provide a broad education, producing well-rounded artists who think critically, creatively and collaboratively.

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UNCSA’s liberal arts courses are unique. They’re crafted to help artists learn and discover themselves. The curriculum enhances artistic growth.
YOU WILL BE HANDS-ON. OFTEN.

On a campus that presents more than 300 performances and screenings per year, you’ll benefit from an exposure to other disciplines and a volume of work that no other school can match. With fully-staged productions in theatre, dance and opera, you’ll gain a wealth of experience to launch you onto the ultimate stage: your professional career.

STUDENT-LED, STUDENT-PRODUCED

D & P students are integral to the creative and technical planning for UNCSA productions and literally run the show, handling all scenery, lighting, sound, costumes, stage management, wigs, makeup and crew. They master accountability for budgets, operations, and time management.

STATE-OF-THE-ART FACILITIES

Working alongside peers, faculty and visiting artists, you’ll design and build in a professional work environment that is second to none – with 80,000 square feet of modern production space, fully-equipped shops, sound stages and numerous performance venues.

“This is a working environment. Students learn to progress quickly and develop the incredible time-management skills they’ll apply the very first day of their professional careers. When they graduate, they understand what the job takes.”

Christal Schanes – Faculty, School of Design & Production
Our conservatory’s Dean is Michael Kelley, a multiple Emmy Award-winning art director, senior producer and principal designer on Broadway, in regional theatre, television, film and themed entertainment. He leads a world-class faculty with impressive credentials of their own – from Broadway and major dance companies to television and film.

A LOOK BEHIND THE CURTAIN

Working side-by-side with these accomplished professionals, you’ll develop your skills along with a true understanding of the industry. Your faculty-mentors may also recruit you to work with them on professional engagements, forging valuable connections for you with the industry.

TAKING STUDENTS TO THE WORK

D & P students gain meaningful insights from numerous guest artists that visit campus each year to collaborate on projects. We also take them “to the work” – opportunities such as an installation at the White House or ideation for a global entertainment company.

“The goal is to expose students to the industry as quickly as possible. That’s accomplished by taking our students to the work, where they have the opportunity to collaborate with professionals in real-world environments.”

Michael Kelley – Dean, School of Design & Production
INDUSTRY-LEADING ALUMNI

Our graduates find success with preeminent employers across the nation and around the world.

ABC
Alvin Alley American Dance Theater
Broadway theatres
Charlotte Ballet
Cincinnati Playhouse in the Park
Cirque du Soleil
Disney Company
Guthrie Theatre
HBO
Hubbard Street Dance Chicago
Hudson Scenic Studio
Lyric Opera of Chicago
Major motion pictures
Metropolitan Opera
MTV
National and international tours
NBC
PRG
Santa Fe Opera
“Saturday Night Live”
“Sesame Street”
Utah Shakespeare Festival
Williamstown Theatre Festival

PRODUCING SUCCESS

Our Design & Production students are highly sought after: more than 95 percent have a job lined up by the time they graduate. In addition to training on campus, many have paid experience as well. Exceptionally skilled and experienced, they are ready to hit the ground running, starting day one.

JOB FAIR ADVANTAGE

Each spring, Design & Production hosts a job fair, bringing D&P students together with the industry’s leading companies and organizations. Last year, 41 professional companies conducted 672 interviews with 61 graduating students, offering 167 jobs to our soon-to-be graduates.

ALUMNI NETWORK

Our alumni network serves as a dynamic conduit to professional opportunities. After all, no one understands the value of a UNCSA education better. Frequently, our alumni recruit recent UNCSA graduates because they know they’re talented, prepared, and ready to contribute.
Winston-Salem: A Focus on the Arts

Known as the City of Arts and Innovation, Winston-Salem is a flourishing arts community—and the ideal conservatory location. Free from the high cost of living and stresses of a large metropolitan center, our artists are able to focus and immerse in their art. In a city like New York, you may see a lot of work. At UNCSA, we’re creating it.

Affordable Quality

UNCSA offers a wealth of opportunities at an unmatched value. As one of the 17 campuses of the University of North Carolina, our tuition is a fraction of that of private arts schools.

Great Returns

Money Magazine reported that recent UNCSA graduates earn approximately 22 percent more than their counterparts at other schools with a similar focus on the arts.

Visit UNCSA

To appreciate the UNCSA conservatory experience and our unique artist community, you need to see them firsthand. Get started by visiting our website: uncsa.edu. Then schedule your visit to campus.

Apply & Interview

There are numerous areas of concentrations within the School of Design & Production. In addition to your online application, you will need to interview with the Design & Production faculty in your area of interest. Interviews are held on-campus in Winston-Salem as well as several cities throughout the U.S.

About UNCSA

Students
263 High school
907 Undergraduate
133 Graduate

Faculty
141 Full-time
76 Visiting/adjunct
+ Numerous guest artists

Ratio
9 to 1 Student to faculty

Facilities
11 Performance and screening venues

Performances
300+ Public performances and screenings annually

Learn more about interview schedules and the application process at uncsa.edu/apply or call (336) 770-3290.