

**The University of Cincinnati
CCM Preparatory Department
HIGH SCHOOL ACTING CERTIFICATE PROGRAM
INFORMATION HANDBOOK
2008-2009**

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Overview of The Acting Certificate Program

The Acting Certificate Drama Program was instituted as a result of the excellent program offered to younger students. As the program developed and student abilities and ages increased, there was a demand for serious instruction for high school students preparing to pursue a professional theater career.

The High School Acting Certificate Program began in 2000; created by Robert Allen and Benjamin Mosse. To fulfill the program requirements, the program requires a serious commitment from the student. A solid framework of essential skills and techniques are covered within the program's two-year timeframe.

The CCM Preparatory Department believes that the community is integral to a students' growth and learning. This will be accomplished in various ways. Students will be attending performances at CCM and in the community, attending masterclasses given by area professionals and national artists, and performing in the community.

IMPORTANT – PLEASE NOTE:

Participation in this program does not guarantee that the student will be accepted into CCM or any other collegiate drama or musical theatre program. The CCM collegiate program is one of the finest in the country and accepts just a few students each year. The Certificate Program will, however, do everything possible to ensure that the student is well prepared for college auditions at any college in this country.

HIGH SCHOOL ACTING CERTIFICATE PROGRAM

Description

Available by audition, the program is designed for high school students with a committed interest in acting. This two-year pre-collegiate certificate program offers a four and one-half hour core curriculum (on Saturday afternoons) designed to hone the actor's craft. Students will gain confidence and experience, as well as receiving a practical foundation for future work and studies. The curriculum will include the development of skills and processes that are essential for work on the stage, as well as a variety of courses such as:

- Acting and Movement for Shakespeare;
- Characterization and Viewpoints;
- Applied Methods;
- Laban Movement;
- Meisner Acting Technique;
- Applied Improvisation Technique;
- Scene Study Work;
- Performance Philosophy and
- Collegiate and Professional Audition Technique.

If a student is not accepted into the program, a modified course of study will be suggested (i.e., private acting or voice lessons, scene study, group acting classes, dance classes or a combination of classes) in order to prepare the student for future acceptance into the program. Students must contact Dee Anne Bryll, chairperson, to work out the schedule.

This program is intended for students to take a major share of responsibility for their learning. At various times throughout the course of study, students are required to do written assignments, work outside of the classroom (as required by instructor), attend performances as a group or individual, and to attend seminars and master classes. In addition, students are expected to maintain high academic levels at their respective high schools. To maintain a place in the Certificate Program, students are required to participate in mandatory Performance Boards conducted at mid-term and at the end of each semester. At the conclusion of the two-year program, students will participate in a final performance, designed to test all aspects of the Certificate training.

Audition Process

The Certificate Program is open by audition only. Auditions are held on Saturday, September 6, 2008, before the start of the Fall Semester. The student will be given the day, place, time and requirements of the audition. The auditions are scheduled in ten-minute blocks of time, immediately following the thirty-minute mandatory parent/student meeting. *To schedule an audition please call: (513) 556-2595.*

Audition Requirements

- Prepare two contrasting monologues (classical/contemporary; comedy/drama) from a play (two minutes in length). No poems; no literary adaptations; no movies.
- Bring a recent picture and a resume.
- Expect a brief interview.
- Please be prepared to attend a mandatory parent/student meeting prior to the start of auditions.

Cost:

The cost for First Year Acting Certificate Students is \$675 a semester. Second Year Certificate Students pay \$750 a semester.

Students in the Certificate Drama Program are permitted to take the following classes at no additional charge (schedule permitting)

- Tap Dance
- Musical Theater Dance
- Musical Theater Voice
- Stage Combat
- Scene Study

CERTIFICATE PROGRAM POLICIES

- Students are expected to attend ALL classes and required extracurricular events. If students arrive more than five minutes late, three or more times per semester, it is considered an unexcused absence.
- Two excused absences are permitted each semester. All instructors must be notified by the student prior to the absence for it to be considered excused. Certain necessary absences are recognized (such as SAT testing or college auditions), but the student must request to be excused in advance.
- If there is a problem with a student not behaving like a "good colleague" or a professional, the student will receive a behavior form from the instructor. If a student receives two forms, parents will be asked to come for a parent/faculty conference.
- Student will be asked to do work and assignments, as required by each instructor. Each student will be expected to come to class prepared. If a student arrives to class unprepared, a behavior form will be issued. If a student receives two of these forms, probation will result.
- Student is asked to dress appropriately for dance, movement and combat classes – and for Board appearances. The dance instructor (if applicable) will be very specific about what items are proper for attendance in class.
- Performances will take place at the end of the school year and participation is MANDATORY. First year Certificate students (C1's) are required to be tech/support staff for the Second year (C2) student's final performance. Second year students are required to participate in their class showcase in order to receive the Certificate. Exact date and times will be given at the beginning of second semester.
- Students are required to provide to the program Chairperson a copy of their school grades at each grading period. This is not optional. CCM-Prep is concerned with academic, as well as artistic growth.
- Student who wish to participate in school and community productions must arrange their schedules so they can attend all required Certificate classes/events. Failure to do so can result in probation or dismissal.
- Performance Boards are held at mid-semester and semester end. Boards are mandatory. The student's progress is evaluated by a panel of instructors.
- A student will be placed on probation for: falling below an acceptable academic GPA; not completing assigned work; being unprepared in class; behaving in an unprofessional manner, or failing to achieve satisfactory levels at Boards.
- Two consecutive probationary periods without significant improvement or failure of Boards will result in dismissal from the program.

In addition, *Students in the advanced high school classes and programs are expected to adhere to the following policies:*

- Due to the high level of training, a student "leave of absence" form must be completed and approved by the instructor prior to a student's absence. College testing and visits are approved absences if notified in advance. Approval for additional absences including vacations, performances, and other activities, are at the discretion of the instructor. **ALL ABSENCES MUST BE APPROVED AT LEAST A WEEK IN ADVANCE.** Forms are available in the office.
- Students must refrain from using offensive language and gestures in class. It is disrespectful to the instructor and the rest of the class. Consequences for use of unacceptable language can be dismissal from the program.
- High school students are expected to be role models for the younger students in the program.
- Students who take classes at the Tangeman University Center must not bring any food or drink into the class. This is the same policy as for classes at CCM.

- No chairs may be used as props. All trash must be picked up and the room returned to order after classes.
- A student's high school requirements and activities are a priority. Conflicts with important school activities and Prep activities should be discussed as early as possible with the instructor and Drama Chairperson, so that any problems can be resolved as early as possible.
- High School students who are on a work-study program are expected to fulfill both their work requirements and class expectations. A problem within either area may result in dismissal from the program.

PROBATION AND DISMISSAL

Probation is an opportunity for a student whose work does not meet the program standards to improve to an acceptable performance level.

Dismissal occurs when a student is unable to perform at the rigorous professional level required by the program.

Conditions that can cause probation:

- Failure to maintain an appropriate GPA in academics
- Failure to perform in class due to lack of preparation, absences, inattention or lack of participation
- More than two excused absences in a given semester
- Student behavioral issues
- Failure to attend scheduled rehearsals or events
- Unsatisfactory Performance Board from two of three instructors.

Conditions that can cause dismissal:

- Chronic behavioral problems
- Failure to raise an unsatisfactory academic GPA
- Unsatisfactory Performance Board ratings from all three instructors
- Failure to attend a Performance Board (could result in immediate dismissal – as Board's are mandatory and scheduled in advance).

How probation works:

If, at the end of an evaluation period (there are two in each semester), a student has failed to perform satisfactorily in class or at Boards, the student will be placed on probation for the next evaluation period. This gives the student the opportunity to raise his/her work performance level. If at the end of a probationary period the student has improved his/her performance level to an acceptable standard, the probation will be lifted. However, if the student has not shown significant improvement, all three instructors will meet and will determine the student's continued status. At this time the possible outcomes are ***dismissal*** or ***continued probation with reservation***. If the student receives a second probationary period (under reservation) and still fails to achieve an acceptable level of performance, dismissal will be automatic.

Exit Interviews:

Any student leaving the Certificate program for any reason must complete an **exit interview** with Dee Anne Bryll. Failure to do this could result in forfeiture of fees.

A MESSAGE TO THE FAMILY

- This Program is a serious commitment not only for your child but also for your family, especially if your child does not drive.
- If you are the reason your child cannot arrive on time, you may cause your child to be put on probation – as the tardiness will be counted as unexcused.
- If your child has been asked to research a piece at the library or to see a particular show and you do not take them or make arrangements for them, they will be considered unprepared when coming to class, which will be counted against them.
- Please be aware that your payment is due at the BEGINNING of each semester. The payments can be divided in two (one due at week 1, the other due at week 8 (with an additional \$10.00 fee).
- There will be other expenses involved with the program such as dance apparel, music or monologue books, play scripts and show tickets.
- Please remember that the performing arts business is one of the most difficult to get into, and the student needs extensive preparation and support.

SUMMER AND ADDITIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

Information on summer opportunities is available in February.

CALENDAR

Auditions and parent meeting: September 6

Classes begin: September 13

College Performing Arts Fair: October 20, 7-9pm, TUC

Last class of Fall Semester: January 17

Spring Semester begins: January 24

Scenes Performance: April 25

Last class of Spring Semester: May 16

Boards: TBA

End of Year Performance: May 16

NO CLASSES:

10/11, 11/27, 12/20, 12/27, 12/29, 2/21, 4/11

Saturday Class Schedule

Certificate Acting –level I (C-I's)

11:00 - 12:30 Applied Acting with Chris Guthrie/Elizabeth Harris

12:30 - 2:00 Meisner Acting Technique with Bob Allen

2:00 - 3:30 Movement with Jonn Baca

Certificate Acting – level II (C-II's)

12:30 - 2:00 Applied Acting with Chris Guthrie/Elizabeth Harris

2:00 - 3:30 Meisner Acting Technique with Bob Allen

3:30 - 5:00 Movement with Jonn Baca