

College of *Fine Arts and Production*



FIND YOUR PURPOSE

GRAND CANYON
UNIVERSITY®

PRIVATE. CHRISTIAN. AFFORDABLE.

BRING LOPES to Life

Download the GCU Virtual Tour application on your smartphone by either searching your phone's app store or scanning the QR code below:



While the application is running, point your phone at designated GCU virtual triggers.



Try it out!

Scan the trigger icon below and throughout the brochure to watch Lopes leap off the page!



▶▶▶ AUGMENTED REALITY

This brochure contains augmented reality, an interactive experience in which real-world objects are enhanced by technology. Look for the trigger symbol on the images, as this symbol identifies where augmented reality is used. Follow the instructions and prepare to be amazed as these sections come to life on your phone!

About GRAND CANYON UNIVERSITY

Grand Canyon University is Arizona's premier, private Christian university. We help students find their purpose by offering next-generation education that includes over 225 academic programs, and 175 online programs, across nine distinct colleges. Approximately 20,500* ground students learn on our vibrant campus in the heart of Phoenix and over 81,000** online students join our innovative and collaborative virtual learning community.

Spanning 250+ acres, GCU's campus continues to grow with new residence halls, academic buildings, popular eateries, student support resources and amenities, as well as state-of-the-art athletic facilities like the GCU Stadium, the Canyon Activity Complex and more. GCU offers generous scholarship opportunities to make a private education affordable and invests in revitalizing the community with a commitment to making a difference.

#6 Best College Dorms in America
2020 Best Colleges by Niche.com

#19 Best College Campus in America
2020 Best Colleges by Niche.com

*Fall 2019
**2019

CHRISTIAN WORLDVIEW

Built upon a biblically rooted mission, GCU believes quality education and faith can coexist in the 21st century. We integrate faith and aspects of our distinctive Christian worldview into everything we do, and we incorporate Christian principles in the classroom to encourage students to shape their own perspectives. A values-based curriculum further helps students cultivate morality, ethics and compassion for their careers and lives.

One Foundation upholds our mission and serves as the bedrock of our community built on our Christian convictions, Christ-focused curriculum and service for the greater good. One Foundation guides the integration of faith, learning and work throughout the university. It unites us in faithfulness, excellence and service to God and our neighbors.

GCU students are not required to be Christians. Our approach is missional in nature, characterized by a welcoming spirit and loving service to all from different walks of life.

Our students experience the Christian faith, the mission of God and the idea of living for the good of others in a safe and supportive space. We encourage all students to grow spiritually, live with intention and respond to their call to purpose.

GCU'S COMMITMENTS

for REWARDING EXPERIENCES



1 START STRONG, FINISH STRONG: GCU begins preparing students for their careers and futures right at the beginning of their first year. Students have access to opportunities and complimentary resources that support their college experience, academics, real-world learning, wellness and personal growth all the way through graduation and beyond.

2 LOW STUDENT DEBT: GCU helps make a private college education affordable and accessible by offering generous scholarships. After GCU-funded scholarships, students pay an average of only \$8,600* for the academic year, which reduces tuition by about half.

3 HOME AWAY FROM HOME: Students become a part of a supportive, diverse and safe community. Opportunities to get involved in campus life, Academic and Career Excellence (ACE) Centers, Chapel and Life Groups, Public Safety and many other services help turn campus into a second home for Lopes.

4 REAL-WORLD EXPERIENCE: Students have unique opportunities to get involved in GCU enterprises, which provide students with hands-on learning environments where they can gain real workplace experiences and skills. Students also become a part of the transformative impact that these businesses have on the local community.

5 ONE APPLICATION: Many colleges and universities have implemented additional measures of evaluation before permitting upperclassmen to complete their major course of study. Secondary acceptance requires an additional application, a second review of previously submitted materials and/or a minimum GPA requirement. These secondary measures can potentially delay graduation and incur greater expense. At GCU, most incoming students are accepted into their program of study without a secondary review, with the exception of our nursing and athletic training programs, which require secondary acceptance due to clinical restrictions.

TEN GCU ENTERPRISES: The GCU Golf Course, Lope House Restaurant and Pro Shop, GCU Hotel, Canyon 49 Grill, Grand Canyon Beverage Co. (GCBC), GCU Ad Agency, Canyon Promotions, Lope Shops and Canyon Pizza Co.

*Average tuition after scholarships is approximately \$8,600. Scholarships may be awarded based on 6th semester transcripts. At the time in which final, official transcripts are received, GCU reserves the right to rescind or modify the scholarship if it is determined that eligibility was not achieved. GCU reserves the right to decline scholarship awards for any reason. If a student does not meet the minimum renewal criteria, their scholarship will be forfeited. GCU reserves the right to change scholarship awards at any time without notice. If a student does not meet the minimum renewal criteria, their scholarship will be forfeited. Prices based on 2019-20 rate and are subject to change.

MESSAGE FROM THE DEAN

The College of Fine Arts and Production exemplifies GCU's commitment to bringing the very best in education to the arts. We pride ourselves in providing our students with the most complete and current programs as possible. Many of our programs allow students to integrate multiple disciplines which creates a well-rounded educational experience. We boast a rich history in fine arts and have helped prepare many graduates for productive and rewarding careers in the discipline of their choice. Whether you desire to perform, research, teach, create or expand your horizons as an emerging artist, the College of Fine Arts and Production is a safe, nurturing place where you reach your goal of discovering your potential. We cannot wait to meet you and help you get started.

DEAN CLAUDE N. PENSIS, College of Fine Arts and Production

COLLEGE OF FINE ARTS AND PRODUCTION

The College of Fine Arts and Production (COFAP) offers programs in dance, digital design, advertising design, digital film, music, theatre and secondary arts and music education designed to help students master the arts and nurture their creative and technical abilities. Our collaborative, cross-disciplinary approach, small class sizes and highly experienced faculty create a vibrant learning environment for students to learn, rehearse, perform and reach their highest potential. Building on a long history of quality education and production, the college ensures students receive an array of opportunities for artistic exploration as they discover, express and refine their unique skills.

Learn more at gcu.edu/COFAP

ETHINGTON THEATRE

For more than 50 years, Ethington Theatre has hosted theatrical productions, dance performances, music concerts, opera and digital film screenings created by exceptional student performers, artists and technicians within the college. The theatre provides the opportunity for students and community members to experience cultural appreciation and the thrill of the stage in the heart of Phoenix. Plays, dance concerts, musicals and various productions performed at this intimate theatre have been recognized for outstanding excellence throughout the Arizona arts community. The intimate 311-seat theatre connects audiences with the performers, creating an exciting experience for all. As an integral part of the undergraduate theatre experience at GCU, Ethington Theatre's highly acclaimed productions enhance theatrical knowledge and help prepare students with professional training for the world of performance arts.

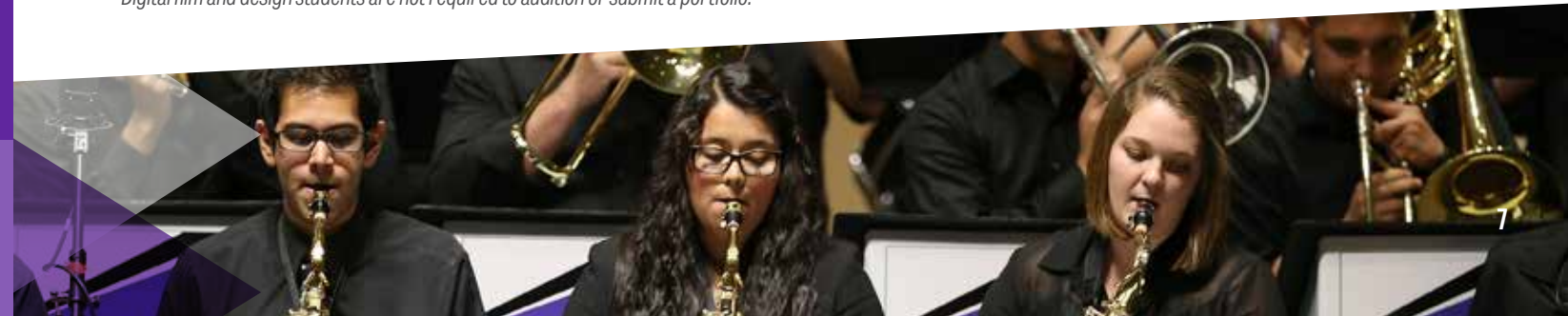
Learn more at gcu.edu/ethington

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

To be accepted into the Bachelor of Arts programs within the College of Fine Arts and Production, incoming students majoring in music, music education, dance, dance education, theatre education and theatre and drama are required to audition. Minorng in dance, theatre or music does not require an audition. Students must apply to GCU and declare a major in the College of Fine Arts and Production in order to register for auditions. In addition to accepting students into programs, these auditions also serve as a basis for awarding scholarships. Auditions are also required for the Thundering Herd Pep Band; however, potential pep band members are not required to major or minor in music or music education.

For details on the auditions process, visit gcu.edu/auditions

Digital film and design students are not required to audition or submit a portfolio.



STUDENT OPPORTUNITIES

Keep performing throughout college!

GCU proudly presents the following opportunities to perform and participate in productions throughout the year, many of which are available to non-fine arts minors:

- 48 Hour Film Challenge
- American College Dance Association Western Region, Design Student Showcase
- Band concerts
- Choir concerts
- Elementary Dance Tour
- GCU Film Festival
- Pitchfest for film and television
- Student music recitals
- Voice and instrumental ensembles
- A variety of other performances and productions

GCU offers a huge number of opportunities for students to get involved in creative and performance endeavors. There are opportunities for students who were involved in fine arts in high school and even for students looking to explore new forms of creativity.

STUDENTS CAN ALSO ENHANCE THEIR ACADEMICS WITH THE FOLLOWING EXPERIENCES:

ETHINGTON THEATRE SERIES serves as the foundation for the artistic life of our theatre majors.

The series consists of five main stage productions, including a wide range of plays, musicals and operas that complement the classical training received in class. Every student, including those not majoring in fine arts, are eligible to participate in theatre productions!

THE DIRECTOR'S LAB is open for students who wish to direct shorter works. These productions occur in the fall and spring and are selected through an application and interview process.

FILM PRODUCTION students participate in multiple public screenings throughout the year that provide the opportunity to interact with audiences of all demographics. These screenings challenge students to think beyond the classroom and view film as a sacred vocation rather than just an entertainment industry.

THE ETHINGTON DANCE ENSEMBLE is comprised of talented dance majors and minors who participate in our Ethington Theatre season and Elementary Dance Tour. Students are also invited to highlight their choreography in the Student Spotlight Dance Concert that is produced twice a year.

For information about upcoming performances, visit gcu.edu/events

"Being a theatre student at GCU means that I have a home away from home. We have such a foundation of support for everyone involved with our program, even the non-theatre majors who participate in shows. I'm not only doing what I love here at GCU, but I'm also building memories in Ethington's scene shop and on its stage with people I've come to love. I have never been more excited to learn than I am right now."

BECCA MAE OWEN

BA in Theatre and Drama Alumna



ARTS ACCOLADES

The College of Fine Arts and Production is proud to continue its rich tradition in education and the arts. Alongside an accomplished faculty, our most talented students and graduates have been recognized for their achievements in theatre, production, musical theatre, dance, digital design, film production, screenwriting, musical performance and so much more.

Our acclaimed students have had opportunities to:*

**Self-reported information*

- Join Sony at the National Association of Broadcasters (NAB) Conference
- Take classes at the theatre company The Second City in Chicago
- Intern for NBC News in New York and publish an article on NBC's Latino news site
- Work with Channel 5 to produce and share a featured story
- Be elected president of the GCU student body organization, ASGCU
- Hear Hollywood producer Kenneth Kokin, known for Academy Award-winning film The Usual Suspects, speak on campus
- Participate in workshops held by film industry professionals including Matthew Earl Jones, Kenneth Kokin, Chris Tinard, Thomas Brodek and Emily Best
- Hear behind-the-scenes stories from Disney and Pixar artists, directors and producers
- Choreography selected for the closing gala of the American College Dance Association's West
- Region conference for six years running
- Work for NBC Sports during Superbowl XLIX
- Perform lead roles at the Metropolitan Opera in New York City

- Perform at the Concertgebouw in Amsterdam
- Perform with Seattle Repertory Theatre
- Perform Off-Broadway
- Perform at the Old Globe in San Diego
- Perform on Broadway in Les Misérables
- Perform at the Lyric Opera of Chicago
- Perform at Opera Australia
- Perform with the Bayerische Staatsoper
- Perform with Milwaukee Symphony
- Win awards in local and international film festivals including the IMDb Independent Short
- Awards International Film Festival, FilmQuest and the Jerome Indie Film & Music Festival
- Receive the Golden Buzzer in America's Got Talent

Past productions include stunning dance concerts and plays such as *Oklahoma!* and *Sherlock Holmes: The Final Adventure*, which received high praise from Gil Benbrook of TalkinBroadway.com

Our alumni are additionally highly accomplished. Accolades include:*

- 2019 Phoenix Addy Awards
- 2019 Indigo Design Awards
- 2019 Phoenix Design Week, Best of 2019
- Student photographer and videographer traveling with The Vortex Swim
- Student work published in Landscape Photography Magazine

**Self-reported information*

Hannah Croft, graduate from GCU's dance program, now performs with the Messengers Dance Company, a Colorado-based ministry program. Their mission comes from Isaiah 6:8, to be messengers that spread the good news of the Gospel through dance.



Oklahoma!



Sherlock Holmes

DANCE



GCU Dance students explore classical contemporary and vernacular dance forms, developing their artistry through rigorous daily practice. Working with faculty and guest artists assure they receive top-notch training and exposure to new approaches.

Prepared for careers on stage and off, our graduates become teachers and artists who reach for the stars and give back to their communities. Our 21st century graduates possess the readiness to make their own mark in our ever-shifting cultural arts landscape.

DANCE

The BA in Dance degree program combines choreography and performance opportunities with coursework in dance kinesiology, somatic practices, pedagogy, creative practices and upperlevel courses in dance technique. Curriculum covers history, technology and dance in sacred contexts. Students will have five levels of technique in ballet, modern and jazz, as well as two levels of hip-hop and tap dance.

DANCE FOR SECONDARY EDUCATION

The BA in Dance Education degree program leads to secondary licensure and includes 100 hours of observational and practice-based experiences in local schools, as well as a student teaching component. Coursework includes a strong focus in pedagogy as well as dance technique. Opportunities to perform and choreograph enhance the learning experiences of our students.

DANCE MINOR

The dance minor develops physical and cognitive skills and knowledge in the art of dance. This minor may pair well with a major in athletic training, health sciences, business or another artistic discipline.
(No audition required; scholarships not available)



“Thank you for believing in me and pushing me to be the best version of myself. The support and love this program possesses is unparalleled.”

— Isiah Johnson, BA Dance Alumnus

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

May I visit with my high school dance program or dance studio?

Yes. GCU Dance Invitionals are held throughout the year. During your visit, students will have the opportunity to take classes with GCU dance faculty, meet current dance majors and take a campus tour. Students can also take advantage of auditioning for program acceptance and scholarship consideration. Teachers and directors can register here: gcu.edu/DanceInvitionals

What types of dance will I study?

Modern, ballet and jazz dance techniques are required for three semesters for both dance and dance education majors. Introductory coursework in each dance form will focus on alignment, memorization and vocabulary building with exposure to foundational principles and a survey of styles within the form. Upper levels of ballet technique courses may include pointe, variations and partnering.

What is the Dance Ensemble? Do I need to register each semester? What if I am not cast in the Ethington Dance Ensemble?

The Ethington Dance Ensemble is a faculty-led organization that functions as a professional dance company within the dance department. It is a graduation requirement to register for Dance Ensemble each semester. All dance minors and majors are eligible to audition for parts. Those who are not cast should stay enrolled in their sections, because they will have other options to fulfill their course credit, such as stage management or production roles.

What other opportunities will I have to perform as a dance student?

There are many informal opportunities to choreograph and perform offered through the dance department and our club learning community, Student Dance Education Organization (SDEO). The SDEO provides opportunities to choreograph and perform dances for majors in both degree programs.

What differentiates GCU's dance degree programs?

There are several aspects that make our dance degree programs unique.

- Our dance community is welcoming and inclusive. Visitors frequently comment on the familial atmosphere within our classrooms.
- Our program curriculum offers a variety of dance forms, which includes jazz and vernacular dance. Many collegiate dance programs emphasize modern and postmodern contemporary dance to the exclusion of other dance forms.
- Students also have the opportunity to network and intern with professionals across the Phoenix arts community.
- Our dance for secondary education degree program allows students to complete their degree within four years, while leading to initial teacher licensure in the state of Arizona. Students pursue coursework with faculty within the dance department as well as the College of Education, offering them content expertise in both dance and the larger field of education.

Is the GCU Dance Team affiliated with the dance department?

There is no affiliation. The dance education and dance are undergraduate degree programs housed in the College of Fine Arts and Production while the GCU Dance Team is part of our athletics program. Auditions occur separately.

For information about the team, contact:
Coach Jacque Genung-Koch
GCU DanceTeam@gcu.edu

DIGITAL & GRAPHIC DESIGN

GCU's digital design degree programs teach students to be visual designers who use their skills to enrich, engage and communicate through various mediums in our information society. Early on, students learn how to work with creative briefs and basic production, printing vendors and the principles of design and typography. Students gain a comprehensive view of design as their classes grow progressively more complex and challenging throughout their program. Students are required to participate in the local design community through attendance and volunteering at events and studio tours as well as meeting guest speakers. The Design United group, which is part of the overall Design Student's Club, functions as a student-run creative group, providing design services to other on-campus groups as well as community nonprofit organizations. Design United participants are leaders in our student body and gain professional-level experience while a part of this club.

ADVERTISING AND GRAPHIC DESIGN

The BA in Advertising and Graphic Design develops students into creators of effective advertising solutions by applying integrated media strategies. Students work on active client projects with their peers to create portfolios containing a broad variety of projects. Students learn the practices of design thinking, advertising creative and art direction, graphic design, social media content creation, digital photography, production methods, advertising copywriting, illustration and image creation and web design.

DIGITAL DESIGN WITH AN EMPHASIS IN ANIMATION

The BA in Digital Design with an Emphasis in Animation explores the various roles animation has in the world and the enormous number of graphics that move on screen. It teaches students to balance an aptitude for technology with a passion for the creative arts and to understand the fundamentals of moving objects.

Coursework prepares students to be digital designers during their foundational classes. This allows them to gain employment at a variety of companies including advertising agencies, marketing departments, social media agencies and corporate organizations. A focus on animation builds on that base, so students develop additional skills in drawing, perspective imagery, 3D modeling, 2D and 3D animation and motion graphics. In capstone courses, students build animations for advertising commercials, infographics and narrative storytelling.

DIGITAL DESIGN WITH AN EMPHASIS IN WEB DESIGN

The BA in Digital Design with an Emphasis in Web Design prepares students as designers with a deep understanding of how to design and create content for delivery through screens of all types. Students learn to be digital designers during their foundational classes, and then engage in a significant amount of web and screen-based design on top of that. Students acquire design skills that include page layout, organization, typography, illustration and image creation, digital photography and concept development. Learning the basics of HTML and CSS, our students are front-end designers, not primary back-end coders. With focused teaching on UX/UI (User Experience/User Interaction), students employ these principles and processes to design for websites, tablet devices, kiosks and interactive displays, watches, glasses and other interactive applications. Capstone classes allow students to study emerging technologies and design practical and beautiful solutions across all sectors of the economy.

SOCIAL MEDIA

The BA in Social Media is designed for individuals who are passionate about social media and the effects social media platforms have on consumers and businesses. The program helps students equip themselves with practical skills in design and production of digital social media content to support business expectations of an employer. The program prepares students to design, write and produce content for social media campaigns, blogs, websites, email marketing and other digital media activities.

GCU STUDENT AD AGENCY

Working at the GCU Ad Agency prepares students for careers in advertising and marketing by offering them hands-on experience in a world-class agency setting. Students have the opportunity to work with real clients on projects in every marketing discipline including social media, photography, videography, graphic design, copywriting, event planning and more. Students receive mentorship, collaborate with teammates and industry professionals, build their portfolios and develop essential workplace skills. The GCU Ad Agency works to carry forward a Christ-centered approach that resonates with our clients.



Genesis 1 says, “In the beginning, God created...” That is what we do. Create.

Many jobs are structured to sit in a cubicle and follow a set plan of action each day. The creative industry is not like that. GCU believes your unique desire to create is a way to be salt and light in our world. Integrating your faith with work is easy and natural. Our students have interned and worked for churches and non-profit organizations. Our students use their creativity to help take photos and videos on mission trips, design logos and t-shirts for fundraising and support the local arts community by volunteering at youth-focused events.

“I love being a digital design student at Grand Canyon University. I have been blessed with so many opportunities through the amazing instructors and this program. I'd encourage any potential student to be a part of the community at GCU because I genuinely feel like my fellow classmates are family and lifelong friends.”

BRETT PARKER

BA in Design with an Emphasis in Web Design, Alumnus

BENEFITS

- Graduates from the digital design and advertising degree programs have pursued careers in advertising agencies, marketing agencies, social media companies, corporate offices, startups, software services companies, churches, nonprofit groups and others.*

*Self-reported information

- Depending on the emphasis, job titles may include copywriter, project manager, animator, photographer, UI/UX designer, content creator or web, graphic or general designer.

STUDENTS HAVE WORKED FOR COMPANIES AND ADVERTISING AGENCIES SUCH AS:*

*Self-reported information

Allbound	KitchenSinkStudios	Phoenix Suns
AuDSEO	Kiterocket	Riester
Big Rhino Agency	Lane Terralever	Small Giants
DBSI	Off Madison Ave	Social Ally
GCE Marketing	OH Partners	U-Haul

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What type of skills should I have before starting a design program?

GCU does not require a portfolio for entrance into our design programs, but basic skills are helpful. Animation and design students should have a daily drawing practice. Keep a sketchbook of your ideas in word and image. The ability to convey your ideas on paper is central to design skills.

What types of jobs can a design student apply to?

Every business uses the skills that our students are equipped with. Design employment opportunities are wide and varied. Students find positions in advertising agencies, corporate headquarters, social media agencies, design organizations, software companies, non-profit organizations, schools, media organizations and many other organizations.

DIGITAL FILM



Turn your love for film and television into a career. Does creating stories for films, movies or TV sound like a dream job? GCU's digital film programs help aspiring filmmakers and screenwriters pursue a thrilling career in the creative arts and entertainment industry. Pursuing a future in the business can lead to a wide range of career directions, which makes a path in digital film production and screenwriting an exciting journey for those who desire to create behind the camera or screen. GCU students also get to take their work out of the classroom by featuring their projects at public screenings.

DIGITAL FILM WITH AN EMPHASIS IN PRODUCTION

The BA in Digital Film Production degree program provides enthusiastic storytellers with the training to advance their technical skill set and pursue a career in narrative storytelling. This program prepares students to lead from behind the camera and explore the business side of cinema, from development to film set management to exhibition and distribution. Students learn the skills and techniques to produce small-scale projects, major motion pictures, music videos, documentaries and films in multiple genres by understanding new media, technical film production and narrative story development.

BENEFITS:

- Coursework prepares students for careers as directors, producers, production managers, cinematographers, sound recordists, production designers, editors, and several others
- Students study under experienced faculty members who are experts in their field and serve as mentors
- An emphasis on collaboration with other students teaches teamwork and supports a cohesive thriving arts and entertainment community
- Variety of courses ensure students have a solid understanding of both technical and business practices
- Degree culminates in the Digital Production Practicum- a large scale film production where all class members must collaborate to produce a professional-level short film



DIGITAL FILM WITH AN EMPHASIS IN SCREENWRITING

The BA in Digital Film Screenwriting degree program provides a pathway toward a career in film pre-production for those passionate about storytelling and writing. Students will explore strategies for story development, writing dialogue and shaping characters with whom audiences can connect deeply. The program's robust curriculum addresses genre-specific screenwriting techniques, the adaptation process for transferring a story to digital film, business aspects of film creation and stage production that includes acting and directing.

BENEFITS

- Coursework prepares students for potential career opportunities such as screenwriter for film and television, studio script reader or reviewer, corporate video writer, gaming script writer or story editor
- By the end of their program, students will have developed multiple screenplays for various outlets to include in their portfolio and enhance their professional qualifications
- Students learn the business of screenwriting, including pitching, working with agents and managers, and negotiating contracts
- Students learn about working in various settings such as corporate film production companies, freelancing, advertising agencies, television studios and gaming companies



THEATRE

GCU's theatre and drama degree programs feature small class sizes, emphasizing one-on-one artistic training. Students have the perfect environment to hone their skills and talents while growing in spirit. Our programs emphasize hands-on experience to ensure our students are ready to enter the entertainment industry in a wide variety of positions. Areas of study include theatre history, dramatic literature, set, lighting, costume design and technology and stagecraft.

"As a theatre student, you learn so much more than your classes can teach you; you learn beyond the curriculum. That's what makes this program special."

Karson Cook, BA in Theatre Education student

As outlined in our own Professor Kary's book "Acting in Faith: A Christian's Guide to the Acting World," theatre is the art of observing, dissecting and commenting on the human condition. To do this at the highest level, it takes empathy and perspective. GCU's theatre department is designed to grow more than just successful theatre professionals. The courses, productions and community coalesce to create theatre artists with a Christ-like servant's heart, to minister to a hurting world.

THEATRE AND DRAMA

The BA in Theatre and Drama program prepares students to pursue careers in acting, design/technology, stage management, directing (both in the theatre and the entertainment industry) or graduate study. They will be steeped in the knowledge of theatre history and dramatic literature, in addition to rich practical experience in production and performance.

THEATRE FOR SECONDARY EDUCATION

The BA in Theatre Education degree is designed for students who want to teach theatre. Students train as a theatre educator and practitioner by blending the theory and practice of theatre, performance and its related fields. In addition to regular classroom studies, students grow and learn by taking part in the university's Ethington Theatre Series in various capacities, including on-stage and off-stage disciplines. Students are prepared to pass a teacher's licensing or certification exam, required for employment, which varies by state.



Tempest



A Year with Frog and Toad

BENEFITS

- Many graduates from the theater programs are teaching locally, performing professionally at regional theatres and/or performing with theatre companies in the Valley, on tour and traveling the world on cruise ships.
- Graduates have gone on to work with companies such as Arizona Broadway, Phoenix Theatre, Arizona Opera, Theatre Works, The Old Globe Theater, Shakespeare Theatre of New Jersey, ChildsPlay Inc., Broadway and Off-Broadway companies, Peoria Fine Arts Center, TheaterWorks!, Shakespeare Sedona, AD Players of Houston, Lambs Players in San Diego, Second City of Chicago, Broadway Rose, Carnival Cruises, Mesa Arts Center, The Arizona Cardinals and more.*

*Data includes only known outcomes and some self-reported student information. For information on how to audition, visit gcu.edu/auditions

Students from the theatre, theatre education and worship arts programs are prepared to work in live worship event production for anywhere from small houses of worship to churches that seat thousands. These students have the technical and creative skills to create events that express their solid foundation in faith and share that passion with the world.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Do I have to audition if I want to study technical theatre?

Students who wish to study technical theatre must sign up for an audition date and time. The audition is generally the same for technical students; however, instead of a performance, the student will share his or her portfolio (documentation of their design/directing/stage management experience) in an interview setting.

Are freshmen or non-department majors allowed to audition for main stage theatre productions?

Students of all levels are encouraged to audition for all productions. Unlike most university productions, freshmen have frequently been cast and often in leading roles.

"The theatre education program is filled with the most passionate, loving, and dedicated faculty members. The theatre department is also filled with very talented students, who not only support their peers, but they challenge each other towards success. Without their guidance, I wouldn't be where I am today, a recent graduate with a full-time theatre teaching job!"

Brenda Batres

BA in Theatre Education alumnus

"In this program you have the opportunity, and are encouraged, to learn every aspect of what makes a theatre production work as well as how to use your experience to teach your students. I would not feel this prepared and exited to teach after graduation if it weren't for the program and the other theatre education and performance majors."

Madelyn Mertes

BA in Theatre Education alumnus



One Man, Two Guvnors

MUSIC



GCU's Music Department celebrates music and inspires artistic exploration by offering degree programs in music education and performance in various specialties. Students have opportunities to perform in the annual Ethington Music Concert Series, recitals, concerts and other productions to express their passions outside of the classroom and demonstrate their talents toward a rewarding career in music.

MUSIC EDUCATION-CHORAL: PIANO OR VOICE

These two degree programs, offered in conjunction with the College of Education, help students pursue their passion for music through a career in teaching music or choir in elementary and secondary schools, while studying piano or voice as their primary performance area. Based on a liberal arts foundation, students learn concepts in music performance, theory and teaching strategies, as well as advanced vocal, choral and instrumental techniques.

MUSIC EDUCATION-INSTRUMENTAL: BRASS, WOODWIND, PERCUSSION OR STRINGS—OR PIANO

These two degree programs, offered in conjunction with the College of Education, lead music-inspired students toward a career in teaching music or band at the elementary and secondary levels, while pursuing a woodwind, brass, percussion, string instrument or piano as their primary performance area. Curriculum encompasses teaching strategies and stage performance skills development with a focus on collaboration, pedagogy, band literature and conducting.

MUSIC WITH AN EMPHASIS IN INSTRUMENTAL, PIANO OR VOICE PERFORMANCE

These three degree programs help students refine musical skills in instrumental, piano or vocal performance. Students deepen their understanding of music through multiple performance opportunities, recitals, music literature survey courses, classroom group training and learning labs. Curriculum integrates theory with private, applied practice to enhance performance skills in the student's specialization. Students have opportunities to practice in a solo performance, along with small and large ensembles.

GCU PEP BAND AND ENSEMBLES

- Brass Chamber Ensemble
- Brass Wind Ensemble
- Canyon Choral Society
- Canyon Chorale
- Critical Mass
- Guitar Ensemble
- Musical Theater Workshop
- Opera Workshop
- Piano Ensemble
- String Ensemble
- Thunder Big Band
- Thundering Heard Pep Band
- Wind Ensemble
- Woodwind Chamber Ensemble
- Woodwind Ensemble



For information on how to audition, visit gcu.edu/auditions



"During my time at GCU, not only did I learn skills that helped me in my profession, but also in life! GCU paved the way for others and myself with the music program, giving us great mentors, teachers, and lifelong friends."

Anthony Julian

BA Music Education, Instrumental



WORSHIP ARTS

GCU's Bachelor of Arts in Worship Arts degree programs help students find their purpose in Christ, while preparing for careers in contemporary worship ministry and the Christian music industry. Offered in conjunction with the College of Theology, two emphases are available:

MEDIA AND PRODUCTION MINISTRY

Connect a love for Jesus Christ, professional goals in ministerial leadership and creative media talent throughout this program. Students develop comprehensive theological and biblical understandings while engaging in songwriting, performance and production skill development in lighting, media and sound. Graduates may creatively direct, coordinate and lead worship services through all aspects of production. This prepares graduates to work in digital film production in ministry, within any church size or setting, by providing access to our state-of-the-art recording studio, hands-on training and a well-rounded curriculum.

TOPICS OF EXPLORATION:

- Theological foundation
- Notation and media software training
- Lighting design, sound and lighting enhancements, stage and set design
- Technical direction, media preparation and presentation
- Coordinating instrumentalists, vocalists and audio/visual teams

WORSHIP MINISTRY

Gain a well-rounded theological education in worship leadership and ministry with a deep connection to Christian songwriting, technical direction and production. Students can pursue their passion in creating meaningful worship services through gospel-centered, artistically rich performances. This hands-on program provides opportunities to work with industry experts, worship leaders and academic scholars who may serve as mentors. It provides students with access to a professional recording studio, training with live audio and more. These valuable resources, along with our well-rounded curriculum, prepare graduates to work in any church, regardless of size.

TOPICS OF EXPLORATION:

- Theological foundation
- Musical direction for contemporary worship
- Songwriting and sound recording
- One-on-one instrumental and performance training
- 180-hour required internship for hands-on training



OPPORTUNITIES AND EXPERIENCES

- Center for Worship Arts' recording studio serves as a hands-on learning environment for musical worship training, production, original recordings and talent exploration
- Worship-related ensembles supporting leadership and media production expertise
- Connections to industry experts, local churches, worship leaders, artists and academic scholars
- Capstone internship within a local ministry setting
- Worship summits and songwriting workshops The Center for Worship Arts requires auditions in a student's primary area of study (voice or instrumental). The audition process ensures a sufficient level of musical skill and aptitude to be successful in the worship ministry emphases.

Visit [gcu.edu/auditions](https://www.gcu.edu/auditions) for details on the audition process.



FINE ARTS FACULTY

Learn from our accomplished artists and benefit from their years of experience in the industry!



Clause Pensis, dean of the fine arts college, has been a GCU faculty member since 1982. Clause is a native of Wisconsin and earned his bachelor's in communications with an emphasis in theatre from the University of Wisconsin – Oshkosh. Clause received an MFA in Stage Direction from the University of Wisconsin – Madison. While in Madison, Clause worked with eminent directors and theatre visionaries such as Richard Schechner, Ralph Bridle, Sharon Ott and Mark Stanley. It was also during this period that Clause studied stage lighting with Gilbert V. Hemsley, Jr., a distinguished Broadway light designer and professor. In addition to his academic responsibilities Clause is a professional stage light designer and director who works frequently with local companies such as Arizona Broadway Theatre, Actor's Theatre, Ensemble Theatre, Sedona Shakespeare, Southwest Shakespeare, and the ASU Lyric Opera and Theatre Department. He has also worked internationally by designing lights for "Producciones Aleph's Mephisto" directed by Oscar Giner in San Juan, Puerto Rico. Clause also designed lights for Obie award winning director, Marshall W. Mason for the world premier reading of Los Alamos by Lanford Wilson. Recently, he designed lights for an Off-Broadway production of "The Unusual Tale of Mary and Joseph's Baby" for Theatre 315. Clause has been involved in over 400 stage productions and received numerous local theatre nominations and awards. Clause is a member of the stage lighting category of the United Scenic Artists, Local 829.

DESIGN

Sheila Schumacher loves teaching and mentoring freshman students as they build their creative stamina then seeing them again as seniors developing their portfolios and launching into their careers. Sheila is active in the local design community and has split her career between publication and ad agency art direction and the classroom. Her MFA is in New Media from Donau University in Krems, Austria and her undergraduate in printing management from Arizona State University.

Alison King is a design historian and social media maven who has taught digital arts in New York City and Phoenix for over 20 years. When not cultivating the next generation of talent at GCU, she performs public education and preservation for Phoenix's design history, microblogs on her critically acclaimed Instagram @modernphoenix and hosts lettering and calligraphy workshops. Professor King recently wrote and designed the book "Making Architecture", which earned her team Addy Awards for both copywriting and book design. She's a proud member of AIGA and regularly contributes to Phoenix Design Week.

Chris Murphy has an illustration background but is up to his elbows in new web technologies. Teaching a variety of courses in graphic and web design, he is also a principle in the design firm Little Taller. Chris is committed to the process of design education and has a reputation on campus for his demanding critique sessions. His background includes teaching at Judson University, The Illinois Institute of Art and Northern Illinois University and art directing for Lighthouse Catholic Ministries, the Center at Cain in NYC and Glamour Magazine.

Patrick Gerber lives in the space between design and code, with degrees in both areas. Teaching classes in motion graphics, 2D and 3D animation, he also works with students in the areas of virtual reality and projection mapping. Before joining GCU he taught and worked as an application developer in Wisconsin.

FILM

Lisa Tervo is an award-winning filmmaker based in Phoenix. She has worked on numerous projects as a freelance director of photography and assistant camera as well as directed a few of her own shorts, including the award-winning 35mm film "A Beautifully Controlled Study of Provincial Melancholy." Currently, Lisa is the program director for GCU's digital film program. Additionally, she has volunteered as a judge for the NXNW Film Festival and contributes as a workshop presenter at the Phoenix Film Festival. Lisa also remains active as an independent producer, most recently developing a project in coordination with Netflix.

Brian Gerber teaches both in the film and digital design. Prior to GCU, Brian worked at a health TV network with an emphasis in animation and postproduction. He knows several software packages including Adobe Creative Cloud, Resolve, Maya, Nuke, Mocha, PFTrack and Lightwave. He has placed in various screenplay competitions including American Zoetrope, The Hollywood Screenplay Contest, World Series of Screenwriting and StoryPros.

THEATRE

William Symington earned a BA in Creative and Performing Arts from Grand View College in Iowa and his MFA in Theatre from Arizona State University after completing an internship at The Goodman Theatre in Chicago. His areas of concentration are technical direction and scenic design. Professionally, William served as a theatre technical director, scenic designer and production manager for ASU before coming to Grand Canyon. William has worked in these roles for several companies throughout the Valley including Phoenix Theatre, The Cookie Company, Actor's Theatre of Phoenix, Paradise Valley Community College, Valley Youth Theatre, Shakespeare Sedona, Southwest Shakespeare, Central Arizona Community College and Intel Corporation.

Michael Kary is a Grand Canyon University alumnus and holds an MFA from the University of San Diego Old Globe Professional Actor Training Program. His acting credits include Fame on 42nd Street (Original New York Cast); Hay Fever (New Jersey Shakespeare); Trojan Women, Pericles, Taming of the Shrew, Smash! and Twelfth Night (The Old Globe Theatres); Bandido! (San Diego Repertory Theatre); Ivona and Princess of Burgundia (Sacred Fools); My Name is Asher Lev, Laughter on the 23rd Floor, Broadway Bound and Brighton Beach Memoirs (AJTC); and Smoke on the Mountain (Lamb's Players Theatre). He is also a regular performer and host for the Phoenix Symphony. As a playwright, his works include: The Servant and the Fool, Dial P for Peanuts (with David Hayes), Make Believe, Deal with It (television pilot with Stephen Muterspaugh), Little League (television pilot with Stephen Muterspaugh) and a one man show currently titled "God Knows What." He is also the author of "Acting in Faith: A Christian's Guide to the Acting World."

Nola Yergen is a Master of Fine Arts and a professional Costume Designer and Instructor. She has designed and created over 100 theatrical productions for Grand Canyon University. She has won several AriZoni Awards for her work as well as numerous nominations and other Awards for her Costuming skills. She has also Designed Costumes for three feature films and multiple short films. She has a web series on YouTube: CostumeTrek which has over 80 videos featuring sewing and crafting tutorials, interviews with Costuming Professionals and reviews of costume related events.

MUSIC

Juan de Dios Hernandez is equally at home on the symphonic podium, in the opera pit, in front of choral ensembles or leading chamber music performances. Before coming to GCU, he served as director of choral activities and associate professor of music at MidAmerica Nazarene University in Olathe, KS. He has served as conductor of the Arizona Philharmonic Orchestra, assistant conductor of the Arizona Symphony Orchestra, assistant conductor and music director of the Arizona Opera Theater, assistant conductor of the Yale Glee Club, director of the Yale Glee Club Chamber Singers, assistant conductor of the Yale Camerata and assistant conductor of the Yale Symphony Orchestra. At GCU, Dr. Hernandez is the music director and conductor of the Canyon Choral Society, the Canyon Chorale, the Canyon Symphony Orchestra and the CriticalMass choir. Dr. Hernandez led The Canyon Choral Society in its Carnegie Hall debut with New England Symphonic Ensemble in 2018. He holds a Bachelor of Arts in Music degree from The Master's College, Master of Music and artist diploma degree in choral conducting from Yale University and a Doctor of Musical Arts in Orchestral Conducting degree from the University of Arizona.

Paul Koch received his music degree from the University of North Texas in 2000, studying with Dr. Robert Schietroma, Paul Rennick, Leigh Howard Stevens, She-e Wu and many other accomplished music teachers. Paul was on scholarship with the award-winning UNT drumline and also performed with many percussion and concert band ensembles. Paul received a master's in percussion performance under the direction of Dr. J.B. Smith and earned his doctorate in conducting from Arizona State University. Paul played the snare drum with the 1993 Black Gold of Tulsa and the 1994 – 1996 Colts of Dubuque, IA and was the drum line section leader of the Colts in 1995 and 1996. Paul has also been a performer with the Phoenix Suns PHX Percussion, a percussion entertainment group that performs at Suns games on traditional marching drums, trash cans, oil drums and other unique instruments. The PHX Percussion group performed with Destiny's Child at the 2005 NBA All-Star Game in Denver, CO.

Rachel Velarde teaches private voice lessons, song literature and voice pedagogy at GCU and specializes in contemporary commercial music styles in her home studio, Velarde Voice. She received her Master of Music in Vocal Performance Pedagogy, Master of Music Vocal Performance and Doctor of Music Arts in Vocal Performance from Arizona State University.

Mark Fearey has worked with vocal and instrumental artists in Germany, Austria, New York, Miami, Los Angeles and throughout the Southwest. At GCU he is an individual student coach and acts as music director for theatre productions and as co-director of their choral program. He is the much-awarded resident music director for the Valley Youth Theatre, where he has conducted the Arizona premiere of Shrek the Musical, Legally Blonde, Hairspray, Aida, CATS, Titanic, West Side Story, The Wiz, Newsies and many more. He has worked as a vocal coach with pop singer Jordin Sparks, movie star Emma Stone, Disney star Chelsea Kane, Broadway artists Kimiko Glenn, Charity Dawson and Max Crumm, opera singer Amber Wagner, country recording artist Chris Young among several other big names. Mark earned a Bachelor of Music in Piano Performance from D'Angelo School of Music at Mercyhurst College and Master of Music in Piano Performance with an Emphasis in Accompanying from Arizona State University.

DANCE

Susannah Keita is the director of the GCU's dance program, where she has established degrees in dance and dance education. She leads the pre-professional student company, Ethington Dance Ensemble and engages K-5 grade youth in metropolitan Phoenix with the GCU Elementary Dance Tour. Growing up as a student of Joffrey Ballet principal dancers, Sukie studied modern dance at the University of Michigan and performed in New York City before completing her MFA at the University of Arizona School of Dance. She performed with several Arizona-based companies including O-T-O Dance Theatre, New Articulations, Thom Lewis Dance, Mamaxé Dancers and Zuzi Dance Theatre. She became a certified teacher of the Katherine Dunham Technique and serves as pedagogy chair for the Institute of Dunham Technique Certification. Susannah additionally serves on the board of the Arizona Dance Education Organization and focuses on building cultural competency among future dance educators.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What is the arts community like at GCU?

Each discipline has an individual personality and community where life-long friendships are created. Students support, encourage, and challenge each other through time together in classes and outside of class at social events, club meetings and volunteer activities. Making art is a vulnerable activity that requires an active community of students and faculty. GCU values those relationships and has a place for you in our arts community.

Unlike some schools, GCU encourages everyone to cross disciplines. You don't have to be a theater major to be in or work on a production. You don't have to be a dance major to take a dance class, or work on their productions. You don't have to be music major to be in one of the choirs or in the Pep Band. You don't have to be a design or film major to take classes in those areas.

There are clubs within each discipline, as well as a wide variety of special interest clubs across the GCU campus, including many focused on fine arts:

- The Digital Film Club
- The Design Club
- The Animation Club
- The Photography Club
- Design United (our student club creative agency)
- Student Dance Education Organization
- Theater Alpha Psi Omega
- Music GCU S-NATS
- Music GCU Pep Band

What technology is required for students?

GCU is a laptop-centered campus. All students are required to have mobile computing with hardware and software powerful enough to accomplish the projects assigned within their discipline.

Advertising, design and animation students will need to purchase and maintain specific hardware and software for use in their classes. In these majors, a Chromebook computer or tablet will not be equipped to meet assignment demands.

Specific technology requirements are listed by major in the University Policy Handbook available on the GCU website at gcu.edu/PolicyHandbook

Are there performance scholarships?

Incoming and transfer students who are accepted into their respective programs through the digital audition process may be invited to audition for performance scholarships. Scholarship awards must pass through the Office of Financial Aid. Students will not be informed of the amount of their award until they receive an official letter and contract from GCU. The typical turnaround is about three weeks.

What is the audition process like?

Incoming dance, dance education, music, music education, theatre education and theatre and drama majors must attend a live audition or submit a digital audition via video URL for acceptance into a program. Digital auditions will be reviewed on the 15th of each month. Notification will occur 7 to 10 business days after review. Audition requirements and deadlines, if applicable, for each discipline are outlined on the audition webpage.

Visit gcu.edu/Auditions for more information and live audition dates.





COFAP ► *Top 5's*

- **Ethington Theatre** *pg. 7*
- **Performance Opportunities** *pg. 8*
- **GCU Student Ad Agency** *pg. 12*
- **Digital Production Practicum** *pg. 14*
- **GCU Pep Band and ensembles** *pg. 19*

NEXT *steps:* ►►►►►►►►

- STEP 1** ► Apply for free at **gcu.edu/ApplyNow**
- STEP 2** ► Set up your student portal, submit your transcripts and monitor your progress toward acceptance
- STEP 3** ► Once transcripts are evaluated, choose one of our all-expenses paid* campus visitation programs, to learn more about Lope life
- STEP 4** ► Register early to lock in your scholarships, class schedule and housing preferences

To learn more about Grand Canyon University, undergraduate programs offered on campus, available scholarships and more, contact an admissions counselor.

855-428-7884
gcu.edu/CampusAdmissions

*Restrictions for travel reimbursement may apply

Please note, not all GCU programs are available in all states and in all learning modalities. Program availability is contingent on student enrollment. Grand Canyon University is regionally accredited by the Higher Learning Commission 800-621-7440; <http://hlcommission.org/>. Important policy information is available in the University Policy Handbook at <https://www.gcu.edu/academics/academic-policies.php>. The information printed in this material is accurate as of NOVEMBER 2020. For the most up-to-date information about admission requirements, tuition, scholarships and more, visit gcu.edu ©2020 Grand Canyon University 20GTRO329