



Dear Drama Level I-IV Students and Parents,

Welcome to the Theatre Arts Department of NOCCA for the 2015-16 school year. It is our hope that the next nine months will be a wonderful opportunity for artistic exploration. It is our desire that your NOCCA experience will not only enhance your vision as actors, but further your insights about professionalism in the theatre world. Our main objective will be to help you develop the necessary discipline to cultivate the abilities that you displayed at your audition. As we take you through the training that will enhance your voice, mind, and body, our goal will be to teach you to move, speak, see, and think as professional actors. The lessons will be vigorous, fun, and at times demanding, but we wouldn't have accepted you if we hadn't seen your potential to rise to the challenges that will be presented to you. Please understand that all students have been admitted on a probationary basis for the first three weeks of classes. During this decision-making period, the parent, the student and/or the faculty could decide that it is in the student's best interest to return full-time to the partner school. This decision may also be made at the end of the first or second semester.

The school year begins with Prelude, NOCCA's orientation, on **Wednesday, August 12th**. Instruction begins on **Thursday, August 13th** promptly at **1:15 pm**. If you're late, go to the administrative office and get a tardy slip in order to be admitted to class. On the first day of classes, you must have a **3-ring binder** for classroom handouts as well as a clipboard and a supply of pens and pencils.

The School Day

The school day begins promptly at 1:15 pm each day. Please report to the Movement Studio at that time, ready to work. Please make sure that you are dressed (according to the guidelines below) and have used the restroom or taken care of any other business before this time. Classes will be on a block schedule; each student will participate in two classes per day that will meet between 1:15 and 3:45 pm. Additional workshops, rehearsals and course work will be offered between 4:00 and 6:30 pm (see below: Practicum and Program Extension). The Movement Studio opens at 1 pm **as a preparation space**. It is a place for **silent** preparation, meditation, stretching, or looking over material individually. The Drama Movement Studio is not a department greenroom. **It is not a social gathering place, music or juggling lounge, or a place to complete lunch, snacks or outside homework. No one is to touch the new sound system without a teacher present and for any reason other than the purpose of class.** All of the above listed activities should remain in the green space, the canteen, the courtyard, or, in the case of inclement weather, either the Atrium or Lupin Lobby.

Daily Dress Requirements

Students are expected to wear "work" clothes daily. **The following work clothes must be purchased prior to and worn on the first day and every day of class:** closely fitting **black** sweat pants, or footless **black** tights (such as GildaMarx Body above ankle tights), and **black leotards** (such as a Capezio Nylon Leotard—short or long sleeve—no tank tops or scoop backs), or a plain black t-shirt. Shoes must be worn in class and they must be black dance slippers, jazz shoes or gymnast footwear. **Graphic t-shirts, uniforms, or street clothing will not be allowed. Jewelry, boots, or flip flops will not be allowed either in or out of classes.** Girls may elect to wear black rehearsal dance skirts or black athletic shorts over their tights and leotards. Have your hair pulled back out of your eyes for class each day. This goes for men and women. Adherence to the uniform

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policy, including shoes, will be strictly enforced from day one. Failure to adhere to policy will result in no participation and a failing grade for the day. You are not only expected to perform in a professional manner but also to maintain a professional appearance.

NOCCA Productions

All Drama Division students are required to attend all Drama presentations and productions throughout the coming year, including student-directed work, senior recitals and other on-campus drama division work. Non-attendance at these performances will result in a loss of credit in accordance with the Enrollment Contract and Student Guide. Students must be in good academic standing in order to be eligible for casting.

Written Assignments

Written assignment deadlines are firm. No extensions will be granted after the fact. If an extension is granted ahead of time, a deduction in grade will also be spelled out at that time.

Practicum & Program Extension

Between 4 and 6:30 pm, students will have the opportunity to participate in production rehearsals, workshops, and other offerings. Some of these workshops will be optional; others will be mandatory. We will be sending out a detailed calendar with mandatory workshops for different Drama Levels later this year. Level I Academic Studio students in supported study will be doing most of their workshops on Friday afternoons. All Drama students will also be required to participate in Performance Fridays throughout the year. Counselling will also take place between 4 and 6:30 this year. Students will be given 30 minute appointment blocks. Sign in will take place 15 minutes prior to your 15 minute personal counselling session.

Off Campus Work

No student may consider or accept any outside performances engagements without first contacting and gaining permission in writing from the Drama faculty. This rule applies to engagements that begin rehearsing prior to the start of school, but that are in production after classes have begun. Although we do not discourage performing in local venues, these performances **cannot** conflict in any manner with NOCCA or its programs and curriculum.

On the First Day of Class, BE PREPARED to perform the following in front of the entire Drama Division:

Level I Students: ONE 90 second to 2 minute monologue from the play of your choice.

Levels II and III Students: TWO contrasting 90 second to 2 minute monologues from contemporary theatre.

Level IV Students: TWO contrasting 90 second to 2 minute monologues, one contemporary and one classical.

These monologues must be from published plays that you have read *in their entirety*. These performances will be graded.

If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Cooper via email at scooper@nocca.com or by phone at 504-940-2836. We are looking forward to an exciting and enriching school year.

Sincerely,
The NOCCA Drama Faculty

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Dear Musical Theatre Middle School Students and Parents,

Welcome to the New Orleans Center for Creative Arts! We are very excited about the upcoming year and your placement in the Musical Theatre Middle School program.

Regardless of your grade level, you must attend Prelude, NOCCA's orientation, on **Wednesday, August 12th, 2015**, beginning promptly at **4 pm**.

If you will be in the **8th grade** for the 2015-16 school year, you will attend NOCCA during the **Fall Semester** beginning in **September**. Your first day of class is **Wednesday, September 9, 2015**. The final day for the semester will be **Wednesday, December 16th, 2015**.

If you will be in the **7th grade** for the 2015-16 school year, you will attend NOCCA during the **Spring Semester** beginning in **January**. Your first day of class is **Monday, January 11th, 2016**. The final day for the semester will be **Wednesday, May 11th, 2016**.

Middle School classes are taught on Monday and Wednesday from 4:00 to 6:30. In that time, each student takes four classes: one music class, one acting class, and two dance classes. The Middle School program is a non-credit course. The Musical Theatre Department is intended for students who wish to receive pre-professional training. The classes are designed to take the student to the next logical step: auditioning for the NOCCA high school arts conservatory.

Attendance: Because our classes are based on participation, it is essential that students (and parents) commit to attending every class. Even though students do not receive a letter grade, consistent attendance is essential to grow in skill and knowledge both for the individual student and for the class as a whole. Students with excessive absences will be asked to leave the program.

Outside productions: We encourage performance in local venues, however these performances **cannot** conflict with NOCCA classes. Prior to accepting a role in an outside production, please contact the Musical Theatre Department chair to verify that rehearsals and performances will not conflict with class. This rule applies to engagements that begin rehearsing prior to the start of school, but that are in production after classes have begun.

Dress Requirements

Students in the Musical Theatre Department must wear **BLACK** for all classes. This is to instill a sense of ensemble and professionalism in the classroom.

For dance classes:

Female

- Attire: Black leotards or unitards, black, pink and tan tights, black tight-fitting sweat pants (no blousy or nylon cover-ups or warm-ups), black sports bra, no jewelry
- Shoes: Black split sole jazz shoes (no jazz/dance sneakers), and ballet shoes.

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- Tap shoes: NO CHARACTER HEEL TAPS, NO MARY-JANE TIE-UP TAPS, PREFERABLY NO SPLIT-SOLE TAPS. MUST BE BLACK, NO TAN SHOES. RECOMMENDED: AN OXFORD STYLE TAP SHOE WITH A SINGLE, HARD SOLE. RECOMMENDATIONS (prices vary):
 - **BLOCH:** Women's "Jason Samuel Smith" Lace Up Tap Shoe, Style No: S0313L
 - **SANSHA:** "Tee-Oscar" TA91L or "T-Tatra" TA94
 - **CAPEZIO** K360, CG09, or GS1
- You must wear cover-ups outside, while changing classes or at dismissal. Any cover ups you bring must be black. Students are not allowed to walk the campus in leotards.
- Hair: Must be secure, in place, and pulled back from face—no hats, bandanas, wraps, or scrunchies

Male

- Attire: Black footless tights, black Leotard, black tight-fitting sweat pants (no blousy or nylon cover-ups or warm-ups), black biker shorts black tank top, dance belt.
- Shoes: Black split sole jazz shoes (no jazz/dance sneakers), ballet shoes, black tap shoes (preferably with a toe box)
- Hair: Must be secure and pulled back from face and neck. No hats, wraps or bandannas.

We are looking forward to your commitment to the program and your continued growth as an artist. Have a great summer and be ready for an exciting and challenging school year!

Sincerely,

The NOCCA Musical Theatre Faculty
Jefferson Turner, Chair
jturner@nocca.com (504) 940-2864



Dear Musical Theatre Level I-IV Students and Parents,

Welcome to the Musical Theatre program for the 2015-16 school year! We are very excited about the upcoming year and your placement in the Musical Theatre program. Prelude, NOCCA's orientation, is Wednesday, August 12th, beginning promptly at 1:15 pm or 4 pm. The first day of classes is Thursday, August 13th.

NOCCA's Musical Theatre Department provides **pre-professional training** in singing, acting, and dancing. Our curriculum is designed to give a foundation for continued study in a college or conservatory arts program. Students take ten classes a week: five classes in dance (two in ballet, two in jazz dance, and one in tap), two classes in acting, and three classes in music. Our faculty is dedicated to giving the best arts training possible, and each faculty member is also a working professional in their field. The expectations – and, ultimately, the rewards – are high, as long as each student commits fully to the rigorous training.

Rising Seniors are expected to come prepared to discuss their college plans. Senior classes help navigate the college application and audition process, and each senior (regardless of whether they plan to continue in a college arts program or not) must prepare an audition binder and successfully complete a senior jury. Each year NOCCA makes a trip to the national Unified Auditions in Chicago; these take place the first week of February. In September we will have a meeting with Senior parents to help answer any questions regarding the application process.

Attendance: please refer to the student/parent handbook (available on the website) for attendance policies. **Please note:** many of the Musical Theatre classes are based on participation. Absence, for any reason, will have a negative impact on the training and progress of the student.

NOCCA Productions: Each year, the MT Department produces a musical in the fall and in the spring. Per the enrollment contract, all students must audition and, if cast, be available for all rehearsals and performances. A complete rehearsal schedule is provided at the time of the audition; this schedule may include some Saturday and, close to performance week, Sunday rehearsals. Even if a student is not cast in one of the mainstage productions, they will still participate in a public showcase performance at some point during the school year.

Outside performances: Sophomores, Juniors, and Seniors are allowed, and encouraged, to participate in productions throughout the year at other high schools and community or professional theaters. However, per the enrollment contract, these productions **must not conflict** with NOCCA classes, rehearsals, or performances. Each student must receive written permission from the Musical Theatre Department chair prior to auditioning or accepting a role in an outside production. Freshmen are **not allowed** to participate in outside productions. NOCCA's classes are demanding, and it is necessary for new high school students to focus on their first year of high school classes and training.



Dress Requirements

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For dance classes:

Female

- Attire: Black leotards or unitards, black, pink and tan tights, black tight-fitting sweat pants (no blousy or nylon cover-ups or warm-ups), black sports bra, no jewelry
- Shoes: Black split sole jazz shoes (no jazz/dance sneakers), and ballet shoes.

Tap shoes: NO CHARACTER HEEL TAPS, NO MARY-JANE TIE-UP TAPS, PREFERABLY NO SPLIT-SOLE TAPS. MUST BE BLACK, NO TAN SHOES. RECOMMENDED: AN OXFORD STYLE TAP SHOE WITH A SINGLE, HARD SOLE. RECOMMENDATIONS (prices vary):

- **BLOCH:** Women's "Jason Samuel Smith" Lace Up Tap Shoe, Style No: S0313L
- **SANSHA:** "Tee-Oscar" TA91L or "T-Tatra" TA94
- **CAPEZIO** K360, CG09, or GS1
- You must wear cover-ups outside, while changing classes or at dismissal. Any cover ups you bring must be black. Students are not allowed to walk the campus in leotards.
- Hair: Must be secure, in place, and pulled back from face—no hats, bandanas, wraps, or scrunchies

Male

- Attire: Black footless tights, black Leotard, black tight-fitting sweat pants (no blousy or nylon cover-ups or warm-ups), black biker shorts black tank top, dance belt.
- Shoes: Black split sole jazz shoes (no jazz/dance sneakers), ballet shoes, black tap shoes (preferably with a toe box)
- Hair: Must be secure and pulled back from face and neck. No hats, wraps or bandannas.

We are looking forward to your commitment to the program and your continued growth as an artist. Have a great summer and be ready for an exciting and challenging school year!

Sincerely,

The NOCCA Musical Theatre Faculty
Jefferson Turner, Chair



Dear Theatre Design Students and Parents,

Congratulations and welcome to the Theatre Design program for the 2015-16 school year. Since ours is a comprehensive, demanding program intended for students who wish to seriously explore the art of Theatre Design, we want you to be prepared for the start of school by reading and understanding the following important items.

Daily Dress

Theatre Design students are expected to wear work clothes daily, regardless of where they are working. Work clothes must consist of jeans or work shorts and t-shirts for shop and class work. They must fit well and must not be oversized or baggy (clothes must be snug so they will not catch in equipment). These clothes must be in decent condition (no holes or fashionable rips). Shorts are permitted as long as the inseam of the shorts is in excess of 5". Appropriate footwear must be worn at all times in all areas. Appropriate footwear consists of lace-up tennis shoes or work boots only. Slip on, open toe, and light weight canvas top shoes are not allowed. No long chains or necklaces and no lose bracelets may be worn either. Your school ID is to be worn at all times unless you are instructed to remove it by one of your teachers. Long hair must be pulled back and put into a ponytail during class. **Theatre Design students must have one set of "stage blacks."** "Stage blacks" consist of solid black jeans or slacks, solid black long sleeve t-shirt, black socks, and solid black shoes with black laces. These will be worn backstage during performances. Students failing to dress appropriately for class and/ or productions will not be allowed to participate in that day's events until they have obtained appropriate dress. If a student violates the dress code policy on a repeated basis, then disciplinary action may also be taken at the discretion of the NOCCA faculty and administration.

Lockers and Supplies

On the first day of class, you must have in your possession a 3-ring binder for class handouts. Students are only allowed to bring bottled water with them to class. No other liquids or food are allowed during class. Gum is not allowed on campus at all. Lockers will be made available to all students to keep their clothes and other necessary supplies for class secured. The students are responsible for providing their own locks.

NOCCA Productions

Students are required to attend all NOCCA Theatre, Dance, and Vocal Music presentations and productions regardless of whether they are assigned to work the productions or not. In addition students will be required to attend any other NOCCA events that the faculty deems appropriate. Non-attendance at these performances will result in a loss of credit, in accordance with the Enrollment Contract and the Student Guide.



Extracurricular Work

No student may consider or accept any outside theatre or design work **before contacting and gaining permission in writing from the NOCCA Theatre Faculty**. This includes any theatrical projects that occur prior to the start of school, but which will be in production after classes have begun. This is in accordance with the Enrollment Contract and the Student Guide.

Required Shows

Students will be required to see two professional/ faculty approved productions(theatre, opera, dance, special event) per semester that are not part of the NOCCA student season. Students will be required to turn in an essay per production describing what they saw based on the guidelines given by their faculty. The faculty will update the students during each semester on performance opportunities that they can attend throughout the area.

Grading and Homework

Homework projects will be assigned throughout the year with expected guidelines and completion dates. If a student fails to turn in an assignment on time, or they did not follow the proper instructions, their grade will be negatively affected. In addition to homework, other examples of grading will be written tests, as well as daily class performance, attitude, and overall comprehension of various skills. A large portion of the grading will come from successful participation in the numerous productions that NOCCA has throughout the school year.

We look forward to welcoming you as a student to NOCCA this year. If you have any questions concerning the Theatre Design program, please feel free to contact us.

Cordially,

The NOCCA Theatre Design Faculty

Daniel Zimmer, Chair of Theatre Department

dzimmer@nocca.com

(504) 940-2871

Philip Wingerter, Technical Director

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