



Dear Drama Level I Students and Parents,

On behalf of our faculty, we welcome you to the Theatre Arts Department of NOCCA. 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 for your first year 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.

The school year begins with Prelude on **Wednesday, August 15th at the time arts instruction would begin. Please report to your arts instruction classroom. This is a mandatory event.** Instruction begins on **Thursday, August 16th promptly at 1:15pm. If you are in Academic Studio, please report to class at 8:00am.** If you're late, go to the office and get a tardy slip in order to be admitted to class.

THE SCHOOL DAY

The school day begins promptly at 1:15pm each day. Please report to the Forum 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.

The Forum opens at 1:00pm AS A PREPARATION SPACE. It is a place for *SILENT* preparation, meditation, stretching, looking over material individually. The Drama Forum 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.** All of the above listed activities should remain in the green space, the canteen, the courtyard, or in the Movement Studio.

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. Additional workshops, rehearsals and course work will be offered between 4:00 and 6:30 (see below – Practicum and Program Extension).

DAILY DRESS

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 the equivalent and a PLAIN black T-shirt. Shoes must be worn in class and they must be black tennis shoes or jazz shoes. **GRAPHIC T-SHIRTS, UNIFORMS, OR STREET CLOTHING WILL NOT BE ALLOWED. JEWELRY, BOOTS, FLIP-FLOPS OR SANDALS WILL NOT BE ALLOWED EITHER IN OR OUT OF CLASSES.** Have your hair pulled back out of your eyes for class each day. This goes for men and women. Adherence to the uniform 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 and good hygiene.

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 during the course of the year. Non-attendance at these performances will result in a loss of credit in accordance with the

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Enrollment Contract and Student Guide. Students must be in good academic standing in order to be eligible for casting.

THE FIRST THREE WEEKS

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.

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 One, Academic Studio students 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 & 6:30 this year. Students will be given 10 minute appointment blocks.

OFF-CAMPUS WORK

No student may audition for, consider or accept any outside performance 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. During the school year, NOCCA students may not enroll in classes with outside teachers in drama, film and acting.

BE PREPARED to perform a 90-second to 2 minute monologue in front of the entire Drama Division on the first day of class. This monologue must be from a published play that you have read *in its entirety*. This performance will be graded.

If you have any questions, please contact me via email at scooper@nocca.com or by phone at 504-940-2836 or leave a message at the main office at 504-940-2787.

Sincerely,

Silas Cooper
Chair, Drama