

What can I do with a Bachelor of Arts in Drama?

A guide compiled by CUE Career Services and the Faculty of Arts

General Skill Sets

A Bachelor of Arts degree is versatile. Graduates are employed in almost every industry and every company in North America. When employers are hiring, they are interested in transferable skills attained through university study. Examples include:

- Creativity—“out of the box” thinking
- Leadership
- Self-confidence
- The ability to start something and complete it (e.g., a university degree)
- The ability to communicate with anyone, in any forum, using any format
- Problem-solving
- Research skills
- Punctuality

Although factors such as the state of the economy and work performance may affect one’s career journey, there tends to be greater potential for people who have degrees to be promoted or to attain leadership positions. As graduates combine their degree with accumulated work experience, they may transition into positions with increased responsibilities and higher salaries, or leave their current employer to take on new roles elsewhere.

Skills developed in the study of Drama

Studying Drama gives you a range of skills sought after by all types of employers, such as:

- Performance and technical skills
- Confidence
- Self-discipline
- Stamina
- Teamwork and collaboration
- The ability to give and receive constructive criticism
- Communication skills
- The ability to adapt or improvise
- Analytical, critical, and research skills
- Time management and organizational skills
- An open mind and the ability to move beyond boundaries and experiment with different ideas

As learning is life-long, some careers which are related to a BA degree in Drama require additional training. This may involve weekend, evening, or part-time courses; further education (some employers provide support by allowing time or offering finances to assist you in your learning); distance studies; or full-time college or university. The Bachelor’s degree is a starting point.

Careers Related to Drama Degrees

The BA degree in Drama is a starting point for a spectrum of careers, some of which require further education. People with a BA degree in Drama, including Concordia alumni, have pursued careers in these and other areas.

Education

- Elementary teacher, drama specialist
- Secondary school drama teacher
- University or college professor
- Private theatre or voice coach
- Artist in resident in a school
- Curriculum designer
- Educational director for arts programming in community venues
- Workshop presenter

Community Work

- Community theatre worker
- Youth worker
- Theatre for community development
- Worship/creative arts pastor
- Drama therapist

Writing and Publishing

- Publisher
- Promotion, sales, distribution coordinator
- Theatre critic or columnist
- Playwright
- Screenwriter
- Dramaturge, literary manager

Performance

- Film or theatre actor
- Film or theatre director
- Model Artist in residence
- Radio or TV broadcaster

Administration and Management

- Agent
- Casting director
- Arts publicity, promotions, and marketing
- Professional arts organization management
- Cultural arts events planner
- Arts grant-writer and fundraiser
- Arts programmer or media director for community venues

Technical Theatre and Design

- Stage manager
- Production manager
- Theatre technician
- Film technician
- Theatre or film designer (set, lighting, sound, costume, props, multi-media)

Typical Employers

Common employers of performing arts graduates include:

- Local government
- Arts organizations
- Leisure companies
- Not-for-profit organizations
- School boards, Educational institutions and organizations
- Health and wellness providers

Options For Further Study

You may want to specialize further, learn additional performance skills, or pursue academic research in an aspect of your subject that interests you. You might choose to pursue a vocational course, such as a diploma in arts administration or a teaching certificate, which will open up alternative areas of employment.

REFERENCES

www.alis.gov.ab.ca/occinfo

For more information or assistance with career and educational planning, please contact CUE Career Services at +1 780 378 8461 or email us at careerservices@concordia.ab.ca.

