

Master of Letters in Shakespeare and Performance

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The MLitt Thesis Project

All candidates for the MLitt degree must complete REN 700, the Thesis Project for the MLitt degree. MLitt students may enroll for the project after they have completed 18 s.h. of coursework. The project must be approved by the program director and regularly supervised by a member of the program faculty. For more information, see the S&P Student Handbook and MLitt Thesis Proposals and Enrollment.

The MLitt Thesis Project Consists of:

- A thesis;
- A 20-minute staged presentation in support of the thesis; and
- An oral defense before an examining panel of at least two faculty members.

Note: MLitt students are required to be on campus to defend the thesis in person unless the S&P Director waives the requirement upon request of the student or recommendation of the thesis supervisor.

Progress towards the MLitt degree normally requires an enrollment of at least nine hours per semester. However, students receiving financial aid should ensure that they maintain the minimum enrollment for aid, usually five hours per semester. Typically, students complete the MLitt degree in two years. For more information, see Continuing Enrollment, Time Limit for Completion, and Tuition and Fees.

MLitt Thesis Proposals and Enrollment

Students may enroll for their final projects after they have completed 18 s.h. of coursework towards the MLitt degree, and when their proposals have been approved by the following process: Students submit formal proposals for their thesis projects, and are then assigned a supervising committee consisting of one full-time faculty member who will serve as first reader, and at least one other reader who will usually be drawn from the S&P teaching team. Occasionally, qualified outside examiners may form part of the examining committee. Once these steps have been taken, the program director must approve the project. Where resources, including actors, are drawn from the American Shakespeare Center, the consent of the American Shakespeare Center is also required. Details of and forms for this process are available from the program office. Only after obtaining the necessary approvals may a student enroll for the final project (REN 700). A grade is awarded for the course leading to completion of the project; the project itself is not graded but is the basis for the decision to award or withhold the degree. It is in the student's best interests to consult regularly with the project supervisor and any other faculty who may provide helpful advice during development of the thesis and planning for performances. It is also advisable to prepare for work on the thesis by taking REN 695 in May Term or an exploratory REN 590 Directed Inquiry. It is extremely unwise to leave preparation of the thesis until the student's final semester.

After the oral defense, a thesis may be accepted without revision; accepted conditionally, in which case the examiners will specify the revisions or additions needed; or rejected. In the case of rejection, a student may be required to resubmit the thesis, or an alternative thesis, for a second and final attempt. Acceptance, and the award of the degree, requires the unanimous consent of the examining committee. Students should consult the most recent S&P Thesis Manual and S&P Student Handbook for details of the process, format for preparation of the thesis, the steps required for enrollment, etc.

MFA Admission

Students staying for the MFA degree are required to complete at least 40 s.h. before matriculating into the MFA degree program, a 30-s.h. program, which, when added together, total the required 70 s.h. for both degrees.

Note: A Minimum GPA of 3.0 is required to remain in “good standing” as an MLitt student; and a minimum GPA of 3.3 is required for admission to the MFA program.

Department: Shakespeare and Performance

Type: MLITT

Core Requirements

40 total semester hours including the required 28 s.h. of core courses

Item #	Title	Credits
REN 500	SHAKESPEARE	3
REN 501	RESEARCH METHODS	1
REN 515	ACTING FOR THE EARLY MODERN STAGE	3
REN 531	EARLY / MODERN ENSEMBLE	3
REN 551	SHAKESPEARE PEDAGOGY	3
REN 553	DIRECTING FOR EARLY MODERN STAGE	3
REN 557	EARLY MODERN THEATRE-MAKING	3
REN 670	DRAMATURGY	3
REN 700	FINAL PROJECT FOR THE M.LITT	3

Select one of the following:

Item #	Title	Credits
REN 510	SHAKESPEARE AND TEXTUAL CULTURE	3
REN 520	TUDOR-STUART HISTORY	3
REN 535	REVIEWING SHAKESPEARE	3
REN 550	SOCIAL HIST OF EARLY MODERN ENGLAND	3

Select four additional elective courses

Students are required to select at least one of their four elective courses from the list of courses that corresponds to their concentration in acting, directing, dramaturgy, or education.

Faculty advisors will work with students to select their electives based on suggested pathways that are most relevant to each concentration.

Acting Concentration Electives

Item #	Title	Credits
REN 530	THE LANGUAGE OF PERFORMANCE	3
REN 555	VOICE	3
REN 556	THE BODY IN PERFORMANCE	3
REN 560	STAGE COMBAT PERFORMANCE ESSENTIALS	3
REN 608	SHAKESPEARE AND MUSIC	3
REN 640	STAGE COMBAT	3
REN 660	ADVANCED ACTING STUDIO	3
REN 686	CLOWN	3

Directing Concentration Electives

Item #	Title	Credits
REN 510	SHAKESPEARE AND TEXTUAL CULTURE	3
REN 520	TUDOR-STUART HISTORY	3
REN 530	THE LANGUAGE OF PERFORMANCE	3
REN 535	REVIEWING SHAKESPEARE	3
REN 550	SOCIAL HIST OF EARLY MODERN ENGLAND	3
REN 650	TOPICS IN DIRECTING	3

Dramaturgy Concentration Electives

Item #	Title	Credits
REN 510	SHAKESPEARE AND TEXTUAL CULTURE	3
REN 520	TUDOR-STUART HISTORY	3
REN 530	THE LANGUAGE OF PERFORMANCE	3
REN 535	REVIEWING SHAKESPEARE	3
REN 550	SOCIAL HIST OF EARLY MODERN ENGLAND	3

Education Concentration Electives

Item #	Title	Credits
REN 510	SHAKESPEARE AND TEXTUAL CULTURE	3
REN 520	TUDOR-STUART HISTORY	3
REN 535	REVIEWING SHAKESPEARE	3
REN 550	SOCIAL HIST OF EARLY MODERN ENGLAND	3
REN 555	VOICE	3
	Total credits:	40