Craft, draft, build, manage, or technically direct the backstage technology that the entertainment industry demands for all types of live entertainment productions.

A degree in theatre and entertainment technology from Michigan Tech provides a strong knowledge base. Combine practical creativity and design with craft, innovation, technology, and entrepreneurial training. Integrate another field of study into your program mix—like engineering, computing, or business—to adapt your education to your specific talents and interests.

From your first semester, you're immersed in production work for mainstage theatrical productions, non-theatrical live entertainment events, audio plays, and other media projects. You work side by side with other students, faculty, and staff on Michigan Tech-produced shows and professional company tours. Presented in venues including the McArdle black-box theatre and the Rozsa Center, the region’s acclaimed performing arts center, with a diverse schedule of events. Research, design, analyze, and plan, then realize the construction of scenery, props, lighting, sound, and costumes. Coordinate and manage live productions. Discover and prepare to work in wide-ranging entertainment opportunities: event staging, museum displays, themed retail events, and theme parks.

Create the future
Join the professional worldwide network of faculty, staff, and alumni with credentials and connections that open doors. Our interns and graduates benefit from Michigan Tech's reputation for problem-solving, collaborative, and innovative professionals who know their craft and deliver above expectations.

Gain the skills and experience you need to create the future. Our students graduate with the qualifications for many backstage positions in the entertainment industry:

- Stage crew or assistant stage manager for entertainment venues or concert halls
- Road crew for theatrical touring companies
- Stage crew/rigger in theme parks and on cruise ships
- Coordinating sports event extravaganzas
- For those seeking further higher education in specific areas—graduate school with assistantships to help pay the way

For more information, visit mtu.edu/vpa
Apply for free online at mtu.edu/apply
Be a part of the Visual and Performing Arts department at Michigan Tech

We emphasize creativity, self-motivation, and concrete goals—artistic, practical, and analytical attributes that combined with academic performance, add up to success. You’ll work closely with faculty and your advisor to track progress and stay on course.

• Build relationships with professors and peers. Our limited enrollment allows for smaller classes, personal quality educational time with faculty and staff, and more exploratory time with industry-specific equipment and tools.

• Begin with fundamentals including stagecraft, drafting, design, dramatic literature, and theatre history.

• Advance by choosing at least two emphasis areas from engineering technology, business, and technical options: costume, design, craft, electrical, mechanical, management, and/or sound.

• Complete high-tech training in all aspects of the profession in well-equipped shops, labs, and performance venues. Develop critical skills to continue as a life-long learner who adapts to ever-evolving entertainment industry technology.

• Understand how to develop your career path, from student internships to post-graduation employment in the industry. Develop networks and presentation/interview skills at professional industry conferences and events.

About Michigan Tech

Michigan Technological University is a public research university, home to more than 7,000 students from 54 countries. Founded in 1885, the University offers more than 120 undergraduate and graduate degree programs in science and technology, engineering, forestry, business and economics, health professions, humanities, mathematics, and social sciences. Our campus in Michigan’s Upper Peninsula overlooks the Keweenaw Waterway and is just a few miles from Lake Superior.

About the Rozsa Center for the Performing Arts

The Rozsa’s Black Auditorium performance hall is a proscenium space with variable acoustics and sophisticated lighting, sound, and projection technology. Students in VPA programs work on a variety of in-house productions as well as touring professional shows.

About Houghton

The area’s waters, forests, and snowfall (200+ inches annually!) offer skiing, snowboarding, hiking, biking, and paddling opportunities. Historic downtown Houghton is active with locally owned shops, eateries, high-tech companies, music festivals, and parades. We embrace our size, climate, sense of adventure, and originality. Michigan Tech wouldn’t be the same anywhere else on Earth—and we wouldn’t have it any other way.

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