

VISUAL AND PERFORMING ARTS



Michigan Tech
Create the Future

Michigan Technological University



Step into the spotlight, take center stage.

Whether you dream of a career on stage or backstage, in performance, design, technology, or recording, you'll find a creative community unlike any other with Michigan Technological University's Department of Visual and Performing Arts.

Michigan Tech uses integrated, collaborative projects to educate actors in live and media performance; and designers and technicians in design and audio technology, scene design, stage construction and rigging, lighting design and construction, and more. It's a place where you can practice and perfect your passion while exploring the rich world of audio and visual arts.

Take a look at what we have to offer... and see if Michigan Tech is the right community for you.

"Working with the VPA department has been a life-altering experience for me. The faculty opened my eyes to so many new and wonderful possibilities and opportunities. There is a wealth of knowledge within this department, and I consider myself fortunate to have studied under such brilliant minds."

—Chip Rohrer '10,
Theatre and Electronic Media Performance major



Lighting control booth for the
Rozsa Center for the Performing Arts.

Start here, go anywhere

The Visual and Performing Arts program at Michigan Tech is different... and that's a good thing. Rather than being restricted to a single concentration or performance

style, you'll be encouraged to try them all, to prepare yourself for the myriad career opportunities that await you. You can even complement your degree by adding a minor in art, music,

technical theatre, or theatre arts. With more options for performers today than ever before, why limit yourself?

Majors

Theatre and Electronic Media Performance

Hone your performance skills in radio and TV commercials, video game design, stage productions, and sound projects while directly preparing to work in theatre, film, video, digital arts, and more.

Theatre and Entertainment Technology

Master the backstage—learn about scenery, lighting, costuming make-up, and sound; then put your skills to work during Mainstage productions. You'll be prepared to work just about anywhere, from theatres and scene shops to concert venues and theme parks.

Sound Design and Audio Production and Technology

Become an audio expert as you examine the physics, electronics, and recording concepts behind musical and theatrical sound. Much more than just classroom study, you'll work with live and studio recordings, mix and master audio downloads, and operate sound systems during live concerts and theatrical productions.



Our courses are specially designed to help you prepare for your career, not just for your degree.

Audition/Presentation Techniques

One-on-one audition simulations will help you learn how to ace auditions, from the traditional theatrical “cattle-call” to the film screen test, and present yourself and your work as a professional.

Portfolio Presentation

You’ll receive guided learning in preparing a professional digital and paper portfolio. Present your completed work and receive critiques for refinement before sharing with future employers.

Personal Finance for Performers

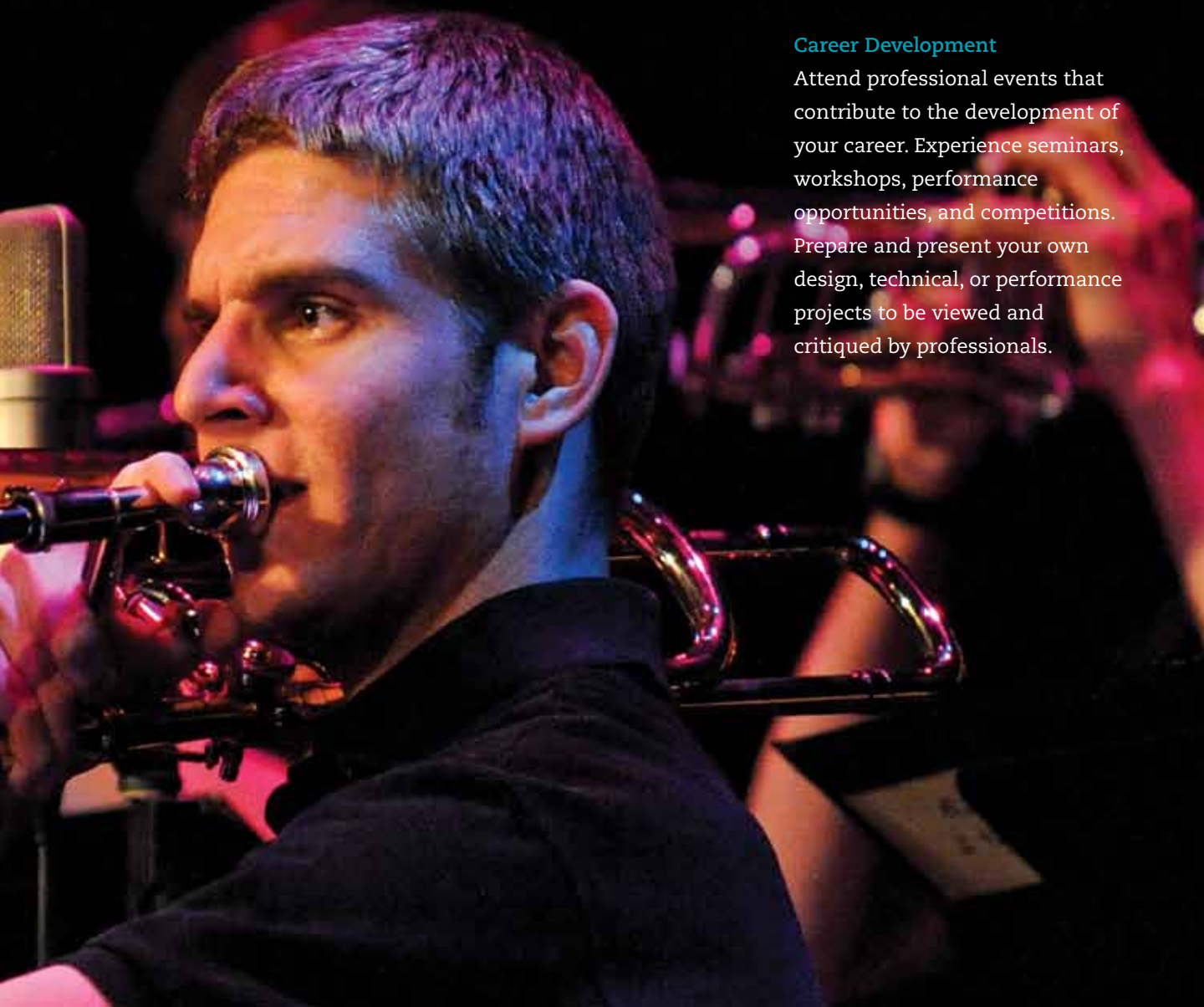
Don’t get caught off guard by the financial challenges of establishing a performance career. Learn about the foundations of financial management and create a plan that works for you.

Marketing the Performer

Savvy self-marketing techniques help you get your foot in the door. This course will help you craft professional and attention-grabbing résumés, performance portfolios, and more.

Career Development

Attend professional events that contribute to the development of your career. Experience seminars, workshops, performance opportunities, and competitions. Prepare and present your own design, technical, or performance projects to be viewed and critiqued by professionals.





Musical: *The Robber Bridegroom*
The play-within-a-play was performed with found objects from a trash heap for scenery, props, and costumes.

Ready, set, perform

No need to wait. At Michigan Tech, you'll start performing and working on real-world projects and performances from day one. Through the First-Year Practicum, you can get involved with an audio play, join a Mainstage production, or work on a media project. Our programs are kept small to allow all students the opportunity to design, create, and perform as soon as they walk through the door.



The Mainstage experience

At Michigan Tech, you'll be a part of our Mainstage productions—full-scale plays and theatrical performances featured in the McArdle and Rozsa Center Theatres. You can join the cast, serve as assistant director or stage manager, work on live sound production and recordings, become a backstage crew member for visiting tours, or design and build scenery, costumes, and lighting.

Michigan Tech's Enterprise Program opportunities

Prepare for your career and get a leg up on the competition by joining the Cin/Optic Communication and Media team. Part of Michigan Tech's Enterprise Program, the group operates like a student-run business, providing professional video services to the campus and community. Each year, Cin/Optic helps bring the Northern Lights Film Festival to campus, featuring three days of cool independent films and industry guest speakers.

"Learning to act requires an environment in which students feel free to take risks. Much of my work involves creating that atmosphere of trust, opening the door to emotional inhibition. Where else can you fall on your face and be applauded for the effort?"

—Patricia Helsel, Assistant Professor of Theatre



Theatre and entertainment design students study with painters and sculptors as well as theatre designers.

Applause, applause!

Our students, faculty, and staff are getting rave reviews.

Two students took first and second place for their sonic creations in rock and alt country categories at an Audio Engineering Society regional competition.

Mary Ann Beckwith, professor of art, received an American Watercolor Society Signature—one of the organization's highest honors.

A group of students and staff recently received awards at the Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival for acting and stage, costume, and lighting design.

“Beyond the practical skills, my professors at Tech taught me to THINK independently and logically. That is by far the most valuable skill I left with. I don’t know every new piece of equipment I encounter, but I find myself eager and exceptionally prepared to attack any new challenge. I attribute this greatly to the opportunities I was given at Tech.”

—Ken Showler '07,
Sound Designer, Forest Post Video Production



Go beyond

Be creative all the time! You'll find many different ways to get involved on campus...

Explore the visual arts—events like the Walker Art and Design Show and the Great Lakes Art Showcase highlight student art, local photography, and more.

Try out for one of Michigan Tech's accomplished musical groups: Keweenaw Symphony Orchestra, Superior Wind Symphony, Jazz Lab Band, Concert Choir, or our crowd-pleasing Pep Band (go Huskies!).

Join Mu Beta Psi, the national honorary musical fraternity. Meet other creative students, take in performances together, give back to the community by offering music classes, and more.

Check out our 200-plus student organizations, including the Audio Engineering Society, Tech Theatre Company, Camera Club, Television Production Club, and student-run radio station.

See yourself here

Don't take our word for it—see for yourself! Schedule a visit to tour our theatres, check out the residence halls, meet faculty and students—even enjoy a Department of Visual and Performing Arts stage production, on us. Head to admissions.mtu.edu/visit to start planning your personalized campus visit.

Have a life outside of campus

Step outside of campus and you'll find a community that's vibrant and authentic—a place where artists gather (the local area has several theatres and galleries) and natural beauty is all around. Connect with friends at a great downtown restaurant or coffee shop; take in an event—the Pine Mountain Music Festival, Houghton's Outdoor Summer Concert Series, Tech's own Parade of Nations, and more; or escape to the beach to catch a breathtaking Lake Superior sunset.

Experience Tech

Make the most of your college experience—it's easy with the Experience Tech initiative. Enjoy unlimited access to Mont Ripley (our very own Alpine ski hill), Gates Tennis Center, and our award-winning Portage Lake Golf Course, plus all the visual and performing arts events, hockey games, and intramural sports you can handle—it's all included in your tuition.





Performance students share the stage with their teachers, as in the drama Proof.

Apply now

Just head to admissions.mtu.edu/apply. As part of your free application, you'll be asked to answer a few questions about your creative interests and share examples of experiences that have led to your interest in these programs.

