Bachelor of Philosophy Sample Plan of Studies
Majors: Theatre Arts and English Literature

My primary major is Theatre Arts. Within this major my preferred focus is directing. I am interested in analyzing texts in an attempt to discover both what the playwright was trying to convey, and anything else that may be woven into the play and its characters. After an in-depth analysis of the text, it is up to the director to determine how best to bring it to life. I enjoy working to create the big picture and fit all of the elements of a theatrical production together. In the course of pursuing my interest in directing and meeting the requirements of this major I have studied and worked in most of the various elements of theatrical production. Electrics and lighting are areas in which I have acquired extra class and production hours. I am very interested in the important effect that lighting has on the overall look of a production, as well as its use in manipulating the perceptions of an audience. I have also taken an interest in stage management, one of the most time-intensive aspects of theatre, which involves close work with the director while organizing and coordinating all of the various design, technical, and performance aspects of the production, in addition to being responsible for the entire run of a production.

My secondary major is English Literature. Whenever possible I have tended to focus on dramatic texts and generally prefer to study British writers over American. My coursework has allowed me to examine texts themselves, literary trends, and the various elements that have an effect on the author of a given novel, play, story, or poem. I have been able to take several literature classes through the Honors College, which have allowed for a more in depth examination and discussion of the texts and authors. Two of these that I found to be also beneficial to my theatrical studies were courses in Shakespeare and Psychoanalysis and Literature, which explored the motivations of both authors and their characters. Among the areas that interest me most in literary texts are perspective and characterization.

The summer between my sophomore and junior years I spent six weeks studying in London. During this time I took Literature courses with an English professor, and saw a great deal of theatre including plays produced by the Royal Shakespeare Company, The National Theatre, and Shakespeare’s Globe Theatre. In addition to courses within my majors and general requirements I have taken several extra courses in psychology. I find it interesting to learn the various factors that have an effect on people and their development, particularly those which have an influence on perception. This is helpful in attempting to understand authors and characters, as well as determine how to achieve a desired effect on an audience. I have also taken additional courses in philosophy and am attempting to complete a minor in this area if scheduling and time will allow. It is helpful and interesting to study the various trends in thought and explanation throughout history. Also, many authors are influenced by various philosophies, and understanding these can be crucial to understanding the author.