

Department of Music and Theatre Goals

1) Liberal Arts Education

Teaching is the central task of the Department of Music and Theatre. The faculty believes that study and practical involvement in productions, concerts, and events, promotes and achieves the goals of a well-rounded liberal education, foremost among which are the abilities to reason clearly, imagine creatively, and express oneself effectively. The department seeks to cultivate in all students who pass through its doors a measure of the artistic, intellectual, and interpersonal skills that can broaden their horizons, sharpen their perceptions, and add grace to their interactions.

Specifically, within the majors, the department recognizes that each student is unique and in possession of individual gifts and aspirations. Not every student desires or is suited to a professional career in the performing arts or entertainment industry. Many students are drawn to music and theatre for personal reasons that they cannot easily articulate, but which are, nevertheless, imperative to them. Thus, the department is committed to help all majors and minors gain a clear perspective of their life and career goals and to focus their energies and time at Chico State toward the most personally productive and fulfilling use of a their education.

2) Pre-Professional Training

In addition to offering a strong liberal arts education to all students, the department focuses on those especially motivated students who demonstrate a genuine desire for a professional career in the performing arts or entertainment industry. We maintain a series of advanced courses necessary to prepare candidates for entry level professional work or graduate school/conservatory training as well as a tradition of intensive, individualized mentorship.

3) Cultural Outreach

We sit at the hub of a remarkably vibrant local theatre and music community, which boasts a half dozen community and semi-professional companies, active junior college and high school programs and many first-rate professional productions which come to campus as part of regional, national, and world tours.

As part of the School of the Arts within the College of Humanities and Fine we present much of the cultural face of the university to the northern Sacramento Valley and help to support the artistic life of our community through faculty and staff outreach to K-12 programs and local theatres. Many of our students, when their time allows, actively participate in these outreach initiatives and in events off campus.

In addition to outreach, we welcome the community onto campus for an exciting and varied season of concerts and productions.