ISP Hours: Earning an ISP in Theatre

[For descriptions, see the end of EN listing of courses in the WPI Catalog]

NOTE: to earn credit, you must enroll through the Humanities & Arts department’s PLA. You should process the necessary form once you have been accepted for the activity. Credit will not be given until you have completed the performance and the strike following the final performance. Please enroll with the Drama/Theatre PLA [as announced].

For the purposes of granting academic credit for performance, the Department of Humanities and Arts, division of Drama/Theatre has established these guidelines:

Following a widely held opinion of the number of hours of work that can be expected from undergraduates at WPI, we based these guidelines upon the generally accepted work week of 37.5-40 hours of work which most adults practice.

With 3 [three] 1/3rd unit courses usually taken per term, an undergraduate can be expected to spend 13.33 hours per week on each course. This would include 4 hours in class, and 9.33 hours of preparation for class [which we acknowledge can vary quite a bit], including homework, reading, writing, preparing presentations, etc. For the term, that number would multiply by 7 weeks. Thus the formula results that 13.33 x 7 = 93.31 hours. In a 7-week term, therefore, 93.31 hours of inclusive work can be expected for the term from the student who enrolls for 1/3rd unit--class, project, or other activity.

For 1/6th unit, the usual amount of credit available to be registered for a performance activity, we would assume that the student would work 1/2 of the hours worked for a 1/3rd unit, or a "rounded up" total of 47 hours of performance activity for the term of the enrollment.

A performance activity requires reading but usually little to no written work. Due to the nature of performance, a student might need to be available but might be idle during some of the hours of availability. The nature of performance figured in, we usually conclude that 60 hours of work on the ISP would earn an A for the performance credit. Variables exist by range of activities. For instance, a Theatre Production Practicum student working on scenography will usually be active throughout all the hours of work. By contrast, an Acting student might have a number of "sitting around" hours: he or she must be present for the rehearsal or performance, but might be able to do homework or something else while not onstage or in rehearsal. Thus, 45 hours of Theatre Production Practicum might equal an A, while 60 hours of Acting might equal an A. The Acting example will, of course vary by size of role and other factors, much as variable will affect the amount of hours worked on any course or project.

QUALITY of work plus getting the job done to necessary standards also figures in to the grade determination, as do many other factors. An Acting student who works 75 hours might not earn an A for some reason [for example, never being on time to rehearsal], whereas a Theatre Production Practicum student who works 39 hours might earn an A for some reason [for example, solving a difficult to impossible challenge].

To summarize: If you are acting, aim for at least 60 hours of work
If you are working on the technical elements of the production, aim for at least 45 hours of work

You can best judge your work on your ISP. Your supervisor or PLA will offer feedback and suggestions. We base your grades on the hours you report on the reverse of this sheet, which will be signed by your supervisor, your PLA, or both, and from verbal evaluations we receive from your supervisor, your PLA, or both.

Break a leg!!!
EARNING ACADEMIC CREDIT FOR PERFORMANCE/PRODUCTION ACTIVITIES

THE 1/6TH TH: IS/P

WPI acknowledges the academic component of performance/production work and allows students to earn credits in both Drama/Theatre and Music activities. Credit may be earned in Drama/Theatre for many kinds of production activities. One-third [1/3] unit of this work may be applied towards the five [5] one-thirds [1/3rds] needed before beginning the Humanity & Arts requirement’s final project (usually in B or D term). Credit may also be applied toward the accumulation of units for the Humanities and Arts major or minor with the prior approval of the academic advisor. If you do not need the 1/6th towards your Humanities and Arts requirement, major or minor, the 1/6th credit will count as part of your general credits for graduation.

By a vote of the Faculty on 12 October 1995 the following credit sequence was approved and may be found in the Undergraduate Catalog, at the end of the EN listings:

“EN ----. DRAMA/THEATRE PERFORMANCES.
TH: IS/P
One-sixth unit of credit will be awarded at the conclusion of two successive terms of participation. Performance activities currently receiving credit are:

TH 1225    Theatre Production Practicum
TH 2225    Acting
TH 2227    Advanced Acting
TH 2229    Advanced Theatre Production Practicum
TH 3225    Directing
TH 3227    Advanced Directing
TH 3229    Dramaturgy
TH 4225    Theatre Technology Design
TH 4227    Advanced Theatre Technology Design
TH 4229    Advanced Dramaturgy

Credit may be given on the condition that the performance takes place in a WPI performance directed or advised by a part- or full-time WPI instructor.

Note: “A maximum of two one-sixth credits, or a total of one-third unit, may be applied toward the five courses, or five one-third units, taken prior to the final Humanities & Arts requirement project term.”

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Consult Professor Vick or the Drama/Theatre PLA for enrollment information.