

Technical Theater FAQ

As of the 2025-2026 school year, our drama and technical theater programs are being merged into one major: Theater Arts.

1. Will theater tech classes still exist?

A: Yes! We are still offering a full set of theater tech classes to cover all areas of design, carpentry, painting, lighting, sound, costuming, makeup, and stage management. These will be open to all theater arts majors and some will, as now, be open to non-majors with an interest in exploring this area.

2. Are the class titles and courses changing?

A: Yes – the same content will be featured in all classes but we are working with district to ensure they are more clearly labeled for students. They will be aligned with state curriculum standards. Descriptions of the content of each course will be posted on the Theater Arts major page on our website in the coming months. All of the current skills will still be offered.

3. What will happen to current theater tech majors?

A: Our current named theater tech majors will remain listed as such and be able to finish their graduation requirements in their major. Administration and the counselors are already working to ensure their requirements do not change. This is similar to how a college that alters a program would keep the currently enrolled students on their previously approved major track to ensure their course progression is not disrupted.

4. Will this hurt our graduates if they want to enroll in theater technical programs at the college level?

A: No. Colleges receive a standardized Osceola County Transcript of classes for our students and see all of the classes that have been taken. This includes art courses for any auditioned programs but the choice of “major” is not outlined in the transcript. As such, students taking technical theater who want to apply to a technical theater program will still show as having taken these courses at the high school level.

5. Does this affect their diploma?

A: Art majors have not been printed on diplomas in several years. Theater tech classes will still fall under “theater” for the state and will thus still be eligible for the Florida Seal of Fine Arts if the other requirements for that are met.

6. Do other schools have a blended program?

A: Many Florida arts high schools including Douglas Anderson in Jacksonville, New World School of the Arts in Miami, and Marion County Center for the Arts have theater arts blended programs that offer performing arts and technical tracks and classes without having a separate technical major. Additionally, many colleges and conservatories have a blended theater arts or drama program in which students apply to the full program and specialize in their course selection. This

is similar to an English major that selects several Shakespeare courses or a Political Science major that selects many classes in United States governance.

7. How many students does this directly affect?

A: This year, 58 students are scheduled into technical theater courses. 55 were scheduled in the 23-24 school year. Of those students, we currently have 32 declared technical theater major students. A majority of those students are juniors and seniors who explored the program and entered the major after their freshmen year. We currently have two freshmen enrolled in the technical theater major. Our students tend to find theater tech as part of exploring various arts while already at our school.

8. Does OCSA recognize the importance of this major?

A: Absolutely! We realize that tech makes most of our other programs possible and want to value the work and learning of our students. We have no intention of ever eliminating theater technical classes but we do need to look at changes to the program to make it viable for future years. We realize that theater technical skills allow many of our drama majors to find employment out of high school and in future years. This is why these classes will still be offered.

9. How will students enroll in technical theater classes?

A: Currently enrolled students can indicate interest in tech classes through our spring course selection process. New students will need to audition through the theater arts audition or another major, be accepted to the school, and then may enroll in technical classes via the course selection process.

10. Why are you making this change?

A: The low numbers of the theater technical program do not support it staying as a full major. We are required to look at numbers of students in courses for scheduling and we are given a specific number of staff positions based on student numbers. In order to preserve having technical classes at all, we must be able to justify numbers of students in classes and fill those classes to a certain capacity. Making technical theater a subset of the theater arts major allows us to fill classes more easily and to ensure that the entire theater arts program has enough students to be sustainable. It also provides a valuable opportunity for our theater major students to sample both "sides" of the theater which is critical for higher education and employment in the field.

11. When will more information on specific classes be available?

A: We expect to have clear class descriptions for all of our art major classes up on the website in second semester. Please watch our website for more information.