

OFF-CAMPUS PROFESSIONAL ENGAGEMENTS FOR THE MUSICAL THEATRE STUDENT

This document supersedes all previous documents - Revised August 2017

Washington DC is the second largest theatrical community in the nation after New York City. The DC Theatrical community respects CUA as a hotbed for creative young talent, and many of our students find their first professional roles in this city. The following guidelines are designed to help you balance off-campus professional engagements while prioritizing your college commitments.

One of the foundational philosophies of the Musical Theatre Division at CUA is that there is no substitute for professional training or for professional experience. We believe that both are necessary to prepare the student for a professional career in the performing arts. The Musical Theatre Division respects and encourages student employment in professional theatrical situations, which is why we require professional theatrical internships for graduation. The faculty of the Musical Theatre Division firmly believes however, that during this time of training you must place a priority on your education over professional experience. You have chosen to be a part of a selective four-year training program designed to prepare you in every aspect for your post-graduation career. When you graduate you will have your entire life to work professionally, but during these four short years we require that you dedicate yourself to your training.

We hope that these guidelines will help provide you the support that you need to make the best decisions possible for your career, your education, and your professional pursuits. -- The MT Faculty

MUSICAL THEATRE GENERAL CRITERIA REGARDING OFF-CAMPUS PROFESSIONAL ENGAGEMENTS

- Freshmen and sophomores will not be permitted to work off-campus during the school year. (*Transfer students who are currently enrolled in Sophomore Workshop are considered "sophomore level" in this regard*).
- Students will generally not be permitted to miss any classes or required class/school events for an outside role without the advance permission of the instructor and division head.

BEFORE ACCEPTING A ROLE

If you meet the above criteria the next step is to consult with your voice teacher about the show and role. If your voice teacher agrees to support you then you need to send an email to the advising committee and head of the division. (Tom Pedersen, Rachelle Fleming, Jay Brock, and Jim Mahady). This emails should cc your voice teacher and include the following information:

- 1) Are you on SOM scholarship?
- 2) What is the name of the theatre, the show, and role offered?
- 3) What are the dates and times of rehearsal?
- 4) What conflicts do you see this having with your required classes and events at CUA