

DRAMATIC WRITING (MFA)

Department Website (<http://www.tisch.nyu.edu/dramatic-writing/>)

NYSED: 08071 HEGIS: 1007.00 CIP: 50.0504

Program Description

To earn the Master of Fine Arts degree in dramatic writing, each student must complete several polished, full-length dramatic works. Here, the process is almost as important as the goal.

During the first year, the graduate seminars in theatre, film and episodic writing train writers in the nature of dramatic situations, character, conflict, plot, structure, dialogue and theme. Students are required to take introductory courses in play, screen, and episodic writing during their first semester and then write complete works in two of the three media by the end of their first year. Also required are production workshops, text analysis and professional training classes. They continue taking production, text and professional training classes in their second year while also taking advanced writing workshops and masterclasses in any of the three media of theater, film or episodic, leading to a master's thesis (an original full-length work) in one medium. In addition, the department offers special seminars and colloquia where students hear guest speakers: visiting playwrights, feature writers, episodic writers, directors, agents, and literary managers who either discuss their work or discuss current topics in the entertainment business as they relate to writers.

The faculty members with whom students meet in weekly workshops are all professional writers. At times, when they feel it would be of benefit to student work, they will call on outside writers to act as consultants and critics. In each student's last semester they will discuss their thesis scripts in an individual crit panel with industry professionals.

Admissions

All graduate applicants to the Tisch School of the Arts are required to submit the General Graduate Application (<https://tisch.nyu.edu/admissions/graduate-admissions/generalapplicationrequirements/>), as well as a department-specific portfolio or creative supplement. Each of these can be submitted online.

See Graduate Admissions (<https://tisch.nyu.edu/admissions/graduate-admissions/>) for admission requirements and instructions specific to this program.

For international applicants, see International Applicant Requirements (<https://tisch.nyu.edu/admissions/graduate-admissions/internationalapplicantrequirements/>). Applicants with international credentials should be sure to check to see if their credentials are equivalent to an American Bachelor's degree (<https://tisch.nyu.edu/admissions/graduate-admissions/USbaequivalency/>) before applying.

Program Requirements

The program requires the minimum completion of 65 credits, comprised of the following:

Course	Title	Credits
Major Requirements		
<i>Writing Core</i>		
DWPG-GT 2062	Graduate Playwriting I	4

DWPG-GT 2066	Graduate Screenwriting I	4
DWPG-GT 2042	Graduate Episodic/TV Writing I: Specs	4
Select two of the following:		8
DWPG-GT 2063	Graduate Playwriting II	
DWPG-GT 2067	Graduate Screenwriting II	
DWPG-GT 2048	Graduate Episodic/TV Writing II: Pilots	
Select one of the following:		4
DWPG-GT 2050	Advanced Playwriting	
DWPG-GT 2055	Advanced Screenwriting	
DWPG-GT 2150	Advanced Episodic/TV Writing: Series	
Select one of the following:		4
DWPG-GT 2060	MFA Thesis in Playwriting	
DWPG-GT 2065	Mfa Thesis in Screenwriting	
DWPG-GT 2070	MFA Thesis in Episodic/TV Writing	
<i>Writing Electives</i>		
Choose four of the following writing electives:		12
DWPG-GT 2063	Graduate Playwriting II	
DWPG-GT 2067	Graduate Screenwriting II	
DWPG-GT 2048	Graduate Episodic/TV Writing II: Pilots	
DWPG-GT 2050	Advanced Playwriting	
DWPG-GT 2055	Advanced Screenwriting	
DWPG-GT 2150	Advanced Episodic/TV Writing: Series	
DWPG-GT 2015	Goldberg Masterclass in Playwriting	
DWPG-GT 2017	Masterclass in Screenwriting	
DWPG-GT 2047	Masterclass in Episodic/TV Writing	
DWPG-GT 2080	Masterclass Across Mediums:	
DWPG-GT 2082	Writing Workshop	
<i>Text Analysis</i>		
DWPG-GT 2630	Comedic Strategies	3
DWPG-GT 2631	Dramatic Strategies	3
Select one of the following:		4
DWPG-GT 2116	Play Story Analysis	
DWPG-GT 2105	Film Story Analysis:	

DWPG-GT 2110	TV Story Analysis:	
Production		
DWPG-GT 2409	Graduate Drama Lab I	2
Select one of the following: ¹		3-4
DWPG-GT 2408		
OART-GT 2560	Fundamentals of Filmmaking I: The Art of Visual Storytelling	
DWPG-GT 2074	Collaboration: Reloaded	
DWPG-GT 2405	Loving Living Playwright	
Professional Training		
DWPG-GT 2350	Business of the Business	1
DWPG-GT 2355	Professional Training	1
Electives		
Other Elective Credits ²		6-9
Total Credits		65

1

Or another production-related course by advisement.

2

Can include an Internship for credit.

Sample Plan of Study

Course	Title	Credits
1st Semester/Term		
DWPG-GT 2062	Graduate Playwriting I	4
DWPG-GT 2066	Graduate Screenwriting I	4
DWPG-GT 2042	Graduate Episodic/TV Writing I: Specs	4
DWPG-GT 2350	Business of the Business	1
Elective		3
Credits		16
2nd Semester/Term		
DWPG-GT 2063	Graduate Playwriting II	4
DWPG-GT 2067	Graduate Screenwriting II	4
DWPG-GT 2050	Advanced Playwriting	3
DWPG-GT 2409	Graduate Drama Lab I	2
Elective		3
Credits		16
3rd Semester/Term		
DWPG-GT 2015	Goldberg Masterclass in Playwriting	3
DWPG-GT 2017	Masterclass in Screenwriting	3
DWPG-GT 2080	Masterclass Across Mediums:	3
DWPG-GT 2405	Loving Living Playwright	3
DWPG-GT 2631	Dramatic Strategies	3
DWPG-GT 2355	Professional Training	1
Credits		16
4th Semester/Term		
DWPG-GT 2630	Comedic Strategies	3
DWPG-GT 2116	Play Story Analysis	4
DWPG-GT 2060	MFA Thesis in Playwriting	4
Elective		3
Internship		1-6
Credits		17
Total Credits		65

Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of the program, graduates will have:

1. The ability to analyze diverse dramatic texts across the three mediums of theater, film and episodic television, and apply what they have learned to their own writing.
2. Completed an original, full length thesis work in one of the three mediums of theater, film or episodic television, presented to a crit panel of outside professionals.
3. Completed a portfolio of original work that includes a thesis work and at least one other full-length work in a different medium.
4. The basic professional training and tools to prepare for a career as a writer.

Policies

NYU Policies

University-wide policies can be found on the New York University Policy pages (<https://bulletins.nyu.edu/nyu/policies/>).

Tisch Policies

Additional academic policies can be found on the Tisch academic policy page (<https://bulletins.nyu.edu/graduate/arts/academic-policies/>).