

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 analysis 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:	3	
DWPG-GT 2050	Advanced Playwriting (or Goldberg Masterclass in 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 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	
Additional Level II or Advanced Seminar, space permitting		
<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:	
<i>Production</i>		
DWPG-GT 2409	Graduate Drama Lab I	2
Select one of the following, or another production-related course by advisement:	3-4	
OART-GT 2560	Fundamentals of Filmmaking I: The Art of Visual Storytelling	
DWPG-GT 2082	Writing Workshop (Theatricality Workshop)	

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 ¹		9
Total Credits		65

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/>).

¹ Graduate students are strongly encouraged to complete an internship and can do so for elective credit at any point after the first semester.

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 2631	Dramatic Strategies	3
DWPG-GT 2409	Graduate Drama Lab I	2
	Credits	17
2nd Semester/Term		
DWPG-GT XXX	Level II Writing Seminar	4
DWPG-GT XXX	Level II Writing Seminar	4
DWPG-GT XXX	Writing Elective	3
DWPG-GT 2630	Comedic Strategies	3
Elective		4
	Credits	18
3rd Semester/Term		
DWPG-GT XXX	Advanced Seminar	3
DWPG-GT XXX	Writing Elective	3
DWPG-GT XXX	Writing Elective	3
DWPG-GT 2350	Business of the Business	1
DWPG-GT 2355	Professional Training	1
Production Course		3
	Credits	14
4th Semester/Term		
DWPG-GT XXX	Thesis	4
DWPG-GT XXX	Writing Elective	3
DWPG-GT XXX	Text Analysis	4
Elective		3
Elective		2
	Credits	16
	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.