

GRADUATE MUSICAL THEATRE WRITING (MFA)

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

NYSED: 80290 HEGIS: 1099.00 CIP: 50.0504

Program Description

The Graduate Musical Theatre Writing Program curriculum is designed in a nontraditional format with a major emphasis on collaboration. This involves both team-teaching by the core and adjunct faculty and extensive writing collaborations among the students.

At the heart of the Program are the writing labs, led by the core faculty and adjuncts. These labs focus heavily on craft; collaboration and communication between artists of different disciplines; storytelling in music, lyrics and book; and the creation of content that is meaningful and relevant. They are supported by ongoing seminars and tutorials which address both larger aesthetic issues and discipline-specific concerns. Additional classes provide opportunities for interdisciplinary collaboration as well as perspective on the state of the field and life as a professional.

Our students come from across the United States and around the world to share their lived experiences and their desire to express them in words and music. In their first year, they are divided into frequently rotating teams to conceive, write, and present writing projects in a variety of media to their peers and teachers. Their second year is spent working primarily with the same collaborator or collaborators, creating the music and words for a full-length musical theatre work. During the course of the Program, students learn how to give constructive criticism and how to incorporate feedback that is useful to them as individuals and to their collaborative teams in the rewriting of their work.

The Program is dedicated to a future in which all creative voices are heard equally, with a special emphasis on the collaborative fusion of those voices. We believe the same principles of musical theatre writing apply regardless of style, genre or medium; and view all works from the past as an opportunity to learn how creators throughout history have treated the same musical-dramatic issues the students are grappling with in their own work.

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 completion of 64 credits, comprised of the following:

Course	Title	Credits
Major Requirements		
GMTW-GT 1001	Writing Workshop I - Part I	2
GMTW-GT 1003	Theatre/Music Theatre I	3
GMTW-GT 1004	Crafts of Musical Theatre I: (taken multiple times; various sections)	1-6
GMTW-GT 1007	Writing Workshop II - Part 1	2
GMTW-GT 1025	The American Musical I	2
GMTW-GT 1008	The American Musical II	2
GMTW-GT 1009	Theatre/Musical Thtre II	3
GMTW-GT 1010	Crafts of Musical Theatre II: (taken multiple times; various sections)	1-4
GMTW-GT 1013	Writing Workshop III	2
GMTW-GT 1014	The American Musical III	2
GMTW-GT 1015	Theatre/Musical Theatre	3
GMTW-GT 1016	Crafts of Musical Theatre III: (taken multiple times; various sections)	1-6
GMTW-GT 1019	Writing Workshop IV	2
GMTW-GT 1020	The American Musical IV	2
GMTW-GT 1021	Theatre/Musical Thtre IV	3
GMTW-GT 1026	Writing Workshop I - Part II	2
GMTW-GT 1022	Crafts of Musical Theatre IV: (taken multiple times; various sections)	1-6
GMTW-GT 1027	Writing Workshop II - Part 2	2
Electives		
Graduate Elective Courses ¹		4-8
Total Credits		64

¹ Chosen in consultation with an academic adviser.

Sample Plan of Study

Course	Title	Credits
1st Semester/Term		
GMTW-GT 1001	Writing Workshop I - Part I	2
GMTW-GT 1026	Writing Workshop I - Part II	2
GMTW-GT 1025	The American Musical I	2
GMTW-GT 1003	Theatre/Music Theatre I	3
GMTW-GT 1004	Crafts of Musical Theatre I: (Music)	2
GMTW-GT 1004	Crafts of Musical Theatre I: (Playwriting)	1
GMTW-GT 1004	Crafts of Musical Theatre I: (Lyrics)	2
GMTW-GT 1004	Crafts of Musical Theatre I: (Structures)	2
GMTW-GT 1004	Crafts of Musical Theatre I: (Songwriting)	2
Credits		18
2nd Semester/Term		
GMTW-GT 1007	Writing Workshop II - Part 1	2
GMTW-GT 1027	Writing Workshop II - Part 2	2
GMTW-GT 1008	The American Musical II	2
GMTW-GT 1009	Theatre/Musical Thtre II	3
GMTW-GT 1010	Crafts of Musical Theatre II: (Music)	2
GMTW-GT 1010	Crafts of Musical Theatre II: (Playwriting)	1
GMTW-GT 1010	Crafts of Musical Theatre II: (Lyrics)	2
GMTW-GT 1010	Crafts of Musical Theatre II: (Structures)	2

GMTW-GT 1010	Crafts of Musical Theatre II: (Songwriting)	2
	Credits	18
3rd Semester/Term		
GMTW-GT 1013	Writing Workshop III	2
GMTW-GT 1014	The American Musical III	2
GMTW-GT 1015	Theatre/Musical Theatre	3
GMTW-GT 1016	Crafts of Musical Theatre III: (Music)	1
GMTW-GT 1016	Crafts of Musical Theatre III: (Playwriting)	1
GMTW-GT 1016	Crafts of Musical Theatre III: (Lyrics)	1
GMTW-GT 1016	Crafts of Musical Theatre III: (Structures)	1
GMTW-GT 1016	Crafts of Musical Theatre III: (Songwriting)	1
Graduate Elective Course		2-4
	Credits	14
4th Semester/Term		
GMTW-GT 1019	Writing Workshop IV	2
GMTW-GT 1020	The American Musical IV	2
GMTW-GT 1021	Theatre/Musical Thre IV	3
GMTW-GT 1022	Crafts of Musical Theatre IV: (Music)	1
GMTW-GT 1022	Crafts of Musical Theatre IV: (Playwriting)	1
GMTW-GT 1022	Crafts of Musical Theatre IV: (Lyrics)	1
GMTW-GT 1022	Crafts of Musical Theatre IV: (Structures)	1
GMTW-GT 1022	Crafts of Musical Theatre IV: (Songwriting)	1
Graduate Elective Course		2-4
	Credits	14
Total Credits		64

Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of the program, graduates will have:

1. The ability to create works for the musical theatre that weds form to content in original ways that most closely fulfill their unique artistic visions and successfully communicate their dramatic intentions to the audience.
2. The ability to work collaboratively.
3. Professional conduct and knowledge of the musical theatre industry.
4. The specific skills and strategies required of them to function as a composer, bookwriter or lyricist participating in a collaborative art form.

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/>).