

WRITING FOR THE SCREEN AND STAGE MFA

Degree Requirements

The following requirements are in addition to, or further elaborate upon, those requirements outlined in The Graduate School Policy Guide (<https://catalogs.northwestern.edu/tgs/academic-policies-procedures/>).

Master's

Total Units Required: 18

Course	Title
Core Courses (9)	
RTVF 561-0	Screenwriting Workshop ¹
RTVF 562-0	Television Writing Workshop ¹
RTVF 563-0	Playwriting Workshop ¹
RTVF 564-0	Full Length Project (Feature Thesis 1) ²
RTVF 565-0	Full-length Project II (Feature Thesis 2) ³
RTVF 566-0	Full-length Project III (Feature Thesis 3) ⁴
Topics Courses AND Electives (6-8)	
RTVF 360-0	Topics in Media Writing (or other media writing electives with approval of the Director of the MFA)
or RTVF 464-0	Advanced Media Writing

Sample courses include:

Writing the Production-Ready Short Film

Writing Romantic Comedy

The Art, Business, and Ethics of Assignment Writing

Writing Horror/Fantasy/Supernatural

Writing the Dramatic Pilot

Writing the Comedy Screenplay

Writing the ½ Hour Spec Script

Writing the Sci-Fi Script

Advanced Sitcom Writing

Writing the Anti-Hero

Writing the Fact-Based Drama

LGBTQIA for Theater, TV, and/or Web

Improv for Writers

Pitching the TV Series

Writing and Performing Stand-Up

Political Drama Between Stage and Screen

Writing the Historical Drama

Activist Video for the Web

Creativity and Flow in Screenwriting

Writing the Feature Film

Workshopping the Full-Length Project

Writing Styles

Advanced Scene Workshop

Electives

From Production, Screen Cultures, or Writing/RTVF, Performance Studies, Art Theory and Practice, Theatre or other departments with approval of MFA program director.

Production Course (1)

RTVF or Theatre (300-level or higher) with the approval of the Director of the MFA.

Theory/history/culture Courses (300-level or higher) (1)

From Screen Cultures/RTVF, Performance Studies, Art Theory and Practice, Theatre, or other departments with approval of MFA program director.

Internship (1)

RTVF 490-1	Professional Experience Practicum
RTVF 490-2	Professional Experience Capstone

¹ Required in 1st and 2nd year. There is no need for these classes to be taken in a particular sequence.

² Public reading of thesis.

³ Focus on collaboration, revision.

⁴ Public productions of thesis / focus on the business of writing.

Other MFA Degree Requirements

- MFA students will be allowed to take a maximum of 20 credits.
- Grade average: Students must maintain a B average. If a student's average is not a B or higher by the end of the first year, he or she may be asked to leave the program.
- Final portfolio Review/Defense: In consultation with the Director of the Program, each student will choose a committee of two faculty members to review his/her final portfolio (at least 3 substantial scripts created within the context of courses) and to judge his/her final defense of that portfolio.