

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.