If you are interested in developing your dramatic writing skills for stage and screen in a collaborative, immersive environment, this MFA program provides rigorous training and opportunities you need to take your passion to the next level.

Program Description

Degree Awarded: MFA Theatre (Dramatic Writing)
The concentration in dramatic writing under the MFA in theatre includes coursework in playwriting, screenwriting, historical studies in theatre, dramatic theory, directing new work, literary management, electives and related topics such as writing for solo performance, storytelling, devising and collaborative writing.

The School of Music, Dance and Theatre supports the production of new plays and performance works written by its Master of Fine Arts students. Student-written work is included in the Theatre Labs and is considered for main stage productions.

At a Glance

- College/School: Herberger Institute for Design and the Arts
- Location: Tempe campus

Degree Requirements

60 credit hours including the required applied project course (THP 693)

Required Core (27 credit hours)
THE 500 Research Methods (3)
THE 504 Studies in Dramatic Theory and Criticism (3)
THE 520 Theatre History and Literature (3)  
THP 560 Dramatic Writer's Workshop (15)  
THP 561 Scripts in Progress (3)  

Concentration (9 credit hours)  
THE 562 Literary Management Workshop (3)  
THP 520 Directing the New Play (3)  
THP 598 Special Topics (3)  

Electives (18 credit hours)  

Culminating Experience (6 credit hours)  
THP 693 Applied Project (6)  

Additional Curriculum Information  
As part of the electives coursework, students are required to complete an internship (THP 684) for three credit hours.  

Students should see the academic unit for a complete list of approved electives.  

The applied project is the writing of a thesis play, which is to be developed as one of the following: a full production on the school's main stage, a staged reading, or a workshop production.  

Admission Requirements  
Applicants must fulfill the requirements of both the Graduate College and the Herberger Institute for Design and the Arts.  

Applicants are eligible to apply to the program if they have earned a bachelor's or master's degree in theatre or in creative writing from a regionally accredited institution. An applicant may have an undergraduate degree outside of theatre and may be admitted on the basis of excellent creative writing and academic work. Deficiencies in undergraduate preparation may be removed while pursuing the MFA degree.  

Applicants must have a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.00 (scale is 4.00 = "A") in the last 60 hours of their first bachelor's degree program, or applicants must have a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.00 (scale is 4.00 = "A") in an applicable master's degree program.  

All applicants must submit:  
1. graduate admission application and application fee  
2. official transcripts  
3. three letters of recommendation  
4. current resume
5. statement of career goals, including writing endeavors or interests
6. manuscript sample of either a full-length play (60 pages or more) or a series of one-act plays (30
   pages minimum)
7. proof of English proficiency

Additional Application Information
An applicant whose native language is not English must provide proof of English proficiency regardless
of current residency.

Career Opportunities
Professionals with an Master of Fine Arts in dramatic writing regularly have their work produced at
festivals, staged readings and theatres across the country. They have obtained highly competitive artist
residencies and awards for their work. Some have had their plays published.

Career examples include:

- publishing plays
- readings and full productions of work at theatre festivals
- teaching in a variety of contexts from adjunct, visiting faculty, and professors of practice
- working at an established arts organization in a variety of roles
- working as a teaching artist
- work produced and staged professionally at established theatres and venues

Contact Information
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