

## MFA guidelines - Dramatic Writing

### Program Overview

The Dramatic Writing Program is an intensive 2-3 year\* plan of study designed to prepare students for a career as a writer in the professional theatre or film industry. We strive to develop writers as collaborative artists who will become the emerging voices of new writing in America. Graduates of the program will not only have the capability to create new works for stage and screen, but also to become leaders in the academic training of future generations of writers.

It is the philosophy of the program to provide writers with the opportunity to see their work realized at all stages of development, from simple staged readings to developmental workshops and technically supported productions.

\* Ask about our new distance-delivered, low-residency MFA option

### Plan of Study

The MFA in Dramatic Writing requires a minimum of 60 credit hours of coursework over a 2 -3 year\* period and the satisfactory completion of a final Thesis Project, which takes the form of a full-length play or feature-length screenplay.

At the heart of the writing program is The MFA Writer's Studio, a course in which students enroll each semester of their residency.

In addition to the development of new writing, students enroll in a suite of courses (both within and outside the department) designed to help the writer develop their unique voice and vision, understand the role of the writer within a historical, cultural and political context, and expose them to a variety of styles and approaches to creating new work.

Students also work closely with the head of the program acquire summer internship programs in the area of new play development.

### Staged Readings & Productions

Writers are required to hold at least one staged reading of their work in progress each semester of their residency in the MFA in Dramatic Writing Program. Students that have completed works deemed ready for production are invited to submit them to the Season Selection Committee for consideration. Each year two production slots are reserved for original works from our MFA students.

### How To Apply:

1. Schedule an initial phone interview with Robert Caisley, Head of the Dramatic Writing area.
2. Submit an electronic version of a current writing sample to rcaisley@uidaho.edu (please attach as a .pdf)
3. Apply to the University of Idaho's College of Graduate Studies through the Graduate Admissions website at <http://www.students.uidaho.edu/default.aspx?pid=71120>
4. Have three (3) current letters of reference sent on your behalf to:

Robert Caisley, Head of Dramatic Writing Area  
Department of Theatre Arts  
University of Idaho  
P.O. Box 442008  
Corner of 6th and Rayburn  
Shoup Hall - 2nd Floor  
Moscow, ID 83844-2008

(Note: These letters can be sent by mail, but the preferred method is a scanned .pdf copy of the original signed letter.)

To schedule your phone interview, please email [rcaisley@uidaho.edu](mailto:rcaisley@uidaho.edu) or call (208) 885-7399.