

Department of Theatre Arts

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 professional playwright or to become leaders in the academic training of future generations of playwrights. 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 and our new MA →MFA conversion program.*

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 Exit Project, which takes the form of a full-length play. 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 designed to help the writer develop their unique voice and vision, understand the role of the playwright within a historical, cultural and political context, and expose them to a variety of styles and approaches to creating new work. Students work closely with the head of the program to acquire internship and engagement opportunities in the area of new play development.

Current and former students have gone on to nominees and award winners of the David Mark Cohen Award, the National Ten Minute Play Award from KCACTF, and the prestigious Heideman Award from Actors Theatre of Louisville. Students have secured internships and had their work presented at Seven Devils Playwrights Conference, the Denver Center Theatre, Ensemble Studio Theatre, NYARTS Summer Theatre Conservatory and jobs in the field as literary managers, dramaturgs, artistic directors and teachers.

Staged Readings & Productions

The Dramatic Writing program provides playwrights with opportunities to see their work realized at all stages of developmental. In addition to producing a Fall Ten Minute Play Festival of student work and a Spring One Act Festival, the department is committed to regularly producing new work on the mainstage during our academic season.

How To Apply

1. Schedule an initial phone interview with Robert Caisley, Head of the Dramatic Writing area. To schedule your phone interview, please email rcaisley@uidaho.edu or call (208) 885-7399.
2. [Apply](#) to the University of Idaho's College of Graduate Studies.
3. Submit an electronic version of a current writing sample to rcaisley@uidaho.edu
4. Arrange for three (3) current letters of reference sent on your behalf to Robert Caisley. (Note: These letters can be sent by mail, but the preferred method is a scanned copy of the original signed letter.)

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