



School of Communication and the Arts

FACT SHEET

Master of Fine Arts in Acting

Major: Acting, with optional concentrations (General Concentration or Directing Concentration)

Program Description

The primary aim of the MFA in Acting degree program is to prepare actors to enter the marketplace and compete as professional actors. As a terminal degree, it is also preparatory for a teaching career in higher education. It encompasses a range of performance-related course work including: acting for the stage and screen, acting Shakespeare, acting in periods and styles, vocal production for the actor, dialects, the International Phonetic Alphabet (IPA), research and aesthetics, movement for the actor, auditioning and the business of acting, and stage combat. MFA actors have multiple opportunities to apply skills achieved in the classroom to Regent Theatre productions in both the Mainstage and Secondstage theatre seasons. Additionally, MFA Actors are encouraged to participate in the numerous student film projects produced each semester under the guidance of faculty in the Department of Cinema and Television.

The MFA in Acting culminates in a Thesis/Creative Project (typically the performance of an assigned role) and a Showcase Production of scenes and monologues presented for industry personnel in New York City. Though the occasional course may have a distance option, the course of study overwhelmingly consists of performance-oriented coursework that can only be taken on-campus. Admission into the degree program is by audition and invitation of the performance faculty.

Leaders to Change the World! It is the mission of the Department of Theatre Arts to educate and train undergraduate and graduate students to incisively examine and effectively communicate, through intellectual analysis and the realization of live theatrical performance, the great truths of the human condition as perceived through the lens of a Christian worldview. The department seeks to develop artists of excellence who will function with moral and spiritual integrity offering redemptive messages creatively and thoughtfully expressed through the theatre arts.

The MFA in Acting Program is designed to produce professionals prepared to enter the academy and teach at the college/university level and/or compete in the professional theatre and cinema industries via the following strategies:

- A focused cohort model consisting of six consecutive semesters of study. A 60 credit-hour degree program.
- A strong integration of theory and technique in practice.
- A faculty offering a solid and accepted range of current methodologies and technique.

- A rigorous audition and interview process insuring all incoming MFA in Acting students have been examined and exhibit a proven level of talent and technique; thus all MFA level acting courses will contain students with proven potential to succeed in the profession.
- A culminating experience that challenges the student to apply all of the knowledge and skill sets acquired during the student's course of study.

Degree Outcomes

- All MFA in Acting students will demonstrate mastery of objective-driven acting technique at a professionally competitive level.
- All MFA in Acting students will demonstrate objective driven acting as the cornerstone of performance in diverse literary genres.
- All MFA in Acting students will articulate and defend artistic choices in the language of acting craft, ensuring their relevance as informed collaborators in the creative process
- All MFA in Acting students will demonstrate healthy, effective, character-driven work in the applied disciplines of voice and movement

Program Requirements

- ***Audition and Interview:*** Students seeking entrance into the MFA program must audition and interview. The Department of Theatre Arts holds MFA auditions during the months of January, February, and March at venues across the country. The audition schedule is published each fall on the departmental webpage. Videotaped auditions are accepted, but it is highly recommended that prospective students attend one of the national audition sites or on-site auditions at the university.
- ***Practicum in Theatre Production Requirements:*** The student is required to register for THE 781 Practicum in Theatre Production four (4) times during their course of study. THE 781 requires the student to serve on a mainstage production running crew. However, MFA students may register for the zero (0) credit hour option if they do not wish to earn academic credit for the practicum experience. If they chose to earn credit, the course may be repeated up to three times for a total of three (3) credit hours of elective.
- ***Exit Interviews:*** Each student admitted to the program is required to have an "End-of-Year Interview" with the performance faculty, at which time progress will be discussed in detail. Continuation in the program is by invitation.
- ***General Knowledge Entrance Examination:*** All students pursuing the MFA in Acting must pass the Theatre Arts General Knowledge Entrance Examination within their first two semesters as a registered student in the program (fall/spring semesters). The exam is offered twice each semester for a total of four times in the year. All incoming MFA students are automatically registered for the first exam date, typically the first Friday of the fall term. If students do not pass the exam the first time, they are automatically registered for the next exam date. This process continues until students either pass the exam or reach the end of their first year in the program without a passing score. A score of 70% or higher is considered passing. Failing to pass the exam constitutes dismissal from the program or being assigned to a course of undergraduate leveling studies in theatre history. The course of action following a failed exam will be determined by the theatre

faculty. Exam dates are published annually in the Departmental Handbook which is available on the department's website. The website also contains a study guide for the exam.

- **Optional Concentrations:** The MFA degree offers two distinct concentrations. The first is a General Concentration which allows students to choose nine (9) hours of elective coursework in addition to the 51 hours of required courses. The second is a Directing Concentration which allows students to take nine (9) hours of prescribed coursework in directing to supplement the required core of 51 hours. All students accepted into the MFA Acting Program initially matriculate into the General Concentration. Once accepted, students exhibiting a strong interest (and proven ability) in directing may apply for a limited number of positions in the Directing Concentration.

Required Courses for the MFA in Acting (51 credit hours):

UNIV LIB Information Research (non-credit, fee based, online)	0
THE 700 Research & Aesthetics in Theatre	3
THE 710 The Meisner Technique 1	3
THE 711 The Meisner Technique 2	3
THE 712 Unarmed Combat for the Stage	3
THE 713 Textual Analysis for Production	3
THE 721 Rapier & Dagger for the Stage	3
THE 727 Movement for the Actor	3
THE 728 Scene Study	3
THE 730 Screen Acting 1	3
THE 731 Screen Acting 2	3
THE 734 Vocal Production for the Actor 1	3
THE 735 Vocal Production for the Actor 2	3
THE 740 Acting Shakespeare	3
THE 741 Acting in Periods & Styles	3
THE 742 Weapons of the Stage	3
THE 750 Auditioning & the Business of Acting	3
THE 799 MFA Thesis/Creative Project	3

Degree Concentration Options – (9 credit hours):

- **Option #1: General Concentration**
Students choose nine (9) credit hours of elective coursework to satisfy General Concentration requirements. Students are encouraged to satisfy elective hours through the rotating topics of THE 775: Special Topics in Theatre. However, students may take any graduate-level course offered by the Department of Theatre Arts for elective credit. Students may also take elective coursework outside of the department (including courses offered by the Department of Cinema-Television) with the approval of their advisor.
- **Option #2: Directing Concentration**
THE 722 Advanced Directing for the Stage 1
- THE 723 Advanced Directing for the Stage 2
- THE 724 Stage Management for the Theatre

Course Schedule: The three-year schedule varies by concentration and the year of matriculation into the program.

- **MFA in Acting (General Concentration)**

Cohorts entering fall, even years (fall of 2010, 2012, 2014, etc.)

Year One

Fall semester (even)

Research and Aesthetics
Meisner 1
Vocal Production for the Actor 1
Special Topics (1-3 crs)

Spring semester (odd)

Text Analysis
Meisner 2
Vocal Production for the Actor 2
Special Topics (1-3 crs)

Year Two

Fall semester (odd)

Acting in Periods and Styles
Combat 1: Unarmed
Scene Study
Special Topics (1-3 crs)

Spring semester (even)

Acting Shakespeare
Combat 2: Rapier and Dagger
Movement for the Actor
Special Topics (1-3 crs)

Year Three

Fall semester (even)

Screen Acting 1
Combat 3: Weapons
Special Topics (1-3 crs)

Spring semester (odd)

Screen Acting 2
Thesis
Auditioning/Business of Acting

- **MFA in Acting (General Concentration)**

Cohorts entering fall, odd years (fall of 2009, 2011, 2013, etc.)

Year One

Fall semester (odd)

Research and Aesthetics
Meisner 1
Combat 1: Unarmed
Movement for the Actor

Spring semester (even)

Text Analysis
Combat 2: Rapier and Dagger
Scene Study
Special Topics (1-3 crs)

Year Two

Fall semester (even)

Vocal Production for the Actor 1
Combat 3: Weapons
Screen Acting 1
Special Topics (1-3 crs)

Spring semester (odd)

Vocal Production for the Actor 2
Meisner 2
Screen Acting 2
Special Topics (1-3 crs)

Year Three

Fall semester (odd)

Acting in Periods and Styles
Special Topics (1-3 crs)

Spring semester (even)

Shakespeare
Thesis
Auditioning/Business of Acting

- **MFA in Acting (Directing Concentration)**

Cohorts entering fall, even years (fall of 2010, 2012, 2014, etc.)

Year One

Fall semester (even)

Research and Aesthetics
Meisner 1
Vocal Production for the Actor 1
Adv. Directing 1

Spring semester (odd)

Text Analysis
Meisner 2
Vocal Production for the Actor 2
Adv. Directing 2

Year Two

Fall semester (odd)

Acting in Periods and Styles
Combat 1: Unarmed
Scene Study

Spring semester (even)

Acting Shakespeare
Combat 2: Rapier and Dagger
Movement for the Actor
Stage Management

Year Three

Fall semester (even)

Screen Acting 1
Combat 3: Weapons
Special Topics (1-3 crs)

Spring semester (odd)

Screen Acting 2
Thesis
Auditioning/Business of Acting

- **MFA in Acting (Directing Concentration)**

Cohorts entering fall, odd years (fall of 2009, 2011, 2013, etc.)

Year One

Fall semester (odd)

Research and Aesthetics
Meisner 1
Combat 1: Unarmed
Movement for the Actor

Spring semester (even)

Text Analysis
Combat 2: Rapier and Dagger
Scene Study
Stage Management

Year Two

Fall semester (even)

Vocal Production for the Actor 1
Combat 3: Weapons
Screen Acting 1
Adv. Directing 1

Spring semester (odd)

Vocal Production for the Actor 2
Meisner 2
Screen Acting 2
Adv. Directing 2

Year Three

Fall semester (odd)

Period Styles
Special Topics (1-3 crs)

Spring semester (even)

Shakespeare
Thesis
Auditioning/Business of Acting

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