

## MFA Screenwriting Curriculum

### 1<sup>st</sup> Year

### 2<sup>nd</sup> Year

Fall	Spring	Fall	Spring	Summer
380J: First Year Screenwriting	380J: First Year Rewriting	380M: Advanced Screenwriting I	380M: Advanced Screenwriting II	384N: Internship
380P: Production for Writers	380N: Intro to Television	380N: Adaptation	380N: The Writer's Room	Thesis Independent Study
Minor or RTF Elective	385K: History of Film	Minor or RTF Elective	Minor or RTF Elective	398R: Master's Report *

The M.F.A. degree requires the successful completion of 45 course hours. Once you enter the program, you must maintain a minimum GPA of 3.0. The 45 course hours consist of the following:

21 RTF screenwriting hours (7 courses):

- 380J (First Year Screenwriting, Fall Year 1)
- 380J (First Year Rewriting, Spring Year 1)
- 380N (Intro to Television, Spring Year 1)
- 380M (Advanced Screenwriting I, Fall Year 2)
- 380N (Adaptation, Fall Year 2)
- 380M (Advanced Screenwriting II, Spring Year 2)
- 380N (The Writer's Room, Spring Year 2)

3 RTF 380P Production for Writers

3 RTF 385 History of Film

3 Elective RTF hours (1 course). This may be a production or studies course.

6 Non-RTF hours (2 courses). These two courses are also referred to as your "minor." Any courses outside the RTF Department are eligible to fulfill this requirement, but they must represent a coherent program of study. In other words, the two courses should be conceptually related by discipline or theme.

- 3 Internship hours
- 3 Thesis Independent Study hours. You will take an independent study with your thesis supervisor after the completion of your required coursework.
- 3 Master's Report hours (one course, RTF 398R)
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- 45 Total hours (15 classes)

The Minor:

As required by the University, six hours must be in the student's declared minor. Any courses outside the RTF department are eligible to fulfill the minor, but must be conceptually related by discipline or theme.

Undergraduate Courses:

Of the total 45 hours, 6 hours may be from upper-division undergraduate classes (RTF 320 or above).

Credit/No Credit:

Students may take a maximum 9 hours for Credit/No Credit. However, History of Film, the Production Workshop for Writers and the six required screenwriting courses may not be taken on a Credit/No Credit basis.

Independent Study:

One non-screenwriting independent study (RTF 388) -- in addition to the Thesis Independent Study -- may be counted toward your degree.

The Thesis Committee:

Students must choose their thesis committees by Spring Break of their 2<sup>nd</sup> year, and names of committee members must be reported to the Graduate Coordinator's office. Students are responsible for coordinating all due dates and deadlines with their committees. A committee of two faculty members is standard: a supervisor and reader. The supervisor must be a member of the RTF screenwriting faculty, with the rank of Assistant Professor or higher, while the reader may come from any rank, including lecturer. All members of the committee are required to read and critique both the thesis project and thesis report, and may sign off on the report only when both are completed.

The Thesis Project:

The screenplay revised in the Thesis Independent Study will serve as your thesis project. In place of a feature, you may submit two or more revised television scripts, totaling at least 90 pages.

NOTE: the thesis project is not submitted to the Graduate School.

\* The Thesis Report:

In addition to the thesis script, the University requires M.F.A. students to write a report detailing your creative process and the screenplay's development. Examples are on file in the Graduate Coordinator's office. All members of your thesis committee must read and sign your report, which is then submitted to the Graduate School.

NOTE: be careful to follow all submission and formatting guidelines outlined by the Graduate School: <http://www.utexas.edu/ogs/pdn/>.

The Master's Report class (398R) MUST be taken in your final semester. The class may be taken multiple times, but only once for credit and it MUST be taken in the semester in which you graduate. You do not need to be "in residence" to enroll in RTF 398R, which may be taken during the Semester in L.A.