

MFA Screenwriting Curriculum

1 st Year		2 nd Year		
Fall	Spring	Fall	Spring	Summer
380J: Intro to Dramatic Writing	380J: Theory of Dramatic Writing	380M: Writing for Film	380M: Writing for Film	UTLA Semester in L.A. program OR 384N: Internship
385K: History of Film	380N: Writing for Television	380N: Adaptation	Minor or RTF Elective	Thesis Independent Study
380P: Production Workshop for Writers	Minor or RTF Elective/ 396 UTFI *	Minor or RTF Elective	Minor or RTF Elective/ 396 UTFI *	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:

- 18 RTF screenwriting hours (6 courses):
- 380J (Intro to Dramatic Writing, Fall, Year 1)
 - 380J (Theory of Dramatic Writing, Spring, Year 1)
 - 380N (Writing for Television, Spring, Year 1)
 - 380M (Writing for Film, Fall, Year 2)
 - 380N (Adaptation, Fall, Year 2)
 - 380M (Writing for Film, Spring Year 2)
- 3 Production hours in RTF 380P , Production Workshop for Writers
- 3 Internship hours (either the UTLA Semester in L.A. program or another internship)
- 3 RTF studies hours in RTF 385 History of Film
- 3 Thesis Independent Study hours. You will take an independent study with your thesis supervisor after the completion of your required coursework.
- 6 Elective RTF hours (2 courses). These may be production or studies courses.
- 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 Master's Report hours (one course, RTF 398R)
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- 45 Total hours (15 classes)

* RTF 396:

The Screenwriting faculty recommends that you consider taking the UTFI class as one of your RTF electives. This is not a required course, however, and enrollment is based on instructor approval.

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 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 2nd 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.