



DEPARTMENT OF
HIGHER EDUCATION &
WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

New Program Report

Date Submitted:

03/03/2020

Institution

Missouri State University

Site Information

Implementation Date:

8/1/2020 12:00:00 AM

Added Site(s):

Selected Site(s):

Missouri State University, 901 South National, Springfield, MO, 65897

CIP Information

CIP Code:

500504

CIP Description:

A program that focuses on the principles and techniques for communicating dramatic information, ideas, moods, and feelings through the composition of creative written works for the theatre, film, and/or television. Includes instruction in creative writing craft, scene writing, script development, stage and/or camera instructions, line and moment analysis, script reading, script editing, and the creation of full productions.

CIP Program Title:

Playwriting and Screenwriting

Institution Program Title:

Dramatic Writing

Degree Level/Type

Degree Level:

Master Degree

Degree Type:

Master of Fine Arts

Options Added:

Collaborative Program:

N

Mode of Delivery

Current Mode of Delivery

Classroom

Student Preparation



DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION & WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

New Program Report

Special Admissions Procedure or Student Qualifications required:

We actively welcome students from any background, any undergraduate major, and any level of professional experience who are willing to share their perspectives. Our only special application requirement is that applicants should submit a writing sample of no more than 10 pages that highlights their strongest writing.

Specific Population Characteristics to be served:

n/a

Faculty Characteristics

Special Requirements for Assignment of Teaching for this Degree/Certificate:

Terminal degrees (MFA) in screenwriting, playwriting, or related field, however we would consider applicants with the appropriate professional credentials and any Master's degree.

Estimate Percentage of Credit Hours that will be assigned to full time faculty:

Roughly 90% of our classes will be assigned to full time faculty.

Expectations for professional activities, special student contact, teaching/learning innovation:

The faculty will share their expertise and professional knowledge of craft through writing courses. Outside of this, students will work closely with faculty on their thesis scripts, writing portfolio, and staged productions. Students will have hands-on opportunities to produce work for stage and/or screen, including student-written scripts in various media. They will gain both producing and production experience in addition to learning the craft of writing for various professional outlets.

Student Enrollment Projections Year One-Five

Year 1	Full Time: 2	Part Time: 2	
Year 2	Full Time: 5	Part Time: 2	
Year 3	Full Time: 9	Part Time: 3	Number of Graduates: 2
Year 4	Full Time: 13	Part Time: 3	
Year 5	Full Time: 14	Part Time: 3	Number of Graduates: 5

Percentage Statement:

n/a

Program Accreditation

Institutional Plans for Accreditation:

N/A. There is not an accrediting agency for this field.

Program Structure

Total Credits:

60

Residency Requirements:

While we don't anticipate many transfer students, all students must complete at least 40 hours of the degree at Missouri State (as consistent with Missouri State's Graduate College policy).

General Education Total Credits:

0



DEPARTMENT OF
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Major Requirements Total Credits:

60

Course(s) Added

COURSE NUMBER	CREDITS	COURSE TITLE
MED 610	3	Playwriting I

Free Elective Credits:

0

Internship or other Capstone Experience:

All students will develop a Final Portfolio of their work, which the supervisory committee will review. These portfolios, developed in the final semester of graduate study through the course MED 719, must have: Multiple well-polished scripts across a diverse range of media (film, TV, web, stage); these works should highlight the student strengths and be geared toward the current professional marketplace; A clearly written overview of these projects; A successful oral defense of the portfolio.

Assurances

I certify that the program is clearly within the institution's CBHE-approved mission. The proposed new program must be consistent with the institutional mission, as well as the principal planning priorities of the public institution, as set forth in the public institution's approved plan or plan update.

I certify that the program will be offered within the proposing institution's main campus, CBHE-approved service region or CBHE-approved off-site location.

I certify that the program will not unnecessarily duplicate an existing program within the geographically applicable area.

I certify that the program will build upon existing programs and faculty expertise.

I certify that the program can be launched with minimal expense and falls within the institution's current operating budget.

I certify that the institution has conducted research on the feasibility of the proposal and it is likely the program will be successful. Institutions' decision to implement a program shall be based upon demand and/or need for the program in terms of meeting present and future needs of the locale, state, and nation based upon societal needs, and/or student needs.

Contact Information

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Tiggemann

Email: kt42e@missouristate.edu

Phone: 417-836-5586

Missouri State University
MFA in Dramatic Writing

Estimated Costs for the First Five Years

	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
Expenditures					
A. One Time					
Equipment: (four basic camera kits; \$3,200 x 4)	\$12,800	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Total One-Time Costs (A)	\$12,800	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
B. Recurring					
Graduate Assistants (\$8,700 each) [2/year for a 3-year program]	\$17,400	\$34,800	\$52,200	\$52,200	\$52,200
Other: Contingency (Maintenance, repair, website, etc.)	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000
Other: Contest Entries	\$600	\$600	\$800	\$800	\$1,000
Other: Recruitment Costs	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000
Other: Guest Speakers	\$500	\$500	\$500	\$500	\$500
Total Recurring Cost (B)	20,500	37,900	55,500	55,500	55,700
Total (A+B)	\$33,300	\$37,900	\$55,500	\$55,500	\$55,700

FACULTY: The department of Media, Journalism & Film's existing full time faculty will be working on this program, as well as covering undergraduate screenwriting sections. In order to cover these new classes, as well as offer our existing course offerings, we will not only increase the course loads of our four per-course instructors, but also offer undergraduate sections to qualified GAs and potentially use overload hours for existing screenwriting faculty. Additional faculty lines will be decided by the COAL cost center as part of our ongoing succession plan. Dean Wahl is aware of these needs and is supportive of the program.

Master of Fine Arts, Dramatic Writing

Program description

Advanced study in Dramatic Writing for film, television, web, and the stage. The curriculum is designed to prepare students for a wide variety of professional writing outlets.

While completing the program, students will not only learn crucial story skills and writing tools, but also become comfortable expressing their unique voices within the screenwriting and playwriting formats.

They will create a strong and diverse portfolio across a variety of media. In addition to learning the craft of writing, students will focus on how to create material designed for independent production.

To complement this education, the curriculum also focuses on teaching skills that will empower writers to bring their own dramatic work to life. Students will gain fundamental skills of film and theatre producing, as well as above-the-line video production skills. They will also have opportunities for expanding their knowledge through either academic study, hands-on-experience, or a mixture of both.

This program ultimately aims to empower future writers by teaching them not only the craft of writing, but also the professional expectations of the industry. Students will gain hands-on experience in a variety of contexts in order to prepare for professional writing opportunities in the future.

Admission requirements

Admission requires approval of a departmental entrance committee, who will examine the applicant's potential for program success. Our goal is to create a well-balanced cohort of students.

Admission to the program is based on the following:

1. A completed **Missouri State University Graduate Application**. All university-wide requirements for graduate study must be met.
2. The following supplementary material:
 - A **Writing Sample** (maximum 10 pages) of the applicant's best work. This may be in either screenplay format, stage play format, or prose;
 - A 300- to 800-word **Statement of Purpose**, describing the reasons and goals behind the applicant's interest in graduate study and the direction of intended research;
 - At least one **Letter of Recommendation** from an individual able to speak of the applicant's academic achievements and potential;
 - The name, title, and contact information of at least two other **References** (either academic or professional) willing to support the applicant's candidacy.

All matters relating to admission are the applicant's responsibility.

Program Requirements

WRITING CORE (30 hours):

- 1) MED 610: Playwriting I [3 hours]
- 2) MED 711: Fundamentals of Screenwriting [3 hours]
- 3) MED 712: Feature Film Writing I [3 hours]
- 4) MED 713: Feature Film Writing II [3 hours]
- 5) MED 714: Writing Episodic Television [3 hours]
- 6) MED 715: Rewriting [3 hours]
- 7) MED 716: Writing Episodic Pilots [3 hours]
- 8) MED 717: Thesis Script I [3 hours]
- 9) MED 718: Thesis Script II [3 hours]
- 10) MED 719: Portfolio Review [3 hours]

PRODUCING CORE (12 hours)

1. MED 762: TV/Film Producing and Marketing [3 hours]
2. MED 684: Advanced Producing [3 hours]
3. MED 766: Pre-Production Practicum for Stage and Screen [3 hours]

And..

4. Practicum in Producing [Choose three (3) hours from the following courses]
 - 4a) MED 781: Producing the Short Film [1-6 hours]
 - 4b) MED 782: Producing the Web Series [1-6 hours]
 - 4c) MED 783: Producing the Multicam Show [1-6 hours]
 - 4d) MED 784: Producing the Documentary [1-6 hours]
 - 4e) MED 785: Producing the Longform Narrative [1-6 hours]
 - 4f) MED 786: Producing the Stage Play [1-6 hours]

PRODUCTION CORE [9 hours]

1. MED 764: Visual Storytelling [3 hours]
2. MED 765: Directing for Film and Stage [3 hours]
3. MED 767: Staged Production [3 hours]

ELECTIVES [9 hours] Choose nine hours from any of the following.

History and Theory Electives:

- a. MED 670: Film Theory [3 hours]
- b. MED 674: History of Film I [3 hours]
- b. MED 675: History of Film II [3 hours]

- c. **MED 704: Theory and Research in Mass Communication [3 hours]**

Industry/Professional Electives:

- a. **MED 695: Media Internship [1-6 hours]**
- b. **MED 697: Advanced Studies in Media [1-6 hours]**

Producing Electives:

- a. **MED 781: Producing the Short Film [1-6 hours]**
- b. **MED 782: Producing the Web Series [1-6 hours]**
- c. **MED 783: Producing the Multicam Show [1-6 hours]**
- d. **MED 784: Producing the Documentary [1-6 hours]**
- e. **MED 785: Producing the Longform Narrative [1-6 hours]**
- f. **MED 786: Producing the Stage Play [1-6 hours]**

Production Electives:

- a. **MED 662: Digital Filmmaking [3 hours]**
- b. **MED 683: Advanced Television Production [3 hours]**
- c. **MED 792: Independent Study in Media [1-6 hours]**
- d. **MED 793: Practicum in Producing or Production [1-6 hours]**

Writing Electives:

- a. **MED 663: Writing Adaptations [3 hours]**
- b. **MED 664: Genre Writing [3 hours]**
- c. **MED 671: Writing the Web Series [3 hours]**
- d. **MED 794: Practicum in Playwriting [1-6 hours]**

Additional Degree Requirements

A) A student's Program of Study is subject to the approval of the Graduate Coordinator in consultation with the program faculty.

B) A probationary review will be conducted by the program faculty after the student completes MED 715 (usually the third semester) to evaluate the student's overall body of work. A less than satisfactory review could result in dismissal or additional coursework with a follow up review to assess progress.

C) All students will develop a Final Portfolio of their work, which the supervisory committee will review. These portfolios, developed in the final semester of graduate study in MED 719, must have:

1. Multiple well-polished scripts across a diverse range of media (film, TV, web, stage); these works should highlight the student's strengths and be geared toward the current professional marketplace.
2. A clearly written overview of these projects.
3. A successful oral defense of the portfolio before the supervisory committee.



Missouri Department of Higher Education

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NEW PROGRAM PROPOSAL FOR ROUTINE REVIEW

When finished, please save and email to: he.academicprogramactions@dhe.mo.gov

Sponsoring Institution:

Program Title: Dramatic Writing

Degree/Certificate:

If other, please list:

Options:

Delivery Site: Springfield Campus

CIP Classification: 50.0504

Implementation Date: 8/1/2020

Is this a new off-site location? Yes No

If yes, is the new location within your institution's current CBHE-approved service region?

**If no, public institutions should consult the comprehensive review process*

Is this a collaborative program? Yes No

**If yes, please complete the collaborative programs form on last page.*

CERTIFICATIONS

- The program is within the institution's CBHE approved mission. *(public only)*
- The program will be offered within the institution's CBHE approved service region. *(public only)*
- The program builds upon existing programs and faculty expertise
- The program does not unnecessarily duplicate an existing program in the geographically-applicable area.
- The program can be launched with minimal expense and falls within the institution's current operating budget. *(public only)*

AUTHORIZATION

Frank Einhellig, Provost	<i>Frank Einhellig</i>	2/28/20
Name/Title of Institutional Officer	Signature	Date



- PUBLIC
 INDEPENDENT

NEW PROGRAM PROPOSAL FOR ROUTINE REVIEW

When finished, please save and email to: he.academicprogramactions@dhe.mo.gov

Sponsoring Institution: Missouri State University

Program Title: Dramatic Writing

Degree/Certificate: MFA-Master of Fine Arts

If other, please list: Click here to enter text

Options: Click here to enter text

Delivery Site: Springfield Campus

CIP Classification: 50.0504

Implementation Date: 8/1/2020

Is this a new off-site location? Yes No

If yes, is the new location within your institution's current CBHE-approved service region?

*If no, public institutions should consult the comprehensive review process

Is this a collaborative program? Yes No

*If yes, please complete the collaborative programs form on last page.

CERTIFICATIONS

- The program is within the institution's CBHE approved mission. (public only)
The program will be offered within the institution's CBHE approved service region. (public only)
The program builds upon existing programs and faculty expertise
The program does not unnecessarily duplicate an existing program in the geographically-applicable area.
The program can be launched with minimal expense and falls within the institution's current operating budget. (public only)

AUTHORIZATION

Table with 3 columns: Name/Title of Institutional Officer, Signature, Date. Row 1: Frank Einhellig, Provost, [Signature], [Date]

PROGRAM CHARACTERISTICS AND PERFORMANCE GOALS

Although all of the following guidelines may not be applicable to the proposed program, please carefully consider the elements in each area and respond as completely as possible in the format below.

Quantification of performance goals should be included wherever possible.

1. Student Preparation

- Any special admissions procedures or student qualifications required for this program which exceed regular university admissions, standards, e.g., ACT score, completion of core curriculum, portfolio, personal interview, etc. Please note if no special preparation will be required.

We actively welcome students from any background, any undergraduate major, and any level of professional experience who are willing to share their perspectives. Our only special application requirement is that applicants should submit a writing sample of no more than 10 pages that highlights their strongest writing.

- Characteristics of a specific population to be served, if applicable.
NA

2. Faculty Characteristics

- Any special requirements (degree status, training, etc.) for assignment of teaching for this degree/certificate.

Terminal degrees (MFA) in screenwriting, playwriting, or related field, however we would consider applicants with the appropriate professional credentials and any Master's degree.

- Estimated percentage of credit hours that will be assigned to full time faculty. Please use the term "full time faculty" (and not FTE) in your descriptions here.

Roughly 90% of our classes will be assigned to full time faculty.

- Expectations for professional activities, special student contact, teaching/learning innovation.

The faculty will share their expertise and professional knowledge of craft through writing courses. Outside of this, students will work closely with faculty on their thesis scripts, writing portfolio, and staged productions. Students will have hands-on opportunities to produce work for stage and/or screen, including student-written scripts in various media. They will gain both producing and production experience in addition to learning the craft of writing for various professional outlets.

3. Enrollment Projections

- Student FTE majoring in program by the end of five years.

15

- Percent of full time and part time enrollment by the end of five years.

While this is primarily intended to be a full-time cohort program, we will certainly welcome qualified students whose lives require part-time delivery methods. The percentage breakdown that we're anticipating roughly 82% full time and 18% part time at the end of year five.

STUDENT ENROLLMENT PROJECTIONS

YEAR	1	2	3	4	5
Full Time	2	5	9	13	14
Part Time	2	2	3	3	3
Total	4	7	12	16	17

4. Student and Program Outcomes

- Number of graduates per annum at three and five years after implementation.

Based on our existing and pledged resources and faculty, our first goal for this program is to establish a competitive 10-student cohort that graduates roughly 8 students a year. As the program grows over time, we may consider expanding that cohort size (to 12, 14, or 16); these numbers are based on our initial plan.

- Three years after implementation of our three-year program, our first full time students will graduate– we anticipate two students graduating that year.
- Five years after program implementation, we believe that we will be graduating five students.
- We intend to reach our normalized graduation rate of eight students by the end of year eight.

Below, please see the chart of our projected graduation rate:

YEAR	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Projected Graduates	n/a	n/a	2	3	5	5	5	8	8	8

- Special skills specific to the program.

Students will learn a wide variety of skills related to dramatic writing, producing, and production. They will learn to tell character-based stories that emphasize conflict and utilize specific tools of storytelling (including mystery, suspense, planting/payoff, preparation/aftermath, and dramatic irony).

Students will learn the basics of formatting for both screenwriting and playwriting, as well as how to tell stories for maximum dramatic impact at varying lengths (from short films to features, from one-act plays to full-length plays, both standalone stories and episodic). They will learn to write for a wide range of professional outlets, including television, web series, theatre, and feature films. These skills will help writers learn to write on demand with an eye to the current marketplace, rather than “shooting for the moon” by writing scripts and hoping for the best.

Additionally, classes will prepare students to be able to write projects for specific budgets (ranging from micro-budget projects that students might make themselves to big-budget projects that could only be made with studio/network involvement). Students will learn not only the basics of writing three-act structure features, but also more complicated alternate structures, ensuring that they will be able to tell more complex stories.

Over the course of the program, students will explore a wide range of projects and develop their personal voices and styles to create a portfolio of polished scripts ready for industry submission. Projects will include spec scripts for existing television shows, pilot scripts for original series, and films and plays of varying lengths, scopes, budgets, and subjects.

Outside of writing, students will learn practical and professional approaches to producing for both the stage and screen in order to help see their work performed. They will gain hands-on experience producing student projects to help crystalize and implement this knowledge. Additionally, students will gain skills in basic above-the-line production, including basic camerawork and visual storytelling, directing actors for stage and screen, and mounting their own work at a micro-budget.

- Proportion of students who will achieve licensing, certification, or registration.
N/A
- Performance on national and/or local assessments, e.g., percent of students scoring above the 50th percentile on normed tests; percent of students achieving minimal cut-scores on criterion-referenced tests. Include expected results on assessments of general education and on exit assessments in a particular discipline as well as the name of any nationally recognized assessments used.
N/A
- Placement rates in related fields, in other fields, unemployed.

As with any creative arts career, it's difficult to quantify placement rates for MFA graduates. This degree will prepare students to develop their craft and give them a terminal degree, which combined with professional success, allows them to teach the subject at the university level.

Though our program is currently very small, it has had great success thus far. Our screenwriting graduates currently can enroll in the 15-hour graduate certificate or else the screenwriting and producing option area of the 33-hour Master of Professional Studies (MPS) degree. Despite having only a few students graduated from the MPS program, several of our graduates (as well as our graduate certificate holders) have found success in the industry. Of our first two MPS graduates, one is currently a producer on the Bachelor, while another teaches screenwriting at the university level. We have a graduate who has written, directed, and produced a feature film and a web series. Three of our recent graduates (two of them both MPS and Grad Certificate, one solely graduate certificate) are currently working in different areas at Warner Brothers film studio in Los Angeles. Another recent MPS graduate has co-directed and produced a short film that has won national awards and is getting placement in film festivals in multiple states. While in school, our screenwriting students win national and state awards each year, and see their work produced at the student level every semester.

While all graduates won't go on to support themselves as screenwriters, they will learn valuable skills that directly apply to a number of industries. For instance, the story skills gained in our program are in high demand across multiple fields, specifically advertising, marketing, commercial video production, academia, radio, podcasting,

Other particularly marketable skills enhanced through this degree include collaboration, creativity, problem solving, adaptability, clear communication, social media literacy, and professionalism.

The program will emphasize adaptability. We're not creating a line of writers with unshaking visions who expect the world to conform to their passion projects. Instead, we're training writers how to get work in the current environment – to learn to write material as needed for specific outlets and to be able to create their own material that highlights their unique strengths as writers.

So while there's not a writing factory that hires recent MFA grads, we will train students to recognize opportunities and make the most of those. Several of our grads are already working in the field and finding opportunities to create film projects. While some of them work in other fields for their day jobs, they're also busy networking and developing their craft so that they can find success at levels ranging from creating their own work to getting paid to work on Hollywood projects.

- Transfer rates, continuous study.

As with all terminal degrees, we anticipate few transfer students, although we would welcome strong candidates and facilitate giving them transfer credits when appropriate.

5. Program Accreditation

- Institutional plans for accreditation, if applicable, including accrediting agency and timeline. If there are no plans to seek specialized accreditation, please provide rationale.

N/A. There is not an accrediting agency for this field.

6. Program Structure

A. Total credits required for graduation: 60

B. Residency requirements, if any:

While we don't anticipate many transfer students, all students must complete at least 40 hours of the degree at Missouri State (as consistent with Missouri State's Graduate College policy).

C. General education: Total credits:

Not applicable. No Gen Ed for graduate degrees.

D. Major (i.e., Degree) requirements: Total credits: 60

Core Courses (Required of all students)		
Total credits = <u>39</u>		
Course ID	Course Title	Credits
MED 610	Playwriting I	3

MED 711	Fundamentals of Screenwriting	3
MED 712	Feature Film Writing I	3
MED 713	Feature Film Writing II	3
MED 714	Writing Episodic Television	3
MED 715	Rewriting	3
MED 716	Writing Episodic Pilots	3
MED 762	TV/Film Producing and Marketing	3
MED 684	Advanced Producing	3
MED 764	Visual Storytelling	3
MED 765	Directing for Film and Stage	3
MED 766	Pre-Production Practicum for Stage and Screen	3
MED 767	Staged Production	3
Elective Courses Total credits = <u>12</u>		
Course ID	Course Title	Credits
MED 662	Digital Filmmaking	3
MED 663	Writing Adaptations	3
MED 664	Genre Writing	3
MED 670	Film Theory	3
MED 671	Writing the Web Series	3
MED 674	History of Film I	3
MED 675	History of Film II	3
MED 683	Advanced Television Production	3
MED 695	Media Internship	3
MED 697	Advanced Studies in Media	3
MED 704	Theory and Research in Mass Communication	3
MED 781	Producing the Short Film	3
MED 782	Producing the Web Series	
MED 783	Producing the Multicam Show	3
MED 784	Producing the Documentary	3
MED 785	Producing the Longform Narrative	3
MED 786	Producing the Stage Play	3
MED 792	Independent Study in Media	3
MED 793	Practicum in Producing or Production	3
MED 794	Practicum in Playwriting	3
Thesis/Capstone		

Total credits = <u> 9 </u>		
Course ID	Course Title	Credits
MED 717	Thesis Script I	3
MED 718	Thesis Script II	3
MED 719	Portfolio Review	3

E. Free elective credits: 0
(sum of C, D, and E should equal A)

F. Requirements for thesis, internship or other capstone experience:
 All students will develop a Final Portfolio of their work, which the supervisory committee will review. These portfolios, developed in the final semester of graduate study through the course MED 719, must have:

1. Multiple well-polished scripts across a diverse range of media (film, TV, web, stage); these works should highlight the student's strengths and be geared toward the current professional marketplace.
2. A clearly written overview of these projects.
3. A successful oral defense of the portfolio before the supervisory committee;

G. Any unique features such as interdepartmental cooperation:

In addition to writing scripts and building a strong written portfolio, students will gain experience in both film producing and film production so that they can make their own material (whether those are staged plays or short films or web series). Learning these above-the-line skills in both film and theater will prepare students for future success. Furthermore, these experiences will allow students to collaborate with students in a trio of MSU's strong undergraduate programs (actors in the Theatre & Dance department; below-the-line filmmakers in the digital film program through the department of Media, Journalism & Film; and above-the-line filmmakers working in both live-action and animated projects in the Electronic Arts program).

7. Need/Demand

Student demand

Market demand

Societal demand

I hereby certify that the institution has conducted research on the feasibility of the proposal and it is likely the program will be successful.

On July 1, 2011, the Coordinating Board for Higher Education began provisionally approving all new programs with a subsequent review and consideration for full approval after five years.