Drama (DRAM)

Faculty
Mavourneen Dwyer, Associate Professor
Robert A. Ford, Assistant Professor
Kate L. Frank, Lecturer
Andrew D. Gibbs, Professor
Amy Herzberg, Professor
Morgan Hicks, Assistant Professor
Shawn D. Irish, Assistant Professor
Michael Landman, Associate Professor
Gail Leftwich, Lecturer
Patricia Martin, Professor
Les Wade, Professor
Michael Riha, Assistant Professor
Clinnesha Dillon Sibley, Assistant Professor
Patrick Stone, Assistant Professor

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Degrees Conferred:
M.F.A. (DRAM)

The Master of Fine Arts in Drama provides a course of advanced studies within the areas of acting, directing, design, and playwriting. It aims to develop in students a high level of understanding and competence in the chosen degree concentration, leading to professional-level employment in performance and design. Considered to be the terminal degree in the creative aspects of drama, the M.F.A. program provides a 60-hour concentration in a chosen specialty. The degree is awarded following successful fulfillment of a series of academic and performance/production requirements.

Prerequisites to the M.F.A. Program: A student entering graduate studies in the Department of Drama should have a minimum of 24 semester hours in undergraduate drama/theatre credit. In the event a student does not satisfy this requirement, the student and an adviser will assess the student’s needs and establish a plan of study that will prepare the student for advanced degree work. The GRE may be required based on the student’s undergraduate GPA in accordance with Graduate School policy.

Admission Procedures: In addition to complying with all Graduate School admission procedures, M.F.A. degree applicants will present an audition and/or portfolio for assessment and evaluation prior to consideration for acceptance.

Degree Requirements: The Master of Fine Arts degree requires 60 hours of approved graduate-level coursework that is focused in one of three study tracks: Performance (Acting and Directing), Playwriting, or Design. Specific course requirements and related production requirements are determined in conference with the particular track adviser. All students will produce a thesis (6 hours credit) prior to graduation. This thesis will take the form of a performance, design or playwriting project with appropriate written research and documentation to support it. Both the proposed thesis project and the final product shall be subject to review and approval by the student’s thesis committee.

Each student will be reviewed annually. Departmental faculty will determine whether sufficient progress has been made to warrant continuation into the subsequent year of study and eventual graduation.

A final examination will be administered to all graduating M.F.A. students. This examination will allow students to demonstrate their knowledge and understanding of theatre at a level appropriate to those who have reached the end of their particular course of studies.

All course credits presented for graduation must be graded “C” or better.

Up to 18 hours of credit may be waived for those students entering the M.F.A. program and already holding the M.A. degree in drama. However, a minimum of 42 hours of graduate-level courses and four regular semesters must be completed on the Fayetteville campus.

Departmental requirements may be waived by the faculty in drama only upon receipt of evidence of equivalent learning or skill resulting from earlier education or experience. Students not holding a bachelor’s degree in drama may be required to take supplemental coursework and/or demonstrate proficiency in the creative areas of drama.