

MASTER OF FINE ARTS SUMMARY

Degree: COM11237967

School/College: College of Communication

Summary of New Master's Degree:

The MFA Program in Film currently consists of three different concentrations; each has historically been treated as a distinct degree program. These concentrations are: Film Production, Screenwriting, and Film and Television Studies. The College of Communication will formally create an **MFA in Screenwriting**, though it should be noted that no requirements, resources, or funding are being altered. The only change is the creation of a freestanding degree from what was formerly a concentration. As the College of Communication seeks to expand and strengthen its graduate programs, it is vital that it position itself in the strongest way possible. For a prospective screenwriter, an MFA in Screenwriting holds more weight in the film and television industry than an MFA in Film with only a concentration in Screenwriting. This freestanding degree will bring the Boston University's program name in line with peer and aspirant peer institutions' programs.

Learning outcomes for MFA candidates are fourfold: to understand and practice the art of screenwriting; to learn the fundamentals of dramatic production; to understand different models of filmmaking and film history; and to comprehend the role of the storyteller and that of mythology in the dramatic tradition. To that end, the master's program is a 64-credit plan with coursework to be completed in four semesters of full-time study. Fourteen of the sixteen courses are required. Screenwriting MFA students in the Department of Film & Television will master cinematic storytelling by developing their own short scripts, feature-length screenplays, screenplay adaptations, teleplays for existing television episodes and pilot scripts for their own television series concepts. Students also develop the analytical skills to break down the strengths and weaknesses of existing work as well as the works in progress of their peers.

Students completing the two-year graduate program will earn an MFA in Screenwriting and be prepared to place, sell, and/or produce their work in the film and television industry. An optional fifth post-graduate semester in Los Angeles is aimed at providing the students with invaluable experience in the business of film and the opportunity to work with established writers on TV staffs or in agencies and development departments.