



Admission Requirements

If you are not attending U/RTAs but wish to be considered for admission into the Acting Program, you must make sure you are aware of all of the deadlines and that you meet the minimum requirements for entry.

- [Graduate College Deadlines and Requirements](#)
- [International Student Admission Requirements](#)

Application Procedure

1. Submit an application and official transcript clearly indicating a final GPA of 3.00 or better to the Graduate College. The GRE exam is not required.
2. Once you have submitted your application, you will receive an email instructing you on how to upload your supporting documents and submit letters of recommendation. These will be uploaded from your Admissions Profile in MyUI, our online service center for applicants and students. You can only access this after you have submitted your application.

Supporting documents that will be uploaded to your Admissions Profile on MyUI:

- a resume of previous experience
 - a current headshot
 - three letters of recommendation
 - a written statement explaining why you are seeking the MFA in acting at Iowa
 - [audition](#) Those wishing to audition need to contact the Head of Acting (Paul-Kalina@uiowa.edu) to schedule an online audition and brief interview. See below for audition requirements.
3. For the audition, students should prepare two contrasting monologues not to exceed three minutes total time.
 - It is important that your selections demonstrate your range. Avoid pieces that are similar in intention, genre, period, or style.
 - Live online auditions may be scheduled with the head of acting, Paul Kalina (paul-kalina@uiowa.edu).
 - Program representatives also attend the national auditions of the University/Resident Theatre Association (U/RTA) in New York, Chicago, and San Francisco.

We recommend that prospective students visit Iowa City to see the campus and discuss the acting program with our current students and faculty. For those students seriously considering the University of Iowa, the program will provide contact information for our alumni in the profession.

All MFA actors receive a tuition scholarship from the Graduate College, which offsets the amount of the current tuition. General fees are not included in this scholarship. Additionally, most MFA actors receive paid teaching assistantships. Departmental scholarships of varying amounts are also awarded to some students on a year-by-year basis.

Requirements for the MFA in Acting

The requirements for the MFA in Acting are divided into three categories: formal instruction, production requirements, and a thesis.

Formal Instruction

Students pursuing the MFA in acting must complete 72 semester hours. The 3-year curriculum consists of the following courses:

Plan of Study

First Year Fall

Acting: Foundations

Movement: Foundations

Voice: Linklater I

Digital Media: Producing and Directing Digital Video

Orientation to Graduate Studies (Incl. developing/strengthening online presence)

First Year Spring

Acting: Foundations II

Movement: Foundations II

Voice: Linklater II

Theatrical Analysis: Classical to Romantic

Graphic Design and Identity: Online Presence

Second Year Fall

Acting: Psycho-Physical: Grotowski

Movement: Stage Combat

Voice & Speech: Shakespeare and other Heightened, Poetic Texts

Film: Acting for the Camera

Second Year Spring

Acting: Poetic Drama: Shakespeare

Movement: Mask (Larval, Expressive, Half)

Voice & Speech: Accents and Dialects

Theatrical Analysis: Modern

Career Preparation

Third Year Fall

Acting: Period Styles

Movement: Clown

Digital Media: Performing with Digital Media on Stage

Career Preparation: Reels/Website/Headshots

Third Year Spring

Theatrical Analysis: Post-Modern

Voiceovers: Commercial, Animation, Video Games, and Establishing Home Studios

Thesis

The sequence of classes may vary.

Production Requirements

You are required to audition for all Mainstage productions presented by the department and to perform as cast. All graduate actors are required to perform a minimum of one role each semester.

Thesis

The thesis has two components, the first is a written analysis of the actor's personal creative process, and an annotated resume of roles performed at Iowa. The second is the actor's professional online presence that is developed, strengthened, and maintained during their tenure at Iowa.

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