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](#)

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.
   - On-site auditions may be scheduled in Iowa City.
   - 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: Meisner Technique
- Movement: Foundations II
- Voice: Linklater II
- Theatrical Analysis: Classical to Romantic

**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: Showcase

**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.

Additionally, every graduate actor is required to earn two new play credits during their three-year residency. One credit is earned for each role performed in an original play produced for the Mainstage, Gallery, or New Play Festival season.

**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.