

# SCHOOL OF PROFESSIONAL STUDIES

## NATIONAL UNIVERSITY

- CONVENIENT LOCATIONS ■
- ONE COURSE PER MONTH ■
- EVENING CLASSES ■
- ON CAMPUS AND ONLINE ■
- NONPROFIT UNIVERSITY ■



## NOW ENROLLING

### Earn your MFA in Professional Screenwriting at National University

*There is nothing like it anywhere! If you want immersion in the state of the industry, then this is it.*  
– Dawn F.

*It's awesome... exactly what's missing from most film schools, a very clear and accurate look at how the business runs and what you can do as a writer to seek entry and position a career!*  
– Perry A.

#### WHO SHOULD ENROLL?

You will benefit from this program if you:

- Want to meet and work with industry professionals through an affordable and flexible program.
- Wish to graduate with two professional level Film, TV, or transmedia projects AND a marketing plan for getting your work to the right people.
- Have a full-time job and/or family obligations and cannot attend a fully on-site program.

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FULLY ACCREDITED  
HYBRID MFA IN  
PROFESSIONAL  
SCREENWRITING

## Write a Script for Success

National University's MFA in Professional Screenwriting program is geared towards emerging writers who want to live their dream and build a career in film, TV, and transmedia (graphic novels, web entertainment, comics, etc.). It is also appropriate for those wishing to teach screenwriting at the university level.

This affordable, fully accredited "hybrid" program is 95 percent online with only a two-week residency requirement in Los Angeles. One of the many strengths of this program is its flexibility. Students do not have to move to Los Angeles, give up jobs, or disrupt family life in order to pursue this degree.

The program includes three areas of study for students to choose from: screenwriting, television writing, and transmedia writing. The program provides students with in-depth study where they learn to write compelling, well-structured stories with memorable characters. Students will also acquire an understanding of how to market themselves and their work in the entertainment industry.

Enrollment is year-round with student cohorts beginning in July and January. Students can take foundational or elective classes when available regardless of which cohort they join.

Courses are created and taught by professionals with extensive experience in film, TV, and transmedia. Adjunct faculty and guest speakers include executives, agents, producers, screenwriters, and TV and transmedia writers who have worked on a variety of major projects.

Contact an Admissions Advisor today

**800.NAT.UNIV**  
[www.nu.edu](http://www.nu.edu)

# ■ MASTER OF FINE ARTS IN PROFESSIONAL SCREENWRITING

Faculty Advisor: Bettina Moss; (323) 337-2016; [bmoss@nu.edu](mailto:bmoss@nu.edu)

The MFA in Professional Screenwriting program provides an in-depth study of the art of film, TV and transmedia writing wherein students learn to create compelling, well-structured stories with memorable characters. Students will also acquire a foundational understanding of how to market themselves and their work in the entertainment industry.

## Program Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of this program, students will be able to:

- Differentiate critical points of view in the analyses and interpretation of films, television shows, screenplays and other entertainment content.
- Using films, television programs and transmedia IP's analyze the principles of writing in these varied media.
- Demonstrate critical reflection and viewpoint in evaluating the work of peers and others.
- Generate original and/or adapted narrative screenplays, TV scripts or transmedia IP's employing the principles of these respective disciplines through various stages from introductory level to mastery.
- Articulate a critical understanding of self in relation to creativity and the influence of cultural and societal issues.
- Analyze and/or design and generate a marketing plan/pitch using the principles of entertainment industry marketing.
- Collaborate with others in achieving writing and/or pitching goals.

## Degree Requirements:

(19 courses; 74.25 quarter units)

To receive a Master of Fine Arts, students in the Professional Screenwriting program must complete at least 74.25 quarter units of graduate work, of which a minimum of 60.75 quarter units must be taken at National University. With approval of lead faculty advisor, students may be able to transfer up to 13.5 quarter units at the graduate level from a regionally accredited institution in the areas of screenwriting, communication, film or media studies, or other appropriate areas of study provided the units have not been used to satisfy the requirements of an awarded degree. Students wishing to transfer credits into the program should contact the program lead faculty advisor. Refer to the section in the graduate admission requirements for additional specific information regarding application and evaluation.

## Core Requirements

(7 courses; 27 quarter units)

SCR 650	Script Reading and Coverage
MDC 660	Narrative Structure in Film
MDC 680	Screenwriting <i>Corequisite: MDC 680P</i>
MDC 680P	Screenwriting I Practicum (2.25 quarter units) <i>Corequisite: MDC 680</i>
MDC 681	Screenwriting II <i>Corequisite: MDC 681P, Prerequisite: MDC 680</i>
MDC 681P	Screenwriting II Practicum (2.25 quarter units) <i>Corequisite: MDC 681</i>

Note: Practica are the Studio labs associated with 2 month courses.

Please choose one of the following courses:

ENG 667	Film History: American Film
ENG 668	Film Genre Studies
ENG 685	Great Directors: American
ENG 686	Great Directors: International
ENG 669	World Film
SCR 665*	TV Writing-From Idea To Pitch
SCR 667	Marketing for Film & TV
SCR 668+	Introduction To Transmedia

\* Prerequisite for TV Writing Track. Option for Screenwriting Track.

+ Prerequisite for Transmedia Writing Track. Option for Screenwriting Track.

## Advanced Core Requirements

(8 courses; 29.25 quarter units)

SCR 671	Character and Dialog
SCR 682	Adv Screenwriting Workshop <i>Prerequisite: MDC 681, MDC 681P</i>
SCR 682P	Adv Screenwriting Practicum (2.25 quarter units) <i>Prerequisite: MDC 681, MDC 681P, SCR 682</i>

SCR 670	Dev-Prod Writing <i>Prerequisite: MDC 681, MDC 681P</i>
SCR 670P	Development/Production Practic (2.25 quarter units) <i>Prerequisite: MDC 681, and SCR 670, MDC 681P, Corequisite: SCR 675</i>
SCR 675	The Business of Screenwriting <i>Prerequisite: MDC 681, MDC 681P, SCR 670, Corequisite: SCR 670P</i>

Please choose one of the following sequences:

### For Screenwriting:

SCR 683	Adaptation Workshop <i>Prerequisite: MDC 681, MDC 681P</i>
SCR 683P	Adaptation Practicum (2.25 quarter units) <i>Prerequisite: MDC 681, MDC 681P, SCR 683</i>

### For Television Writing:

SCR 684	TV Pilot/Series Writing Worksh <i>Prerequisite: SCR 665 with a minimum grade of B</i>
SCR 684P	TV Writing Practicum (2.25 quarter units) <i>Prerequisite: SCR 665 with a minimum grade of B, SCR 684 with a minimum grade of B</i>

### For Transmedia Writing:

SCR 685	Transmedia Writing Workshop <i>Prerequisite: SCR 668 with a minimum grade of B</i>
SCR 685P	Transmedia Writing Practicum (2.25 quarter units) <i>Prerequisite: SCR 685 with a minimum grade of B, SCR 668 with a minimum grade of B</i>

## Graduate Electives Requirement

(2 courses; 9 quarter units)

Students may not repeat a film studies course taken as a core requirement. In lieu of one elective students may take an internship or another special elective.

ENG 665	Film Theory
ENG 666	Film History: The Silents
ENG 667	Film History: American Film
ENG 668	Film Genre Studies
ENG 669	World Film
ENG 685	Great Directors: American
ENG 686	Great Directors: International
MCW 600	Pedagogy of Creative Writing
MCW 630	Seminar in Fiction
MCW 650	Seminar in Creative Nonfiction
MDC 650	Producing Digital Cinema
MDC 661	Cinematic Design
SCR 692	Graduate Internship <i>Prerequisite: SCR 675 with a minimum grade of B. For MFA in Professional Screenwriting students an internship can only be taken after onsite residency is completed., or Recommended Preparation: MFA Students from other disciplines may be required to fulfill specific prerequisites prior to taking an internship. TBD by lead faculty for program.</i>
SCR 667	Marketing for Film & TV
SCR 689	Advanced Rewriting <i>Prerequisite: SCR 675</i>
SCR 693	Guided Study <i>Recommended Preparation: Students must demonstrate advanced skills and talent in order to be considered for participation.</i>

## Thesis Sequence

(2 courses; 9 quarter units)

SCR 690	Screenwriting Thesis <i>Prerequisite: All other program courses.</i>
SCR 691	Thesis Qualification & Review <i>Prerequisite: SCR 690</i>

## Special Electives (extra-curricular or substitute for elective)

(2 courses; 6.75 quarter units)

SCR 693	Guided Study <i>Recommended Preparation: Students must demonstrate advanced skills and talent in order to be considered for participation.</i>
SCR 693P	Guided Study Practicum (2.25 quarter units) <i>Prerequisite: SCR 670P with a minimum grade of B, SCR 675 with a minimum grade of B</i>

 Online program with residency in Los Angeles.

For more complete information, see the National University General Catalog #76, published 9/12