NEW GRADUATE CONCENTRATION PROPOSALS
ARIZONA STATE UNIVERSITY
GRADUATE COLLEGE

This form should be used for academic units wishing to propose a new concentration for existing graduate degrees.

A concentration is a subspecialty within a degree and major which reflects that the student has fulfilled a designated, specialized course of study which qualifies the student as having distinctive skills and training in one highly concentrated area of the major. Concentrations are formally-recognized educational designations (including the assignment of a university plan code for reporting/record-keeping purposes and appearance on the ASU transcript). Concentrations are to be distinguished from not formally recognized academic distinctions frequently referred to as “emphases,” “tracks,” “foci,” “options,” etc.

Submit the completed and signed (chairs, unit deans) proposal to the Office of Graduate Academic Programs. Mail code 1003 and electronic copies to ozel@asu.edu or Denise.Campbell@asu.edu

Please type.

Contact Name: Linda Essig
Contact Phone: 480-965-5337
College/School/Division Name: Herberger College of the Arts
Academic Unit Name: School of Theatre and Film
(Or proposing faculty group for interdisciplinary proposals)
Existing Graduate Degree and Major under which this concentration will be established:
Master of Fine Arts (MFA) in Theatre
Proposed Concentration Name:
Dramatic Writing

1. Overview

A. Provide a brief description of the new concentration (including the specific focus of the new concentration, relationship to other concentrations in this degree program, etc).

The concentration in dramatic writing will include 60 hours of coursework in playwriting, historical studies in theatre, dramatic theory, directing new work, teaching, literary management, electives, and related topics such as writing for solo performance, screenwriting, devising, collaborative writing, etc.

This concentration will replace the current playwriting emphasis co-offered by the Department of English’s MFA in Creative Writing Program and the School of Theatre and Film, as the Creative Writing program seeks to discontinue this emphasis area.

2. Impact Assessment

A. Explain the unit’s need for the new concentration (e.g., market demand, research base, direction of the discipline, and interdisciplinary considerations). How will the new concentration complement the existing degree program, including enrollment, national ranking, etc?

Students from across the country apply every year for the playwriting emphasis in English/Creative Writing. The current jointly administered program is well respected nationally thanks to the leadership of playwright Guillermo Reyes and the excellent record of accomplishment of alumni. The School of Theatre and Film's support for the production of new plays and performance works written by its MFA students is an aspirational model for other institutions. The divestiture of playwriting by the Creative Writing program necessitates that the School of Theatre and Film take on sole responsibility for program administration, which it is pleased to be able to do. It has been doing so since 2006 when Creative Writing withdrew most financial support and all curricular support for dramatic writing. The dramatic writing concentration will continue to complement the other MFA Theatre concentrations. Playwrights collaborate with students in the MFA Theatre concentrations in Directing, Performance, Performance
Design and Theatre for Youth both in traditional classroom settings and via the production of their work on the School of Theatre and Film’s stages.

B. Please identify other related ASU programs and outline how the new concentration will complement these existing ASU programs? (If applicable, statements of support from potentially-affected academic unit administrators need to be included with this proposal submission.)

Within the School of Theatre and Film, the MFA Theatre concentration in directing emphasizes direction of new works, a unique area of specialization, and the playwrights are needed to complement the MFA in Theatre, directing concentration curriculum. MFA students in performance are also encouraged to develop new work, and the playwrights serve as part of the overall community of artists working in the development of written work for theater and film. The concentration replaces an existing area of emphasis within the MFA in Creative Writing and will continue to complement that program. As a terminal degree in creative practice, the MFA in Theatre concentration in dramatic writing does not duplicate any existing or proposed academic programs.

C. Is this an interdisciplinary concentration? If yes, please address the relationship of the proposed concentration to other existing degree programs and any parallel or similar concentrations in these degree programs.

This concentration replaces the playwriting emphasis in the interdisciplinary MFA in Creative Writing program at that program’s request. The Creative Writing program wishes to emphasize poetry and fiction, seeking to divest itself of its dramatic writing emphasis.

3. Academic Requirements and Curriculum

A. What are the total minimum hours required for the major and degree under which the proposed concentration will be established?

Sixty credit hours are required for the MFA in Theatre.

B. Please provide the admissions criteria for the proposed concentration. If they are identical to the admission criteria for the existing major and degree program under which this concentration will be established, you may attach a copy of these criteria as they appear in the Graduate Catalog, departmental website, or other source (please indicate source).

Applicants must meet all admission requirements of the Graduate College. In addition, applicants should have an undergraduate major in English or Theatre, with a GPA of 3.00 or above (4.0 scale). If an applicant does not have an undergraduate major in English or Theatre, the student may be admitted on the basis of excellent creative and academic work. Potential students must submit an online application to the Graduate College.

Applicants must also submit the following:

- Three letters of recommendation
- Current résumé
- Statement of career goals
- Manuscript sample of 30+ pages of drama.

C. If the proposed concentration is part of a larger, interdisciplinary agenda, please provide additional admission information related to students who may enter with various academic backgrounds, including expected entry-level competencies.

This is not part of a larger, interdisciplinary agenda.

D. What knowledge, competencies, and skills (learning outcomes) should students have when they graduate from this proposed concentration program? Examples of program learning outcomes can be found at (http://www.asu.edu/oue/assessment.html).

1. The student will be able to complete a full-length play, a variety of short plays, and/or solo work and/or screenplay.
2. The student will have knowledge of theatre history and theory, and also on the current state of new play development, production, and the entrepreneurship necessary to create new works in the United States.
3. The student will be able to collaborate with directors, actors and designers for performance.

E. How will students be assessed and evaluated in achieving the knowledge, competencies, and skills outlined in 3.D. above? Examples of assessment methods can be found at (http://www.asu.edu/oue/assessment.html).

Outcome 1 - will be evaluated by a thesis committee that will advise the student in the process towards graduation, commenting on the thesis play and other aspects of the students’ writing as it develops. Outcome 2 - will be assessed via the final projects in THE 504 Theatre Theory and THE 520 Theatre History. Outcome 3 - will be
evaluated by the faculty thesis committee, by the artistic director through observation of the production process and via peer review in the workshop class.

F. Please provide the curricular structure for the proposed concentration.

- Additionally, please ensure that all new required course proposals have been submitted to the Provost’s office through the ACRES online course proposal submission system for approval before this concentration is put on the University Graduate Council and CAPC agendas.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Required Core Courses for the Degree</th>
<th>Credit Hours</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>(Prefix &amp; Number)</strong></td>
<td><strong>(New Course?) Yes or No?</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>THE 500</td>
<td>No</td>
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<td>THE 520</td>
<td>No</td>
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<td>THE 504</td>
<td>No</td>
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<td>THP 560</td>
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<th>Required Concentration Courses</th>
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<td><strong>(Prefix &amp; Number)</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>THP 520</td>
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<tr>
<td>THP 598</td>
<td>No</td>
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<td>THE 562</td>
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<th>Elective Courses – (Prefix &amp; Number)</th>
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<td>THP 684</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>THP 598 and others as approved by advisor</td>
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<tr>
<th>Culminating Experience</th>
<th>Credit Hours</th>
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<tr>
<td>THP693 Applied Project</td>
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<tr>
<th>Research / Dissertation</th>
<th>Credit Hours</th>
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<tr>
<td>Total required credit hours</td>
<td>60</td>
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G. Please describe the culminating experience(s) required for completion of the existing degree and major, and the proposed concentration (e.g., thesis, dissertation, comprehensive exams, capstone course(s), practicum, applied projects, etc.).

The student will write a thesis play as their applied project, which will be developed as one of the following: a full production on the school’s mainstage; a workshop production; or a staged reading.

H. Please describe any other requirements for completion of the existing degree and major, and the proposed concentration (e.g., internships, foreign language skills, etc.).
A co-operative education program has been developed with the Phoenix Theatre New Plays Festival, which has been collaborating with the MFA dramatic writing program since 2005. Via this relationship, students act as literary managers of the festival, within the context of class requirements for THE 562, Literary Management Workshop.

I. For interdisciplinary programs, additional sample curricular structures must be included as appendix items to this proposal relating to students with various academic backgrounds who may pursue the proposed concentration, including expected mastery of core competencies (e.g., course work, skills, and/or knowledge).

n/a

4. Administration and Resources

A. How will the proposed concentration be administered (including recommendations for admissions, student advisement, retention etc.)? Describe the administering body in detail, especially if the proposed concentration is part of a larger interdisciplinary agenda. How will the graduate support staff for this proposed concentration program be met?

The concentration will be administered by School of Theatre and Film. The coordinator for New Work Development is Prof. Guillermo Reyes. This curricular area also includes Assistant Prof. Jeff McMahon, Associate Professor Pam Sterling, and Assistant Professor Philip Taylor. They, or a 3 person sub-committee thereof, will review applications and make recommendations to the coordinator for admission. The current graduate support staff, Ms. Heidi Walsh, will provide administrative support for this concentration as she does for all MFA and PhD concentrations in the School of Theatre and Film. The new concentration will simplify her work as she will have direct access to student records in the OASIS/PeopleSoft system. She can not access current students now who are officially students in Creative Writing.

B. How many students will be admitted immediately following final approval of the concentration? What are enrollment projections for the next three years?

Two or more students may be admitted every year. No more than six students will be in the program at any one time to assure that their creative work can be adequately supported by the production program. These six work among and with almost 30 other MFA Theatre students pursuing other concentrations.

C. What are the resource implications for the proposed concentration, including any projected budget needs? For Doctoral students, how will the students be supported financially? Will new books, library holdings, equipment, laboratory space and/or personnel be required now or in the future? If multiple units/programs will collaborate in offering this concentration please discuss the resource contribution of each participating program. Letters of support must be included from all academic units that will commit resources to this concentration.

No new facilities would be needed, as this program has existed for many years as a joint emphasis program with Creative Writing. Library holdings are adequate and special collections archivist Kathy Krzys supports the work of the school and the writing program effectively.

D. Please list the primary faculty participants with regards to the proposed concentration.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Area(s) of Specialization as they relate to proposed concentration</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Guillermo Reyes</td>
<td>Associate Professor</td>
<td>Playwriting/Literary Management/Comedy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pamela Sterling</td>
<td>Associate Professor</td>
<td>Playwriting/Devising/Theater for Young Audiences</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jeff McMahon</td>
<td>Assistant Professor</td>
<td>Playwriting/ Writing for Solo Performance/ Devising</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>William Partlan</td>
<td>Assistant Professor</td>
<td>Directing/Directing New Works</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Philip Taylor</td>
<td>Assistant Professor</td>
<td>Screenwriting</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
5. Additional Material — Please attach any additional information that you feel relates to the proposed concentration. (Please label accordingly, i.e., Appendix or Attachment A, B, etc.)

**Approvals (if the proposal submission involves multiple units, please include letters of support from those units)**

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<th>DEPARTMENT CHAIR</th>
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The following section will be completed by the GC following the recommendations of faculty governance bodies.

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<th>UNIVERSITY VICE PROVOST AND DEAN OF THE GRADUATE COLLEGE</th>
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**Please note:** Proposals for new concentrations also require the review and recommendation of approval from the University Graduate Council, Curriculum and Academic Programs Committee (CAPC), the Academic Senate (Information item only), and the Office of the Provost before they can be put into operation.

The final approval notification will come from the Office of the Provost.

GF0908E-92
Memorandum

Date: January 26, 2009

To: Elizabeth D. Capaldi, Provost

From: Kwang-Wu Kim

Re: Master of Fine Arts in Theatre (Dramatic Writing) Concentration Proposal

I have reviewed the attached proposal requesting the establishment of the Master of Fine Arts in Theatre (Dramatic Writing) in the Herberger College of the Arts.

The Herberger College Curriculum Committee reviewed the proposal and it has their unanimous support.

My signature indicates my support and approval for the establishment of this new concentration.

[Signature]
Pamela Sterling  Associate Professor  Playwriting/Devising/Theater for Young Audiences
Jeff McMahon  Assistant Professor  Playwriting/ Writing for Solo Performance/ Devising
William Partlan  Assistant Professor  Directing/Directing New Works
Philip Taylor  Assistant Professor  Screenwriting
Margaret Knapp  Professor  Theatre History
Gitta Honigger  Professor  Research Methods/Dramaturgy

5. Additional Material — Please attach any additional information that you feel relates to the proposed concentration.
(Please label accordingly, i.e., Appendix or Attachment A, B, etc.)

Approvals (if the proposal submission involves multiple units, please include letters of support from those units)

DEPARTMENT CHAIR  (Please print or type)

SIGNATURE  

DATE  1-23-09

DEAN (Please print or type)

SIGNATURE  

DATE  1-26-09

The following section will be completed by the GC following the recommendations of faculty governance bodies.

UNIVERSITY VICE PROVOST AND DEAN OF THE GRADUATE COLLEGE

SIGNATURE  

DATE

Please note: Proposals for new concentrations also require the review and recommendation of approval from the University Graduate Council, Curriculum and Academic Programs Committee (CAPC), the Academic Senate (Information Item only), and the Office of the Provost before they can be put into operation.

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GF0908E-92

APPENDIX
OPERATIONAL INFORMATION FOR GRADUATE CONCENTRATIONS
(This information is used to populate the Graduate Programs Search website.)
Impact statements follow.

Professor Linda Essig
Director, School of Theatre and Film
Herberger College of the Arts
Arizona State University
PO Box 872002
Tempe AZ 85287-2002
480.965.9547

-----Original Message-----
From: Tamara Underiner
Sent: Tuesday, January 20, 2009 7:44 PM
To: Linda Essig
Subject: FW: Concentration in Dramatic Writing Proposal

To attach to final proposal. Thanks, Tam

From: Neal Lester
Sent: Monday, November 10, 2008 5:41 PM
To: Daniel Bernardi; Tamara Underiner
Cc: Deborah Losse
Subject: RE: Concentration in Dramatic Writing Proposal

English has no objections.

Neal A. Lester, Chair
Bebbling Family Dean's Distinguished Professor Parents Association Professor Foundation Professor Arizona Humanities Council Distinguished Public Scholar Department of English Arizona State University Post Office Box 870302 Tempe, AZ 85287-0302 480 965 3168 (Office) 480 965 3451 (FAX)

From: Daniel Bernardi
Sent: Monday, November 10, 2008 5:31 PM
To: Tamara Underiner; Neal Lester
Cc: Deborah Losse
Subject: Re: Concentration in Dramatic Writing Proposal

Film and Media Studies has no objections to the proposed degree. Looks terrific.

DANIEL BERNARDI
Director
Film and Media Studies
http://www.film.asu.edu
Arizona State University | P.O. Box 870402 | Tempe, Arizona 85287-0402
480.965-6747 | Fax: 480.965.9110 | e-mail: daniel.bernardi@asu.edu
From: Tamara Underiner <Tamara.Underiner@asu.edu>
Date: Mon, 10 Nov 2008 16:49:59 -0700
To: Neal Lester <neal.lester@asu.edu>, Daniel Bernardi <Daniel.Bernardi@asu.edu>
Conversation: Concentration in Dramatic Writing Proposal
Subject: Concentration in Dramatic Writing Proposal

Dear Neal and Daniel,

As you may know, the Creative Writing program seeks to divest itself of the playwriting emphasis which until recently had been jointly administrated by the School of Theatre and Film and Creative Writing. To meet ongoing demand for the degree, the School of Theatre and Film is proposing an MFA Theatre concentration in Dramatic Writing to replace this emphasis area.

Attached is a full draft of the proposal, and a separate Statement for you both to complete after you have had the chance to review the proposal. Please return the attached Impact Statement to me by November 17.

Thank you,

Tamara Underiner
Associate Professor and Director of Graduate Studies School of Theatre and Film