



2010 MFA in Dramatic Writing APPLICATION CHECKLIST

WELCOME Fall 2010 Applicants

The Office of Academic Services of the USC School of Theatre looks forward to assisting you through the application process. If we can be of service to you in any step of this process, please feel free to contact us at 213.821.4163

Following are the deadlines for submitting your application:

January 8	MFA in Dramatic Writing deadline
May 1	USC Financial Aid

Please use this checklist to ensure you have submitted all the necessary application materials for graduate study in theatre at USC.

- Submit a Graduate Admissions Application on-line from the USC Graduate School website: www.usc.edu/admission/graduate/apply/.
- Application Fee
The nonrefundable application fee of **\$85.00** can be paid by credit card or, if necessary, by check or money order.

The application fee must be paid before a USC ID can be issued.

USC accepts Visa, Mastercard, and Discover. If you must pay by check or money order, please make the check payable to the "University of Southern California." If a check is written for you by someone else, be sure your name and other identifying information (applicant ID, date of birth, department to which you are applying, etc.) appear on the face of the check. PLEASE SEND YOUR CHECK and PAYMENT SHEET TO: USC Office of Admission & Financial Aid - GRADUATE, University Park Campus, Los Angeles, CA 90089-0915.

Please be aware that if you select the check option, the initial processing of your application will be delayed by a minimum of seven to 10 working days. The date your payment is received is the date your application is submitted.

- Send a COMPLETE application packet to:

**USC School of Theatre
Graduate Admissions
1029 Childs Way
Los Angeles, California 90089-0791**

This packet should include the following items:

Supplemental Application (see attached)

NOTE: Your major should always be listed as THEATRE. Your degree objective/post should indicate the degree program you are applying to (e.g., **MFA in Acting – 908, MFA in Dramatic Writing - 1266**)

Personal Statement

Please use 12-pt font.

1. As an aspiring writer, what impact do you believe your work and theatre in general can have on society — the community, the nation, and globally — and, relatedly, on the human condition? Please limit your response to 700 words or less.
2. What are the three key events/experiences of your life and why are they significant? Please list the events as **bullet points** and briefly state reasons for significance in fifty words or less.
3. Why do you want to enroll in the graduate dramatic writing program and particularly why USC? Please limit your response to 100 words or less.

Transcripts

Submit **ONE** original transcript, in a sealed envelope, from each institution attended.

One official copy of your transcript is required for admission. If you have taken any courses at another institution, you will need to send transcripts from those institutions as well, regardless if they are noted on your undergraduate transcript.

If you are a college senior, do not wait for senior-year grades before submitting your application and transcript.

USC undergraduates: You do NOT have to submit official copies of USC transcripts. You MUST, however, submit ONE unofficial copy of your USC transcript, which can be obtained at the Registrar's office (STARS reports will NOT be accepted)

Letters of Recommendation

THREE letters of recommendation who are familiar with your playwriting must be included with each application.

Online: Please have your recommender complete the Letter of Recommendation form provided online by the USC Graduate School.

Hard Copy: If your recommender chooses, s/he may submit a formal letter of recommendation via mail. Each letter of recommendation must be printed on official letterhead and sealed in an envelope with the signature over the flap. We ask that you collect all letters of recommendation and send them with your application materials.

Resume or Curriculum Vitae (CV)

GRE score report from the Educational Testing Service.

USC's institution code for this exam is **4852**, and the department code is **2403**. All prospective students to the USC School of Theatre MFA in Dramatic Writing must take the GRE exam by **January 8th**. Exams taken after this date will NOT be accepted and in turn make the application incomplete. There are NO exceptions to this policy.

Original Play

One writing sample only, which should be your best play. It must be in standard Samuel French manuscript format or Final Draft stage format, no more than 90 pages long, and in Courier 12-point type. No other format will be accepted unless from an international student. A one-act play may be submitted, but your chances in a highly competitive pool are better if you submit a full-length play. Please do not submit a screenplay. For a sample on formatting, please visit: <http://www.vcu.edu/arts/playwriting/formatpage.html>

Synopsis of Play

A one-page synopsis of the submitted play in Courier 12-point with standard margins that articulates the story without adding any editorial commentary.

FAFSA (Free Application for Student Aid) Optional

For applicants who qualify for federal aid, we encourage you to submit a FAFSA application by the posted deadline. To complete an application, please visit: www.fafsa.ed.gov.

Information received by the Office of Academic Services will be processed in a timely manner. Any applicant may inquire on the status of his/her application by calling our office at 213.821.4163.

For International Applicants Only:

International applicants must submit a Confidential Financial Statement/Verification of Funds with their application, which needs to offer substantial proof of adequate funding for the entire course of study in the U.S.