

MFA Acting FAQ

How many students are in the MFA Acting program?

A cohort of 14 MFA actors are chosen from a competitive pool of applicants each year.

How long is the program?

The MFA is a two-year, full-time, in-person program.

Is it possible to work while enrolled in the program?

While classes are in session, the training schedule requires time commitment morning through evening. Outside work must be carefully managed and *considerably* flexible. During the first quarter, some students work evenings and weekends before entering the casting pool in the second quarter.

What is training like at The Theatre School (TTS)?

TTS is a rigorous conservatory. Training encompasses a variety of acting techniques and methodologies prioritizing physical body, voice, and ensemble work. It is a highly collaborative program with tight-knit cohorts where students support one another, negotiate personal relationships with good boundaries, and respect group agreements.

What type of performance opportunities can I expect?

TTS hosts over 30 performances annually and serves students in both the BFA and MFA performance programs. MFA and BFA actors are considered equally for roles in productions and share combined, competitive casting with rigorous rehearsal and performance requirements. In the first year, MFA students perform in the winter and spring quarters and in the second year, fall and winter quarters. Additional opportunities for collaborative projects with other TTS departments are available in the spring quarter of the second year.

What type of schedule can I expect?

The curriculum is highly sequential and each cohort of 14 MFA actors advance as a group over two years. While classes are in session, the training schedule requires time commitment morning through evening.

Can I work professionally while in school?

In the first year, the rigor of the program limits outside acting/performance jobs when class is in session. If an opportunity arises students should seek council and written permission from the head of the program. In the second year, outside work may be considered if it avoids conflicts with classes and rehearsals. If a leave of absence is needed, a leave of absence for a full year may be required due to curriculum sequencing.

Are there additional educational expenses not covered by tuition?

Students should expect to spend \$1,500 or more for expenses related to Graduate Showcase in the second year. This could include auditions and/or events that require headshots, websites, travel, etc. These expenses are not covered by TTS and are the responsibility of the student.