

# MIDPOINT REVIEW GUIDELINES

## MOTION PICTURES & TELEVISION|ACTING

The Master of fine Arts degree may be acquired with an emphasis in Directing, Cinematography, Editing, Screenwriting, Producing, Production Design or Acting [see separate guidelines for Acting]. Filmed or taped projects may be selected from Narrative, Documentary, Music Video, Spec Ads, Experimental or a suitable combination thereof.

### General Procedure

The Midpoint Review consists of the **oral presentation** (which includes a brief introduction, the final thesis project proposal and the portfolio presentation), the **written proposal**, a **question and answer session** between the student and the committee regarding the proposal and the portfolio, the **evaluation of the presentation, proposal and portfolio** by the committee (while the student is briefly excused) and the **determination and summation** of the committee's findings (when the student returns). **Students shall:**

- Be well prepared, organized and succinct/to the point.
- DRESS APPROPRIATELY-Business Attire
- Have attended the **mandatory** Midpoint Review Workshop prior to the Midpoint Review

**ORAL PRESENTATION**-Stand while addressing committee, limit presentation to 5 minutes and include:

- An introduction and brief auto-biography
- Reason(s) for pursuing an MFA degree
- Declaration of Emphasis in the MFA program (Options include: Directing, Cinematography, Editing, Screenwriting, Producing, Production Design and Acting [see separate guidelines for Acting emphasis])
- Industry goals
- **Final Thesis Project Proposal**
- Background/reasons for project selection
- Planned use of project (i.e., Sale, Film Festivals, Reel for acquiring clients/investors, Education, etc.)
- Projection of how project will benefit career goals / profile of applicant for industry/career.
- **PORTFOLIO PRESENTATION – which shall:**
  - Be 5 to 10 minutes maximum viewing time
  - Consist of selected work which demonstrates filmmaking skills achieved to date
  - Acknowledge any skills still needed to be learned in order to accomplish the proposed Thesis project.

**WRITTEN PROPOSAL** (Same as Oral bullet points plus:)

- Clear timeline including intended use of the six directed studies over the course of two or, preferably, three semesters. Story development should be accounted for in the timeline
- Proposed/Projected Budget
- Demonstrate a thorough understanding of how the student will succeed in their proposed project
- **Flawless** grammar and spelling required – Papers needing to be corrected for Grammar or Content will need to be resubmitted in order to pass the midpoint review.

**The FINAL THESIS PROJECT may be Narrative, Documentary, Music Video, Spec Ads, Experimental or a suitable combination and must:**

- Be of a Scope and Quality suitable for the MFA
- Be polished, well thought out and clearly shown to benefit the student's career/industry goals
- Achievable
- Challenging
- Broadcast/Professional quality

### SCALE

- Must be doable (No less than 12 minutes and no greater than 20 minutes absolute maximum)

11/23/05  
(Acting)

Directors: Jack Isgro and Diane Baker

MFA Coordinator: Eduardo Rufeisen

**\*Mandatory – Students must attend the Midpoint Review Workshop preferably in the semester prior to the Midpoint Review – see Graduate School Calendar for meeting times.**

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