

GENERAL GUIDELINES FOR PURSUING A PRACTICAL THESIS

Initial Discussion:

Students will attend a Thesis Orientation at the beginning of their second year. Afterward, contact the Director of Graduate Theses (Prof. Michael Hollinger) to register your interest and discuss the scope of your project. He will assign you a Thesis Advisor who will guide you in writing your thesis proposal.

Practical Thesis projects that may be considered include:

- Acting in a thesis-worthy role in a mainstage production
- Design of a mainstage production
- Playwriting
- Directing a laboratory production
- Dramaturgy of a mainstage production or New Works Reading project
- Solo Performance
- Marketing (MPA candidates)

Visit our [Departmental Resources](#) webpage to download discipline-specific thesis guidelines. On rare occasions, proposals for thesis project areas other than those listed above have been approved. **Proposals will be accepted for work undertaken at Villanova only.** Note also that some thesis projects and proposals – e.g., Acting, Design, Dramaturgy – are closely tied to the Villanova Theatre Production Calendar. Be mindful of deadlines, and address questions in a timely way to your Thesis Advisor or Prof. Hollinger.

Project Proposal:

Work closely with your Thesis Advisor in writing and revising your Thesis Proposal, which may require three or more drafts before she or he approves it for review by the full faculty. Proposals must be received by faculty no later than one week prior to the faculty meeting at which it will be discussed. Prof. Hollinger will notify you whether or not your proposal has been approved; if it has, he will ask you which other two faculty members (in addition to your Advisor) you would like to serve on your Thesis Committee, and will make these requests. **Students should not contact potential committee members directly.**

Budget Proposal:

Thesis candidates must adhere to the budget proposal requirements laid out in the Thesis Budget Guidelines and Template document, located [here](#). Budgets must be submitted to the Business Manager and Department Chair for approval no later than one month prior to the thesis defense.

Approved budgets will not exceed the following amounts:

Directing: \$300

Solo: \$200

Playwriting: \$100

Dramaturgy: \$50

Design: \$50 _____

Qualifying for the Project Defense:

The committee will evaluate your artistic work. If your artistic work meets with the committee's approval, a Thesis Project Defense will be scheduled. The Project Defense will begin with a ten-minute analytic retrospective of your artistic process, followed by a discussion of your analysis and your work with the committee. Your Thesis project is finished with the successful completion of the Thesis Project defense. The defense will be held within a few weeks of the completion of your artistic work.