

Area of Interest: Creative Media and Communications

Scriptwriting

Ontario College Graduate Certificate

Program Code: 0382X01FWO

1 Year

Ottawa Campus

Our Program

Author your own career - study writing for film, television, theatre, video and digital media.

The one-year Scriptwriting Ontario College Graduate Certificate program provides you with the knowledge, writing experience and hands-on skills necessary to become a writer in the ever-expanding fields of film, television, theatre, streaming and digital media content.

Discover your style and voice, as well as how to develop characters and write stories for any audience. By the end of the program, you possess an extensive professional-quality portfolio of work.

By analyzing issues and trends in film and media, you learn how to market your skills effectively and work professionally in our industries. Faculty are up-to-date, experienced professionals who help guide your projects. Guest speakers are regular visitors to your class and provide tips and advice on your potential career paths.

At the end of the program, you have the opportunity to pitch your film or TV/Streamed series ideas to local producers and writers, and later to major broadcasting and production companies based in Toronto both in person and virtually. You will also meet agents and successful graduates of the program as part of this pitch experience. It is a great opportunity to connect with important players in the industry and get their feedback on your projects.

You also expand your real-world experience with a 40-hour work placement. These placements can be online, writing based, or non-writing positions that allow you to learn more about how the production process works, make industry contacts and broaden your skill set.

Another opportunity that you will participate in is the Hothouse Reading Series, which showcases your short plays read by professional actors and Performing Arts students. You receive feedback from the audience that provides you with invaluable insight to strengthen your writing.

After graduation, you may have career opportunities as a writer for:

- feature length or short films
- broadcast, streamed and digital media
- theatre
- gaming and animation
- production environments performing other writing-related tasks

SUCCESS FACTORS

This program is well-suited for students who:

- Have superior oral and written communication skills.
- Are self-motivated and well-organized.
- Can work independently and meet deadlines.

- Are creative thinkers.
- Can work in collaborative settings with appropriate guidance.

Employment

Graduates may have career opportunities as writers for feature length or short films, broadcast, streamed and digital media, online video, theatre and video games. They may also find work in production environments performing other writing and writing-related tasks. Graduates are knowledgeable about their industries and markets, and know how to further their careers in pre-production, production and other creative environments. They also have basic production skills which enable them to work effectively in and with production crews. Graduates possess an extensive professional-quality portfolio.

Learning Outcomes

Program of Study

Level: 01	Courses	Hours
SCR1516	Film and Media in Canada	42.0
SCR1518	Writing for Live Performance 1	42.0
SCR1519	Writing for Digital Media I	42.0
SCR1529	Introduction to Media Production	42.0
SCR1530	Screenwriting I	70.0
SCR1533	Content Creation for Series and Streaming I	56.0
Level: 02	Courses	Hours
SCR1500	Writers' Workshops	42.0
SCR1517	Business Practices	42.0
SCR1540	Screenwriting II	56.0
SCR1543	Content Creation for Series and Streaming II	56.0
SCR1544	Writing for Live Performance 2	42.0
SCR1547	Writing for Digital Media II	42.0
SCR1549	Field Placement	40.0

Fees for the 2023/2024 Academic Year

Tuition and related ancillary fees for this program can be viewed by using the Tuition and Fees Estimator tool at <https://www.algonquincollege.com/fee-estimator> .

Further information on fees can be found by visiting the Registrar’s Office website at <https://www.algonquincollege.com/ro> .

Fees are subject to change.

Additional program-related expenses include:

- Books and supplies cost approximately \$500 per year.
- Students must purchase their own laptop computer.
- Computers and supplies can be purchased directly from Algonquin's Connections Store.

Admission Requirements for the 2024/2025 Academic Year

Program Eligibility

- Ontario College Diploma, Advanced Diploma, degree or equivalent or partially-completed degree, or two or more years of appropriate post-secondary experience; AND
- Submission of a 500-word written piece identifying the applicant's suitability for a profession in scriptwriting as well as describing the film, media, theatre, writing or other writing-related experience qualifying you for this program. Submission details can be found on the Algonquin College Additional Admission Requirements website:
<http://www.algonquincollege.com/admissionspackages> .
- If you do not meet the academic requirements above but have two or more years of media, theatre, journalism or other program-related experience, clarify this in your written piece.
- The written piece is required of ALL applicants. We cannot finish your application process until this has been completed. We encourage you to submit this promptly.
- **NOTE:** Please send an electronic copy of your written piece to:
<mailto:media@algonquincollege.com> .
- The following information must be included in the email subject line: Scriptwriting, Written Piece, your name, and Algonquin student number.
- Applicants with international transcripts must provide proof of the subject-specific requirements noted above and may be required to provide proof of language proficiency. Domestic applicants with international transcripts must be evaluated through the International Credential Assessment Service of Canada (ICAS) or World Education Services (WES).
- IELTS-International English Language Testing Service (Academic) Overall band of 6.5 with a minimum of 6.0 in each band; OR TOEFL-Internet-based (iBT)-overall 88, with a minimum of 22 in each component: Reading 22; Listening 22; Speaking 22; Writing 22; OR Duolingo English Test (DET) Overall 120, minimum of 120 in Literacy and no score below 105.

Admission Requirements for 2023/2024 Academic Year

Program Eligibility

Application Information

SCRIPTWRITING

Program Code 0382X01FWO

Applications to full-time day programs must be submitted with official transcripts showing completion of the academic admission requirements through:

ontariocolleges.ca
60 Corporate Court
Guelph, Ontario N1G 5J3
1-888-892-2228

Students currently enrolled in an Ontario secondary school should notify their Guidance Office prior to their online application at <http://www.ontariocolleges.ca/> .

Applications for Fall Term and Winter Term admission received by February 1 will be given equal consideration. Applications received after February 1 will be processed on a first-come, first-served basis as long as places are available.

International applicants please visit this link for application process information:
<https://algonquincollege.force.com/myACint/> .

For further information on the admissions process, contact:

Registrar`s Office
Algonquin College
1385 Woodroffe Ave
Ottawa, ON K2G 1V8
Telephone: 613-727-0002
Toll-free: 1-800-565-4723
TTY: 613-727-7766
Fax: 613-727-7632
Contact: <https://www.algonquincollege.com/ro>

Additional Information

This program has a field work component that must be completed in order to graduate. Finding and securing an approved fieldwork opportunity is a shared responsibility. Your faculty and field work supervisor/coordinator has contacts in industry, and where feasible will assist you in finding an approved field placement.

Contact Information

Program Coordinator(s)

- Teri Loretto, <mailto:lorettt@algonquincollege.com> , 613-727-4723, ext. 7888

Course Descriptions

SCR1500 Writers' Workshops

Students are introduced to useful skills that will increase their employability in film and media in areas such as writing for games, script coverage, writing comedy, script supervision and other forms of creative and production-related writing. Students experience presentations by industry professionals and participate in practical exercises to create items for their personal portfolios.

Prerequisite(s): none
Corerequisite(s):none

SCR1516 Film and Media in Canada

Students study Canada's film, television, radio and digital media industries. The class analyzes trends, genres, the challenges of different media and past and current issues to gain a deeper understanding of media trends and the role of the writer in our rapidly evolving industries.

Prerequisite(s): none
Corerequisite(s):none

SCR1517 Business Practices

Focus is placed on the understanding of the scriptwriting industry as a whole, from licensing deals to taxes, from collaboration to copyright, from festivals to grants, from the page to the pitch. Through contact with a variety of industry professionals, students acquire an understanding of expectations and standards. Students learn techniques to help them succeed as freelance writers, including honing a writer's portfolio, effective networking skills, and professional comportment.

Prerequisite(s): SCR1516 and SCR1519 and SCR1529 and SCR1530 and SCR1533
Corerequisite(s):none

SCR1518 Writing for Live Performance 1

Students are introduced to the fundamental elements of writing for actors, focusing on dialogue, plot and conflict. Through exercises, discussions and live readings, students learn how actors and directors mine scripts for actions and motivations. Students explore dramatic and comedic styles, producing a portfolio that includes monologues and a 10-minute play.

Prerequisite(s): none
Corerequisite(s):none

SCR1519 Writing for Digital Media I

Students are introduced to writing scripts for short videos for a variety of client-based communications and other content for digital media. Students become familiar with the terminology, current advances in technology and other factors affecting writers in the constantly evolving fields of interactive and online media. Using needs analysis and audience profiles for real-world clients, students apply knowledge to plan their videos and write effective and appropriate content for web projects.

Prerequisite(s): none
Corerequisite(s):none

SCR1529 Introduction to Media Production

Via in-class demonstrations, supervised laboratory and individual conference time, students learn the essentials of pre-production, production and post-production by working in teams on a number of video projects.

Prerequisite(s): none
Corerequisite(s):none

SCR1530 Screenwriting I

Focus is placed on the fundamental principles of screenwriting, including story structure, creating dimensionalized characters and worlds, screenplay format, style and philosophy. The dramatic elements and technical demands of both short and feature-length screenwriting are explored. Students develop story proposals, treatments and a beat outline. As well, they complete two drafts of a short film and an Act I for a full-length screenplay to be completed in Screenwriting II. Students also create a short comic book script using specific formatting styles, and these are submitted for consideration.

Prerequisite(s): none
Corerequisite(s):none

SCR1533 Content Creation for Series and Streaming I

Students are introduced to writing for a marketplace that increasingly demands serialized storytelling for streaming, VOD and standard broadcast models. They become familiar with television scriptwriting and production practices for a variety of genres by writing a pitch, beat outline and speculative script for a current TV series, as well as other exercises. As well, students participate in simulations and role-playing that approximate the television development experience.

Prerequisite(s): none
Corerequisite(s):none

SCR1540 Screenwriting II

Students continue to hone their craft and understanding of the technical and stylistic demands of this medium and to enhance their visual storytelling abilities. All students are expected to complete one rough draft of a feature screenplay and complete their short comic book scripts. As well, students further develop effective pitching techniques, culminating in pitch sessions with industry professionals. Supervised laboratory time as well as one-hour a week of online activity is included.

Prerequisite(s): SCR1530
Corerequisite(s):none

SCR1543 Content Creation for Series and Streaming II

Students expand knowledge writing for a variety of television genres. Students have the

opportunity to add to their portfolios by developing an original series, learning to write pitch bibles and pilot scripts or by writing another spec script in a different genre.

Prerequisite(s): SCR1533
Corerequisite(s):none

SCR1544 Writing for Live Performance 2

Students see their work evolve from the page to the stage, learning how to edit and rewrite scripts using standard theatre formats. They continue to build their portfolios by writing a one-act play. Selected material will be showcased in Hothouse, a series of staged public readings by local professional actors and students from the Performing Arts Program. Mandatory time outside of scheduled classes for Hothouse rehearsals and performances is expected.

Prerequisite(s): SCR1518
Corerequisite(s):none

SCR1547 Writing for Digital Media II

Students put a greater emphasis on effective writing for interactive media for education, government and corporate markets, theatrical multimedia and websites. Students also have the opportunity to create a website for self-promotion and plan "second platform" material for the original TV series they create in SCR 1543. Students also engage in a collaborative assignment with Game Development students.

Prerequisite(s): SCR1519
Corerequisite(s):none

SCR1549 Field Placement

To make an efficient transition from college to freelance writing, students complete a minimum of 40 hours in a media, production, film, theatre or communications environment. Discussions of decorum and expected conduct in the workplace are covered prior to placements. Students are supervised and evaluated by employers in conjunction with a faculty advisor. Students are also encouraged to network and improve their communication skills at their placements to help them find and sustain employment in their field after graduation.

Prerequisite(s): none
Corerequisite(s):none