

# ILLINOIS THEATRE MFA ACTING CURRICULUM

Our three-year MFA Acting program is built for artists who want to deepen their craft while learning to generate work, lead creative processes, and sustain a long-term artistic life. Grounded in core actor training and expanded through movement, voice, camera, and live performance, the curriculum supports students as both performers and makers. Alongside intensive studio work, the program integrates pedagogical inquiry and research, helping actors build tools for teaching, collaboration, and sustainable leadership in the field. By the end of six semesters, students emerge with range, rigor, and a personal creative practice that prepares them both to work and to shape the work they want to see in the field.

## YEAR 1: FOUNDATION, AWARENESS, & STAMINA

**Overview:** Establish rigorous physical, vocal, and emotional foundations, reframing acting training as research and creation while building trust in collaborative processes.

Fall Semester (1)	Spring Semester (2)
<b>EMBODIED PRACTICE</b>	<b>EMBODIED PRACTICE</b>
<b>GRAD VOICE 1:</b> Linklater Progression 1	<b>GRAD VOICE 2:</b> Linklater Progression 2
<b>GRAD MOVEMENT 1:</b> Play, Ensemble, and Consent-Based Practices	<b>GRAD MOVEMENT 2:</b> Alexander Technique
<b>GRAD ACTING 1:</b> Acting Architecture & Process through Scene Study	<b>GRAD ACTING 2:</b> Shakespeare & Heightened Language/Text
<b>PEDAGOGY &amp; PERFORMANCE LAB:</b> Pedagogy Practice, Ensemble-based Performance	<b>PEDAGOGY &amp; PERFORMANCE LAB:</b> Pedagogy Practice, Improvisation

## YEAR 2: CREATIVE EXPANSION, MAKING, AND PROFESSIONAL PRACTICE

**Overview:** Move from application to expanded creative forms, integrating character and heightened-style work with on-camera exploration, continued ensemble work, and professional engagement.

Fall Semester (3)	Spring Semester (4)
<b>EMBODIED PRACTICE</b>	<b>EMBODIED PRACTICE</b>
<b>GRAD VOICE 3:</b> Speech & Dialect 1	<b>GRAD VOICE 4:</b> Speech & Dialect 2
<b>GRAD MOVEMENT 3:</b> Character Building Vocabularies	<b>GRAD MOVEMENT 4:</b> Clown & Acrobatics
<b>GRAD ACTING 3:</b> Acting Styles	<b>GRAD ACTING 4:</b> On-Camera Acting
<b>PERFORMANCE LAB:</b> Actor, Producer, Maker	<b>PERFORMANCE LAB:</b> Actor Entrepreneurship & Business of Acting

## YEAR 3: INTEGRATION, LEADERSHIP, AND PUBLIC PRACTICE

**Overview:** Define professional identities, deepen artistic practice, complete research and capstone projects, and bridge into the industry through performance and project-based work.

Fall Semester (5)	Spring Semester (6)
<b>EMBODIED PRACTICE</b>	<b>EMBODIED PRACTICE</b>
<b>GRAD VOICE 5:</b> Voice and the Profession 1	<b>GRAD VOICE 6:</b> Voice and the Profession 2
<b>GRAD MOVEMENT 5:</b> Stage Combat 1	<b>GRAD MOVEMENT 6:</b> Stage Combat 2
<b>GRAD ACTING 5:</b> On Camera Acting 2	<b>GRAD ACTING 6:</b> Live Showcase + Integration of Technique
<b>PERFORMANCE LAB:</b> Digital Showcase & Thesis Projects	<b>Thesis Projects</b>