

Film and Television Directing (MFA)

Estimated Program Costs

To realize their visions on screen, the best directors need equal mastery of leadership, storytelling, and production skills. As a master's candidate in the **Film and Television Directing** program, you'll learn how to craft character-driven narratives, work with producers, lead a crew, and create diverse and authentic films grounded in the human experience. You'll complete intensive study in screenwriting and production, and direct your own scripts and those written by other writers. For your thesis project, you'll develop and direct a short film.

To earn an MFA in Film and Television Directing at Columbia, you must complete 56 credits.

The below chart reflects the typical costs of a full-time student in this program:

	YEAR 1 FALL AND SPRING	YEAR 2 FALL AND SPRING	TOTAL COSTS
ESTIMATED DIRECT EXPENSES	\$44,583	\$41,593	\$86,176
ESTIMATED INDIRECT EXPENSES	\$33,592	\$40,592	\$74,184

- The estimated **direct expenses** include tuition and fees for the program based on 2025-26 tuition rates. Tuition rates are subject to annual increases. You will be billed by Columbia for direct expenses after you register for each semester of the program.
- The estimated **indirect expenses** reflect the average cost of attending college full time in Chicago and include estimates for books and supplies, room and board, and transportation. You will not be billed by Columbia for indirect expenses, and your actual expenses may vary.
- Students in this program typically incur expenses related to film projects. You can expect to spend approximately \$3,000 in your first year and \$10,000 in your second year on such projects. These approximate costs are reflected in the estimated indirect expenses above.

Financing Your Graduate Degree at Columbia

Columbia will work closely with you to create a plan to finance your graduate program. We recommend that you submit the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (studentaid.gov) with the Columbia school code of 001665 for the academic year that you plan to begin your graduate program. For additional information on financing your graduate program, please visit colum.edu/columbiacentral.