

USC Discovery Scholars
School of Dramatic Arts
Submission Criteria



Eligibility

Discovery Scholars will:

- Have a minimum 3.5 overall GPA upon graduation
- Complete an undergraduate degree within five years
- Complete and submit an online application, letter of recommendation, and senior project as explained below by the annual deadline.

Online Application

Submit an online application via the Discovery Scholars website:

<http://ahf.usc.edu/scholars/discovery/apply/>

Letter of Recommendation

All Discovery Scholar submissions must include a letter of recommendation from a USC faculty member. Whenever possible, the letter should come from the faculty member who has supervised or mentored the student on the project being presented for consideration. The letter of recommendation should provide context for the student's work relative to: the student's overall achievement and performance in the program; the scope and quality of the student's contribution to the submitted project; the merit of the project relative to both the quality of work typically presented at the undergraduate level and the highest standards of the discipline; and the value and implications of the project in the field of study and beyond.

Project Criteria

Discovery Scholar candidates in Dramatic Arts must identify a faculty mentor in the School. During their senior year they should submit a substantive dossier that demonstrates a body of original work that is either scholarly or creative in nature.

The contents of a dossier will vary, depending upon the main focus of study or creative work, as follows:

For Performance:

- A proposal that states why the student seeks to be designated as a Discovery Scholar.
- Minimum of two performances, one of which must be a School of Dramatic Arts production (programs/playbills required as attachments).
- Written journals that describe the preparation and self-assessment of these performances.
- Minimum of two critiques of the student's performances by members of the performance faculty; one of these may be from the Director if that person is a faculty member.

For Directors:

- A proposal that states why the student seeks to be designated as a Discovery Scholar
- Minimum of two projects (programs/playbills required as attachments)
- Written journals that describe the preparation and self-assessment of these projects
- Minimum of two critiques of the student's projects by members of the performance faculty

For Playwrights:

- A proposal that states why the student seeks to be designated as a Discovery Scholar
- Minimum of one full-length play or two one-act plays.
- Written critique of the student's work by a member of the playwriting faculty of the School of Dramatic Arts

For Design/Production:

- A proposal that states why the student seeks to be designated as a Discovery Scholar
- Minimum of two design/production portfolios, one of which must be for a School of Dramatic Arts production
- Written journals that describe the preparation and self-assessment of these performances
- Written critique of the student's work by a member of the design faculty of the School of Dramatic Arts

For Scholarly Research:

- A proposal that states why the student seeks to be designated as a Discovery Scholar
- An original thesis of at least twenty pages prepared in conjunction with THTR 490
- Written evaluation of the dossier by a member of the critical studies faculty.

Inter-Area Projects:

The School of Dramatic Arts will also consider projects that cross the areas above (for example, an actor who wants to submit a role and a related research paper or a research project that includes a production. Solo performance and Applied Theatre projects might fit this category as well.) In such cases the Dean of Academic Affairs will decide what the dossier should contain, based on the models above.

School Contact

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Academic Advisor