The Columbia MFA Dramaturgy program seeks highly self-motivated, entrepreneurial, creative thinkers who are interested in deepening their total knowledge of the theatre. Dramaturgs are people of ideas who function as a liaison among all the components of a creative team. They are at once theatre generalists and specialists who delve into the world of the play at hand and are instrumental in its development. Many of the best dramaturgs are individuals who have excelled in and continue to work in another theatrical discipline. While traditional positions of literary management and production dramaturgy will be a goal for some, we also encourage our students to think of themselves as future artistic directors, producers, and institution-builders.

Students receive a foundation in dramatic theory, history, and literature as well as classes in producing, playwriting, acting, directing and various forms of theatrical collaboration. Dramaturgy students will gain extensive experience in the development and production of new plays and classic texts, and will work on all Theatre Program productions with playwrights.

We seek to position our Dramaturgy MFA graduates at the forefront of thought and practice about new modes of producing and making great stories for the theatre of the 21st century.
Fall Semester – Year 1:
Introduction to Dramaturgy
Christian Parker
Fundamentals of Directing
Jackson Gay
History & Theory of Theatre
Arnold Aronson
Creating a Play
Leslie Ayvazian
Elective*

Spring Semester – Year 1:
Contemporary American Plays
Lisa Timmel
Collaboration
Anne Bogart
Critical Writing for Theatre
Linda Winer
Creating a Play
Leslie Ayvazian
Models of Dramatic Structure
Arnold Aronson

Fall Semester – Year 2:
Development Process
Barry Grove
Planning a Theatrical Season
Christian Parker
Dramaturgy II (Shakespeare)
John Dias
Playwright-Dramaturg Workshop
Morgan Jenness
Topics in Theatre History and Theory
Arnold Aronson

Spring Semester – Year 2:
Dramaturgy Practicum
Christian Parker
Advanced Drama Criticism Seminar
Morgan Jenness
Storytelling and Drama
Gregory Mosher
Elective*

Additional Requirements Include:
One production assignment, Collaboration Weekend Workshop, two professional internships and a Foreign Language requirement.

Dramaturgy Thesis Project:
MFA dramaturgy students complete a written thesis based on production work, scholarly research, translations, or other projects approved by their advisor.