

Film and Visual Media, B.A.

The B.A. in Film & Visual Media

The Film & Visual Media major trains students through a combination of coursework in:

- visual media,
- film history and analysis,
- screenwriting,
- and production of film and other visual media.

This major offers a comprehensive education in film and visual media, from theoretical framing and historical-cultural contextualization to training skills in both creating and analyzing film, as well as the development of a complex blend of creative, professional and technical competencies.

CMU's Department of English is an ideal home for the Film & Visual Media major due to the department's combination of creative writers, film and media studies scholars, film makers, digital humanities, and visual communication researchers.

Program Learning Objectives

- Describe the broader context (from history and cultural-national traditions to market trends and media industry) in which media emerge and function and in which films are produced, distributed, and consumed.
- Identify film structure and elements of screenplay composition through creating full-length screenplays as well as short screenplays to film and edit.
- Explain the ways in which the act of production affects both the creation and reception of visual media through the act of creating films.
- Engage with technology so as to redefine properties of narrative and visual media as they evolve into a variety of digital forms, including but not limited to Virtual Reality, Augmented Reality, and Artificial Intelligence.

Curriculum

In addition to satisfying all of the Dietrich College degree requirements for B.A. candidates, Film & Visual Media majors must complete **12 courses** for a **minimum of 108 units** in six areas:

1. Introductory Film Studies and History
2. Screenwriting
3. Film Production
4. Digital Media
5. Literary & Cultural Studies
6. Topics in Film & Media Studies

Note: courses cannot double count between areas. For example, if you take 76-429 Introduction to Computational Humanities for the Digital Media area, you cannot also count that course for your Literature & Cultural Studies area.

Required courses (5 courses) 45 units

Required Courses	Units
76-239 Introduction to Film Studies	9
76-259 Film History	9
76-269 Introduction to Screenwriting	9
76-292 Introduction to Film Production	9
76-469 Screenwriting Workshop	9

Production elective (1 course) 9-12 units

Courses include but may not be limited to the following (as new courses may become available over time):

Production Elective Courses	
51-368 Moving Pictures	9
54-191 Acting for Non-Majors	9
60-110 Foundations: Time-Based Media	10
60-125 IDeATe: Introduction to 3D Animation Pipeline	12
60-141 Black and White Photography I	10

60-143	Photography Can Be Fun!	10
60-166	Photography in the Dark	10
60-218	Intermediate Studio: Real-Time Animation	10
60-220	IDeATe: Technical Character Animation	10
60-224	Intermediate Studio: Expanded Cinema	10
60-241	Black and White Photography II	10
60-245	Portrait Photography	10
60-375	Large Format Photography: Antiquarian Avant-Garde	10
60-415	Advanced ETB: Animation Studio	10
60-416	Advanced ETB: Documentary Storytelling	10
62-141	Black and White Photography I	10
62-282	Staged Photography	10
62-375	Large Format Photography: The Antiquarian Avant-Garde	10
76-212	Introduction to TV Writing	9
76-310	Advanced Studies in Film and Media	9
76-313	Creative Visual Storytelling in Film Production	9
76-320	The Writer's Room: TV Writing	9
76-358	Making the Documentary	9
76-374	Mediated Narrative	9
76-381	AI Filmmaking and Creative Arts Lab	12
76-394	The Video Essay: Theory & Practice	9
76-481	Introduction to Multimedia Design	12
82-265	Third Cinema: People, Language, and Culture in Documentary Storytelling	9

Digital Media Courses (2 courses) 18-20 units

Courses include but may not be limited to the following (as new courses may become available over time):

Digital Media Courses		
15-104	Introduction to Computing for Creative Practice	10
51-229	Digital Imaging	9
60-120	Foundations: Digital Media	10
60-125	IDeATe: Introduction to 3D Animation Pipeline	12
60-142	Digital Photography I	10
60-202	Intermediate Studio: Animation Fundamentals	10
60-212	Intermediate Studio: Creative Coding	12
60-218	Intermediate Studio: Real-Time Animation	10
60-219	Intermediate Studio: Stop-Motion Animation	10
60-220	IDeATe: Technical Character Animation	10
60-222	Intermediate Studio: 3D Animation	10
60-224	Intermediate Studio: Expanded Cinema	10
60-228	Intermediate Studio: Art & Generative AI	
60-242	Digital Photography II	10
60-281	Intermediate Digital Photography	10
60-415	Advanced ETB: Animation Studio	10
62-142	Digital Photography I	10
62-150	IDeATe Portal: Introduction to Media Synthesis and Analysis	10
76-314	Data Stories	9
76-374	Mediated Narrative	9
76-381	AI Filmmaking and Creative Arts Lab	12
76-388	Coding for Humanists	9
76-394	The Video Essay: Theory & Practice	9
76-429	Introduction to Computational Humanities	9
82-183	AI for the Humanities: Learning, Reflection, and Creative Practices	9
82-250	Digital Realities: An Introduction to Immersive Storytelling	9

Literature & Cultural Studies Courses (2 courses) 18 units

Courses include but may not be limited to the following (as new courses may become available over time):

Literary & Cultural Studies Courses

60-356	Critical Studies: Once Upon a Time: A Survey of International Folk & Fairy Tale Film	9
76-207	Special Topics in Literature & Culture	9
76-210	Banned Books	9
76-217	Literature & Culture of the 20th and 21st Century	9
76-220	Mystery! From Detective Fiction to True Crime	9
76-221	Books You Should Have Read By Now	9
76-230	Literature & Culture in the 19th Century	9
76-236	CMU Prison Education Project:	12
76-241	Introduction to Gender Studies	9
76-242	American Woman Writers	9
76-244	Immigrant Fictions	9
76-245	Shakespeare: Tragedies & Histories	9
76-247	Shakespeare: Comedies and Romances	9
76-268	Comic Books & Pop Culture	9
76-275	Introduction to Critical Writing	9
76-278	Japanese Film and Literature: The Art of Storytelling	9
76-295	Russian Cinema: From the Bolshevik Revolution to Putin's Russia	9
76-296	20th Century Russian Masterpieces	9
76-299	19th Century Russian Masterpieces	9
76-312	Crime and Justice in American Film	9
76-314	Data Stories	9
76-317	Contemporary American Fiction	9
76-326	Contemporary Global Fiction	9
76-329	Performing Race in Early Modern Drama	9
76-337	Intersectional Feminism	9
76-339	Topics in Film and Media	9
76-341	The Age of Jane Austen	9
76-342	Love: A Cultural History	9
76-347	Major Fiction	9
76-348	Adaptation: Fiction to Film	9
76-350	Critical Theories about Literature	9
76-353	Transnational Feminisms: Fiction and Film	9
76-362	Reading in Forms: Nonfiction	9
76-363	Reading in Forms: Poetry	9
76-364	Reading in Forms: Fiction	9
76-367	Fact Into Film: Translating History into Cinema	9
76-370	Independent Study in Literary and Cultural Studies (instructor permission required)	Var.
76-376	Crafting Race in 19th-Century Britain	9
76-382	Media: Past, Present, and Future	9
76-392	Special Topics in Literature & Culture	9
76-401	Hollywood vs. the World	9
76-407	Topics in Literary & Cultural Studies	9
76-409	History of German Film	9
76-410	The Long Eighteenth Century	9
76-414	Decolonial Imaginaries	9
76-423	Transnational Feminisms	9
76-424	Theories of Social Class	9
76-429	Introduction to Computational Humanities	9
76-431	Gender Play in Early Modern Drama	9
76-434	Literature & Social Change in the 19th Century	9
76-439	Seminar in Film and Media Studies	9
76-442	Black Lives in Pre-1900 Britain	9
76-445	Milton	9
76-446	Revenge Tragedy	9
76-450	Law, Culture, and the Humanities	9
76-452	Generations and Culture	9
76-453	Literature of Empire	9
76-454	Rise of the Blockbuster	9
76-455	The Pittsburgh Review of Books (PProB)	9
76-461	Refugee Stories: Literature, Art and Film	9
76-467	Crime Fiction and Film	9
76-468	Space and Mobilities	9

76-482	Rise of the Art Film	9
76-493	Science Fictions/Speculative Futures: Utopian/Dystopian Visions in Film & Media	9
76-495	Other People's Words: The History, Theory, and Practice of Interviews	9
82-253	Korean Society through Film and Literature	9
82-268	Introduction to Italian Film	Var.
82-278	Japanese Film and Literature: The Art of Storytelling	9
82-279	Anime - Visual Interplay between Japan and the World	9
82-293	Russian Cinema: From the Bolshevik Revolution to Putin's Russia	Var.
82-294	19th Century Russian Masterpieces	Var.
82-295	20th Century Russian Masterpieces	Var.
82-296	From Augustine to Avatars: Personal Narratives Across Media	Var.
82-297	Russian and Soviet Science Fiction	Var.
82-298	Radicals, Heretics, Hackers: Russian Outlaws in History, Literature, and Film	Var.
82-313	Topics in Modern Arabic: Contemporary Arab Cinema	9
82-355	Tpcs in Hispanic Std: Beyond the Film Screen: The Hispanic World Through Film	9
82-380	Podcasting in Spanish: Unlocking Cultural Storytelling	9
82-428	History of German Film	Var.
82-439	Black Myth: Wukong and the Journey to the West	9

Topics in Film & Visual Media Studies Courses (2 courses) 18 units

Courses include but may not be limited to the following (as new courses may become available over time):

Topics in Film & Media Studies Courses

54-342	Costume Design for TV and Film	7
60-356	Critical Studies: Once Upon a Time: A Survey of International Folk & Fairy Tale Film	9
60-378	Critical Studies: Science Fiction Film	9
60-391	Critical Studies: Korean Flicks: A History of Contemporary Cinema	9
76-207	Special Topics in Literature & Culture Fall 2026 only	9
76-212	Introduction to TV Writing	9
76-278	Japanese Film and Literature: The Art of Storytelling	9
76-295	Russian Cinema: From the Bolshevik Revolution to Putin's Russia	9
76-312	Crime and Justice in American Film	9
76-320	The Writer's Room: TV Writing	9
76-334	Pitching to the Business of Entertainment	9
76-339	Topics in Film and Media (Can be taken more than once for credit, provided the course topic is new each time).	9
76-348	Adaptation: Fiction to Film	9
76-353	Transnational Feminisms: Fiction and Film	9
76-367	Fact Into Film: Translating History into Cinema	9
76-382	Media: Past, Present, and Future	9
76-401	Hollywood vs. the World	9
76-409	History of German Film	9
76-439	Seminar in Film and Media Studies	9
76-454	Rise of the Blockbuster	9
76-456	Independent Study in Film & Media Studies (instructor permission required)	Var.
76-461	Refugee Stories: Literature, Art and Film	9
76-467	Crime Fiction and Film	9
76-482	Rise of the Art Film	9
76-501	Semester in Hollywood Program: Story	12
76-502	Semester in Hollywood Program: How to Pitch	6
76-503	Semester in Hollywood Program: Inside Hollywood	6
79-220	Screening Mexico: Mexican Cinema, 1898 to Present	9

79-225	West African History in Film	9
79-309	The Chinese Revolution Through Film (1949-2000)	9
79-316	Photography, the First 100 Years, 1839-1939	9
79-319	India Through Film	9
79-328	Photographers and Photography Since World War II	9
79-339	Juvenile Delinquency & Film: From Soul of Youth (1920) to West Side Story (1961)	6
82-248	Introduction to Latin American Film and Visual Arts	9
82-253	Korean Society through Film and Literature	9
82-268	Introduction to Italian Film	Var.
82-269	Immersive Digital Storytelling: Using VR/AR to Explore, Language Culture Identity	9
82-278	Japanese Film and Literature: The Art of Storytelling	9
82-279	Anime - Visual Interplay between Japan and the World	9
82-284	Multicultural Pittsburgh: Storytelling with 360 Video	6
82-293	Russian Cinema: From the Bolshevik Revolution to Putin's Russia	Var.
82-296	From Augustine to Avatars: Personal Narratives Across Media	Var.
82-313	Topics in Modern Arabic: Contemporary Arab Cinema	9
82-380	Podcasting in Spanish: Unlocking Cultural Storytelling	9
82-428	History of German Film	Var.
82-439	Black Myth: Wukong and the Journey to the West	9

Recommended Courses

While not required, the following courses are recommended as a part of the curriculum. They include:

76-310	Advanced Studies in Film and Media	9
76-374	Mediated Narrative	9

Double Counting

Students may double count up to two courses with other programs outside of the Department of English. **NOTE:** courses being used for the Dietrich General Education requirements do not have a double-counting limit.

Transfer Courses

Students may transfer up to two advisor-approved courses from other programs outside of Carnegie Mellon University toward the primary or additional major in Film & Visual Media Studies, with the exception of 76-239 Introduction to Film Studies and 76-259 Film History. If the two-course maximum is met, other related transfer courses will be considered for general education requirements and free electives for graduation.

Please see the **Dietrich College Advanced Standing and Transfer Credit Policy** (<https://www.cmu.edu/dietrich/advisory-center/scheduling-classes/ap-and-transfer-credit.html>) for more information.

Recommended Curriculum Pathway: B.A. in Film & Visual Media

This plan is the recommended pathway for completing the B.A. in Film & Visual Media in four years. While it is not required for students to follow this pathway precisely, it is highly recommended for students to do so, and we recommend students begin the major's courses as early as possible. Students in Dietrich College may declare their primary major as early as February 1. Students who have not declared their major in the Department of English may still take courses with us.

Students may also view the four-year plan (also known as a Pathway) for the B.A. in Film & Visual Media via the **Stellic Degree Audit Application** (<https://www.cmu.edu/es/stellic/>).

First-Year		Second-Year	
Fall	Spring	Fall	Spring
GEN ED: Foundations: Communication Course	GEN ED: Foundations: Data Analysis Course	GEN ED: Foundations: Scientific Inquiry Course	GEN ED: Foundations: Intercultural & Global Inquiry Course
GEN ED: Disciplinary Perspectives: Humanities Course	GEN ED: Disciplinary Perspectives: Social Sciences Course	GEN ED: Foundations: Computational Thinking Course	GEN ED: Disciplinary Perspectives: Logic/Math Course
GEN ED: Grand Challenge Seminar Course	76-310 Advanced Studies in Film and Media (recommended course, but not required)	76-259 Film History	76-469 Screenwriting Workshop
76-239 Introduction to Film Studies (Also counts as GEN ED: Disciplinary Perspectives: The Arts)	Literature & Culture Course #1	76-269 Introduction to Screenwriting	Digital Media Course #1
Free Elective	Free Elective	76-292 Introduction to Film Production	Topics in Film Course #1

Third-Year		Fourth-Year	
Fall	Spring	Fall	Spring
GEN ED: Foundations: Contextual Thinking Course	Open for course exploration, requirements for other majors/minors, study abroad, etc. OR Topics in Film Course #2	GEN ED: Disciplinary Perspectives: Additional (Business, Design, Engineering)	OPTIONAL GEN ED: Senior Capstone OR Free Elective
GEN ED: Equity and Justice Course	Open for course exploration, requirements for other majors/minors, study abroad, etc. OR 76374 Mediated Narrative (recommended course, but not required)	Topics in Film Course #2 OR Free Elective	76-374 Mediated Narrative (recommended course, but not required) OR Free Elective
Production Elective Course or 323 Text to Screen (which is a recommended course, but not required)	Open for course exploration, requirements for other majors/minors, study abroad, etc. OR Free Elective	Free Elective	Free Elective
Literature & Culture Course #2	Open for course exploration, requirements for other majors/minors, study abroad, etc. OR Free Elective	Free Elective	Free Elective
Digital Media Course #2	Open for course exploration, requirements for other majors/minors, study abroad, etc. OR Free Elective	Free Elective	Free Elective