CINEMA, BACHELOR OF ARTS (B.A.)

The Bachelor of Arts in Cinema is focused on narrative movie production. Consequently, the program is designed to advance conceptual understanding of visual storytelling and to teach and practice the technical methodologies foundational to movie-making.

Cinema majors collaborate on student productions under the supervision of faculty with professional production experience. Each summer session, students and faculty work collectively on a series of films funded by the School of the Arts.

Course work explores the proper use of motion picture cameras, lights, sound recording equipment and editorial software. Students also learn the history and theory of film, and develop skills in screenwriting, producing, directing and the business of movie-making.

The B.A. in Cinema requires a minimum of 120 credits, including 48 in the major. At least 45 of the 120 credits must be taken as 300- and 400-level courses. Students are admitted directly into the cinema program and are not required to complete the Art Foundation Program.

Many full-time students enrolled in the cinema program graduate with their B.A. degree after the successful completion of the summer session following their third year.

Learning outcomes

Upon completing this program, students will know and know how to do the following:

- Operate film equipment and screenwriting, editing, scheduling and budgeting software
- Gain an international film perspective
- Create all aspects of the art of storytelling
- Produce narrative short films
- Develop creative collaborations
- Synthesize other disciplines with filmmaking

Special requirements

Students must maintain a minimum cumulative GPA of 2.0 in the program.

Majors in the Cinema Program may choose to complete a second major or minor in any other department or program that supports their educational and artistic goals. Alternatively, students may create a customized plan of study for a second major by requesting admission to the Bachelor of Interdisciplinary Studies program.

Degree requirements for Cinema, Bachelor of Arts (B.A.)

General Education requirements

Course | Title | Hours
--- | --- | ---
UNIV 111 Play course video for Focused Inquiry I | Focused Inquiry I | 3

Collateral requirements

Course | Title | Hours
--- | --- | ---
ARTH 270 & ARTH 271 | History of the Motion Picture I and History of the Motion Picture II | 6
Total Hours | 6

Major requirements

Course | Title | Hours
--- | --- | ---
CINE 100 | Visual Storytelling | 2
CINE 101 | Visual Storytelling | 2
CINE 200 | Cinema Form and Concept I | 2
CINE 201 | Cinema Form and Concept II | 2
CINE 300 | Cinema Form and Concept III | 2
CINE 301 | Cinema Form and Concept IV | 2
CINE 390 | Digital Cinema Production Intensive I | 15
CINE 490 | Digital Cinema Production Intensive II | 15
Total Hours | 42

Open electives or second major or minor courses

Select 42-60 credits in courses towards a minor, second major or electives | 42-60

The minimum total of credit hours required for this degree is 120.

Cinema electives

Course | Title | Hours
--- | --- | ---
CINE 401 | Advanced Cinema Production | 4
CINE 495 | Cinema as Art | 3
CINE 496 | Advanced Screenwriting Seminar | 3
CINE 497 | Expanded Cinema | 3

What follows is a sample plan that meets the prescribed requirements within a four-year course of study at VCU. Please contact your adviser before beginning course work toward a degree.

Freshman year

Fall semester

Course | Title | Hours
--- | --- | ---
ARTH 270 | History of the Motion Picture I | 3
CINE 100 | Visual Storytelling | 2
The minimum total of credit hours required for this degree is 120.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Term Hours</th>
<th>Courses</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>Spring semester</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>Summer semester</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>Sophomore year</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>Junior year</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Spring semester

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CINE 392: Independent Study in Film</td>
<td>2-3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENGL 392: Introduction to Screenwriting</td>
<td>2-3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENGL 393: Advanced Screenwriting</td>
<td>2-3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENGL 394: Capstone Project</td>
<td>2-3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Summer semester

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CINE 395: Opinion and Inquiry</td>
<td>2-3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CINE 396: Experience and Inquiry</td>
<td>2-3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CINE 397: Action and Inquiry</td>
<td>2-3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CINE 398: Reflection and Inquiry</td>
<td>2-3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Sophomore year

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CINE 200: Cinema Form and Concept I</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UNIV 200: Inquiry and the Craft of Argument</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Courses toward a minor, second major or electives</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General education course</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Junior year

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CINE 300: Cinema Form and Concept III</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Courses toward a minor, second major or electives</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General education course</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Fall semester

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CINE 390: Digital Cinema Production Intensive I</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Spring semester

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CINE 391: Digital Cinema Production Intensive II (capstone)</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The minimum total of credit hours required for this degree is 120.
CINE 401. Advanced Cinema Production. 4 Hours.
Semester course; 2 lecture and 4 studio hours. 4 credits. Prerequisite:
CINE 390 or permission of instructor. Open to junior and senior B.A. in
Cinema majors. Lecture and workshop in the production, theory, business
and historical context of film.

CINE 490. Digital Cinema Production Intensive II. 15 Hours.
Semester course; 1 lecture and 28 studio hours (additional evening and
weekend hours for location filming and postproduction). 15 credits.
Prerequisites: CINE 200, CINE 201 and CINE 390, or permission of
instructor. Enrollment is restricted to B.A. in Cinema majors or by
permission of instructor. Advanced production and postproduction of
narrative short films using digital technology for camera, editing and
sound, with the development of budgets, production schedules and
rehearsals with performers.

CINE 491. Special Topics in Cinema. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. May be repeated for six
credits. An in-depth examination of selected topics. See the Schedule of
Classes for specific topics to be offered each semester.

CINE 493. Film Internship. 3 Hours.
Semester course; variable hours. 3 credits. May be repeated up to a
maximum of 6 credits. Open only to B.A. in Cinema majors or with
permission of instructor. Supervised work experience related to the film
industry.

CINE 495. Cinema as Art. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisites: ARTH 270
and 271 or permission of instructor. An analysis of cinema as art, image,
narrative and philosophy.

CINE 496. Advanced Screenwriting Seminar. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: CINE 390. Open
to junior and senior B.A. in Cinema majors. A study of the screenwriting
process and writers on the subject including Aristotle, Joseph Campbell,
David Mamet and Lajos Egri.

CINE 497. Expanded Cinema. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Enrollment is restricted to
juniors and seniors in the B.A. in Cinema program or by permission of the
instructor. A lecture and workshop exploring film techniques that push
the boundaries of conventional narratives through structure, content and
ideas. Students examine filmmakers as film theorists and multimedia
artists as filmmakers. Films studied range from feature narratives to
short experimental films of all styles and genres.