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.

Student learning outcomes

Upon completing this program, students will be able to:

1. Demonstrate safe, effective and responsible technical practices used in operating motion-picture cameras, grip/lighting, sound and editing equipment employed in all stages of production
2. Write, revise and critique original screenplays that include fundamental narrative elements appropriate to creative guidelines
3. Express a rich understanding of the history and influences of cinema by communicating adeptly about references with professionals in the film universe
4. Produce narrative films by competently, collaboratively and professionally participating with a team in their assigned production role.

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.)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>General education (<a href="http://bulletin.vcu.edu/undergraduate/undergraduate-study/general-education-curriculum/">http://bulletin.vcu.edu/undergraduate/undergraduate-study/general-education-curriculum/</a>)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Select 12-13 credits from general education foundations and 17-18 credits from areas of inquiry.</td>
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<td>30</td>
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Major requirements

- Major core requirements
  - CINE 100 Visual Storytelling I 2
  - CINE 101 Visual Storytelling II 2
  - CINE 110 Writing for Cinema I 3
  - CINE 111 Writing for Cinema II 3
  - CINE 200 Cinema Form and Concept I 2
  - CINE 201 Cinema Form and Concept II 2
  - CINE 210 Synergetic Film Production 3
  - CINE 300 Cinema Form and Concept III 2
  - CINE 301 Cinema Form and Concept IV 2
  - CINE 390 Digital Cinema Production Intensive I 12
  - CINE 490 Digital Cinema Production Intensive II 15

Ancillary requirements

- ARTH 270 History of the Motion Picture I & ARTH 271 History of the Motion Picture II 6
- Open electives Select any courses toward a minor, second major or electives. 36

Total Hours 120

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

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

- ARTH 270 History of the Motion Picture I 3
- CINE 100 Visual Storytelling I 2
- CINE 110 Writing for Cinema I 3
- UNIV 111 Play course video for Focused Inquiry I 3
- General education course 3

Term Hours: 14

Spring semester

- ARTH 271 History of the Motion Picture II 3
- CINE 101 Visual Storytelling II 2
- CINE 111 Writing for Cinema II 3
- UNIV 112 Play course video for Focused Inquiry II 3
- General education course 3

Term Hours: 14

Summer semester

- CINE 390 Digital Cinema Production Intensive I 12

Term Hours: 12

Sophomore year

Fall semester

- CINE 200 Cinema Form and Concept I 2

Term Hours: 2
### CINE 100. Visual Storytelling I. 2 Hours.
Semester course; 1 lecture and 2 studio hours. 2 credits. Enrollment is restricted to B.A. in Cinema majors. This course will build a foundation of skills in the use of camera, lighting and sound for narrative film production. Pre-production planning concepts and methods will also be presented.

### CINE 101. Visual Storytelling II. 2 Hours.
Semester course; 1 lecture and 2 studio hours. 2 credits. Enrollment is restricted to B.A. in Cinema majors. This course will build a foundation of skills in the use of camera, lighting and sound for narrative film production. The primary focus will be on production and post-production equipment and processes.

### CINE 110. Writing for Cinema I. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Enrollment is restricted to cinema majors. This course will examine the creative process and elements of effective narrative writing. Students will explore various formats such as narrative pieces, critical essays and basic screenplays.

### CINE 111. Writing for Cinema II. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: CINE 110. Enrollment is restricted to cinema majors. This course will focus on the development of synopsis, treatments and intermediate screenplays. Strategies for pitching and communicating narrative ideas will be addressed.

### CINE 120. Integrating Sight and Sound. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Enrollment is restricted to students in the cinema program or a music program, including the music minor. This course introduces students to digital audio workstation software and its applications to produce, edit, mix and synchronize soundtracks to motion pictures. Students will receive instruction and practical experience applied to music editing, sound design, Foley and purposeful integration of sound into time-based media projects in a DAW environment.

### CINE 200. Cinema Form and Concept I. 2 Hours.
Semester course; 2 lecture and 2 studio hours. 2 credits. Open only to B.A. in Cinema majors or with permission of instructor. Concepts, issues and processes involved in feature and short-form narrative filmmaking.

### CINE 201. Cinema Form and Concept II. 2 Hours.
Semester course; 2 lecture and 2 studio hours. 2 credits. Open only to B.A. in Cinema majors or with permission of instructor. Concepts, issues and processes involved in feature and short-form narrative screenwriting and filmmaking.

### CINE 210. Synergetic Film Production. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: CINE 101. Enrollment is restricted to Cinema majors. This course will provide a foundation for professional communication skills, managing and leading teams, and working effectively in a positive, collaborative environment.

### CINE 217. Mechanics of Screenwriting. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Enrollment is restricted to students who have permission of the instructor. Introductory course focused on building an in-depth and logistical understanding of how a screenplay informs and prescribes the movie-making process. The course will cover common story structures, standard script formatting and abbreviations, script analysis for production, and creating shot-by-shot shooting lists.

### CINE 300. Cinema Form and Concept III. 2 Hours.
Semester course; 2 lecture and 2 studio hours. 2 credits. Prerequisite: CINE 101. Enrollment is restricted to cinema majors or with permission of instructor. Concepts, issues and processes involved in feature and short-form narrative filmmaking including screenplay treatments and storyboards.

### CINE 301. Cinema Form and Concept IV. 2 Hours.
Semester course; 2 lecture and 2 studio hours. 2 credits. Open only to B.A. in Cinema majors or with permission of instructor. Concepts, issues and processes involved in feature and short-form narrative filmmaking including the roles of dialogue and light.

### CINE 390. Digital Cinema Production Intensive I. 12 Hours.
Semester course; 1 lecture and 28 studio hours. 12 credits. Prerequisites: CINE 100 and CINE 101, or permission of instructor. Enrollment is restricted to B.A. in Cinema majors or by permission of instructor. Production and postproduction of narrative short films using digital technology for camera, editing and sound, with an emphasis on the technical and tactical aspects of production. This course is designed for full-day participation over a six-week summer session.

### CINE 392. Independent Study in Film. 1-3 Hours.
Semester course; variable hours. 1-3 credits. May be repeated for a maximum total of 6 credits. Prerequisites: junior standing as a major in cinema and approval of department chair and instructor. Individual instruction and supervision of a special project.
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 a
maximum of 12 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. 1-3 Hours.
Semester course; 1-3 practicum hours. 1-3 credits. May be repeated up
to a maximum of six credits. Enrollment is restricted to B.A. in Cinema
majors. Supervised work experience related to cinema.

CINE 495. Cinema as Art. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. May be repeated for a
maximum of six credits. A critical exploration of cinema as art, image,
narrative and theory. Film lists, theoretical/critical texts, focal points of
emphasis, and themes vary, including studies of individual or linked sets
of filmmakers or film movements, seen through the lens of classic and/or
contemporary film theory and criticism. See the Schedule of Classes for
specific topics to be offered.

CINE 496. Advanced Screenwriting Seminar. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 seminar hours. 3 credits. A study of the narrative
screenwriting process. In a workshop setting, students advance their use
and understanding of the formal elements of narrative such as character,
story, plot, arc, conflict, unity, development and theme.

CINE 497. Expanded Cinema: ____. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. May be repeated with
different topics for a maximum of six credits. Students advance their
critical knowledge of contemporary screen culture and expand their
understanding of formats, techniques and styles in narrative cinema,
television and/or streaming.