PHOTOGRAPHY AND FILM,
BACHELOR OF FINE ARTS (B.F.A)
WITH A CONCENTRATION IN
FILMMAKING

The Department of Photography and Film offers a variety of basic, intermediate and advanced photography and filmmaking classes leading to a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Photography and Film.

The program provides students with the ability to intelligently express, investigate or document using photography and/or film and to interpret meaning in still and moving images. Emphasis is placed on photography and film as contemporary fine arts. The department promotes a fundamental and effective philosophy that students maintain creative freedom, have access to resources and are enrolled in courses in which they can refine their voices and skills through traditional and contemporary media, tools and professional working methods.

Learning outcomes

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

- **Historical perspectives**
  Students will clearly recall a functional knowledge of photographic and independent film history and theory, define the relationship of photography/film to the visual disciplines and relate the medium's influence on culture. Students will incorporate a broad perception of cultural diversity including age, race, gender, ethnicity, nationality, etc., communicating insight and ownership of a personal meaning of diversity.

- **Applied criticism and theory**
  Students can analyze, assess and debate contemporary sociopolitical issues and theoretical discourses within the context of contemporary photography and film as well as related media practice and research. Topics to be examined can include but are not limited to multiculturalism, environmentalism, queer theory, feminist and gender studies, postmodernism, modernism, psychoanalytical, Marxism, post-structuralism, post-colonialism and post-digital. Students will incorporate a broad perception of cultural diversity including age, race, gender, ethnicity, nationality, etc., communicating insight and ownership of a personal meaning of diversity within applied criticism and theory.

- **Effective visual communication**
  Students can effectively author visual illustrations, representations, descriptions, explanations and/or contextualizations of their artistic, research-based and career-oriented photography/film pursuits, ideas and emotions for a broad range of purposes and audiences.

- **Effective oral communication**
  Students can definitively recognize, explain, employ, appraise and compute the use of basic to advanced photographic and film tools, techniques, technologies and processes sufficient to advance their work from concept to finished product. Students will display evidence of professional proficiency regarding the methods and modes of production presented in required courses covering technical mastery of antique, analog and digital photography/filmmaking processes and techniques.

- **Professional practice skills**
  Students demonstrate and apply broad knowledge of current business practices and resources of professional artists and independent commercial photographers and filmmakers. Students are capable of estimating costs, administering their legal rights as authors of visual art, establishing a professional network, generating and distributing marketing materials, establishing a reliable mode of art production, acquiring additional training, and devising business plans. Students can recognize ethical issues when presented within the context of professional practice.

Special requirements

While in the program, students must earn a minimum grade of C in each departmental course. Students who fail to meet this requirement may be asked to change their major.

Degree requirements for Photography and Film, Bachelor of Fine Arts (B.F.A) with a concentration in filmmaking

General Education requirements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>UNIV 111 Play course video for Focused Inquiry I</td>
<td>Focused Inquiry I</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UNIV 112 Play course video for Focused Inquiry II</td>
<td>Focused Inquiry II</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UNIV 200</td>
<td>Inquiry and the Craft of Argument</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Approved humanities/fine arts</td>
<td></td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Approved natural/physical sciences</td>
<td></td>
<td>3-4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Approved quantitative literacy</td>
<td></td>
<td>3-4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Approved social/behavioral sciences</td>
<td></td>
<td>3-4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Hours</td>
<td></td>
<td>21-24</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Course | Title                  | Hours |
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ENGL 215</td>
<td>Reading Literature</td>
<td>3</td>
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</table>
General education electives (Choose from AFAM, AMST, ANTH, ARBC, ARTE, ARTH, BIOL, CHEM, CHIN, CMSC, CRJS, ECON, ENGL, ENVYS, FREN, FRSC, GLED, GRMN, GSWS, HIST, INNO, INTL, ITAL, LGCC, LATN, LING, MASC, MATH, MILS, MHIS, PHIL, PHYS, POLI, PSYC, RELS, RUSS, SOCY, SPAN, UNIV, URSP, BRND, VNTR, or WRLD) 6

Total Hours 9

Collateral requirements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ARTF 131</td>
<td>Drawing Studio</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ARTF 132</td>
<td>Surface Research</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ARTF 133</td>
<td>Space Research</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ARTF 134</td>
<td>Time Studio</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ARTF 139</td>
<td>Project</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ARTH 103</td>
<td>Survey of Art I</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ARTH 104</td>
<td>Survey of Art II</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ARTH 270</td>
<td>History of the Motion Picture I</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ARTH 271</td>
<td>History of the Motion Picture II</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ARTH 374</td>
<td>Studies in Film</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>or ARTH 370</td>
<td>History of Animated Film</td>
<td></td>
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Total Hours 36

Major requirements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PHTO 275</td>
<td>Film as Material</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHTO 280</td>
<td>Moving Pixels</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHTO 281</td>
<td>Digital Imaging I</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHTO 295</td>
<td>Revolutionary Cinema</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHTO 350</td>
<td>Concepts I</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHTO 361</td>
<td>Sound and Color</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHTO 362</td>
<td>Lighting and Cinematography</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHTO 377</td>
<td>The Film Image</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHTO 390</td>
<td>Writing and Directing for the Screen</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHTO 394</td>
<td>Documentary I</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHTO 436</td>
<td>Senior Suitcase</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHTO 475</td>
<td>Advanced Production Workshop</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>PHTO 484</td>
<td>Thesis Film I</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>&amp; PHTO 485</td>
<td>and Thesis Film II</td>
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<tr>
<td>PHTO 494</td>
<td>Documentary II</td>
<td>3</td>
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</table>

Total Hours 45

Open electives

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Select nine open elective credits</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

The minimum total 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.
Photography and Film, Bachelor of Fine Arts (B.F.A) with a concentration in filmmaking

General education elective 3  
Open elective 3  

Term Hours: 15  

Senior year  
Fall semester  
ARTH 374 Studies in Film 3  
ENGL 215 Reading Literature 3  
PHTO 436 Senior Suitcase 3  
PHTO 484 Thesis Film I 3  

Term Hours: 12  

Spring semester  
PHTO 485 Thesis Film II 3  
General education elective 3  
Open elective 3  
Studio art elective 3  

Term Hours: 12  
Total Hours: 120  

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

PHTO 201. Sophomore Photography Seminar. 1 Hour.  
Semester course; 1 lecture hour. 1 credit. Prerequisite: sophomore standing in Department of Photography and Film. Introduces various methods and means of exhibition.

PHTO 202. Sophomore Film Seminar. 1 Hour.  
Semester course; 1 lecture hour. 1 credit. Prerequisite: sophomore standing in the Department of Photography and Film. Students will learn all aspects of organizing a film festival that will be held at the end of the spring semester.

PHTO 233. Elements of the Moving Image. 4 Hours.  
Semester course; 4 lecture hours. 4 credits. A survey of new media and their origins. An exploration of this visual phenomena and its relationship to modern society.

PHTO 243. Darkroom. 3 Hours.  
Semester course; 2 lecture and 3 studio hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: sophomore standing in the department. Manual 35mm film camera is required. Study of fundamental camera techniques and photographic processing including darkroom printing. Emphasizes professional standards, technical proficiency and individual artistic expression.

PHTO 245. Design Photography I. 3 Hours.  
Semester course; 2 lecture and 3 studio hours. 3 credits. For communication art and design majors only or permission of instructor. A comprehensive beginning class covering an introduction to the camera, the process of exposure, developing, and black-and-white printmaking.

PHTO 260. Experiments in Sequencing. 3 Hours.  
Semester course; 2 lecture and 3 studio hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: PHTO 243 or PHTO 281. Explores the history, contexts and applications of sequencing as a unifying artistic practice. Emphasis is placed on sequencing as it relates to visual communication and contemporary multimedia.

PHTO 275. Film as Material. 3 Hours.  
Semester course; 2 lecture and 3 studio hours. Prerequisite: sophomore standing in the department. Study of the fundamental techniques and processes of 16mm film production, including cameras, lighting and composition. Emphasizes technical proficiency and individual artistic expression.

PHTO 280. Moving Pixels. 3 Hours.  
Semester course; 2 lecture and 3 studio hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: sophomore standing in the department. Introduction to digital video, computer imaging and interactive multimedia as tools of artistic expression and social inquiry.

PHTO 281. Digital Imaging I. 3 Hours.  
Semester course; 2 lecture and 3 studio hours. Prerequisite: sophomore standing in the department. Digital still image camera is required. Study of fundamental techniques and processes of digital image-making, including image capture, manipulation and digital printing. Emphasizes professional standards, technical proficiency and individual artistic expression.

PHTO 290. Photography for Non-majors. 1-3 Hours.  
Semester course; variable hours. 1-3 credits. May be repeated for a maximum of 6 credits. Digital still image camera is required. Study of fundamental techniques and processes of digital image-making, including image capture, manipulation and digital printing. Emphasizes professional standards, technical proficiency and individual artistic expression.

PHTO 295. Revolutionary Cinema. 3 Hours.  
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: PHTO 280. Investigates a range of experimental/underground/alternative moving image art forms and styles and covers key historical moments in the avant-garde. Emphasizes attentive viewing and critical analysis of works that challenge dominant media conventions.

PHTO 301. Junior Seminar. 1 Hour.  
Semester course; 1 studio hour. 1 credit. Prerequisite: junior standing in the Department of Photography and Film. Instruction in how to make an artist website using current technology and 2-D design principles.

PHTO 307. Processes and Techniques. 3 Hours.  
Semester course; 2 lecture and 3 studio hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: PHTO 243. Explores alternative photographic techniques with an emphasis on handmade printing. Places various photographic practices and aesthetics in a historical context. Students develop personal awareness of their creative process in the pursuit of a conceptually coherent body of work.

PHTO 340. Lighting I: Studio. 3 Hours.  
Semester course; 2 lecture and 3 studio hours. 3 credits. Prerequisites: PHTO 243 and PHTO 281. Introduces controlled lighting for still photography in the studio. Students use continuous light sources and professional grade strobe equipment to explore tabletop and portrait photography through lectures and studio assignments. Emphasizes professional standards, technical proficiency and individual artistic expression.

PHTO 350. Concepts I. 3 Hours.  
Semester course; 2 lecture and 3 studio hours. 3 credits. Prerequisites: UNIV 200 or HONR 200 and PHTO 281. Students utilize the aesthetic and technical skills mastered in previous courses to explore photography as a conceptual tool. Emphasizes both historic and contemporary contextualizations of the medium and fosters development of a long-term, personal artistic project.
PHOTO 351. Portrait Photography. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 2 lecture and 3 studio hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite:
PHOTO 345 Design Photography or PHOTO 350 Intermediate Photography.
Students explore the various visual possibilities of the use of portrait
photography.

PHOTO 352. Concepts II: Junior Project. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 2 lecture and 3 studio hours. Prerequisite: PHOTO 350.
Students complete a conceptually coherent body of work that engages
with photography as an artistic medium. Course emphasizes advanced
understanding of historical perspectives and critical theory as they relate
to the development of a personal project.

PHOTO 361. Sound and Color. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 2 lecture and 3 studio hours. 3 credits. Prerequisites:
PHOTO 280 and PHOTO 281. Explores advanced concepts and techniques in
sound design, editing, color grading and postproduction workflow for film,
video and multimedia.

PHOTO 362. Lighting and Cinematography. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 2 lecture and 3 studio hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite:
PHOTO 280. Explores theory and formal aspects of lighting, framing,
composition, and camera function and movement for moving-image
media in a range of genres. Students develop strategies for visual
storytelling through hands-on workshops and exercises.

PHOTO 377. The Film Image. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. May be repeated for a
maximum of 9 credits. An examination of production techniques and
problems encountered by the filmmaker in creating the motion picture
image. A selected number of narrative, documentary, experimental and
animated films are viewed as source material and dealt with from a
production point of view. The films chosen for discussion vary from
semester to semester.

PHOTO 381. Digital Imaging II. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 2 lecture and 3 studio hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite:
PHOTO 281. Digital still image camera is required. Study of advanced
techniques and processes of digital image-making, including advanced
manipulation and color control and advanced digital printing. Emphasizes
professional standards, technical proficiency and individual artistic
expression.

PHOTO 382. Advanced Digital Printing. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 2 lecture and 3 studio hours. 3 credits. Prerequisites:
PHOTO 380 and 381. How to manage a digital color workflow in order to
produce desired colors and tonal values in the final output – the print.
Instruction in controlling image management, color calibration and
printing through lectures, demonstration and hands-on experience.
Discussion of student work in regular critiques.

PHOTO 390. Writing and Directing for the Screen. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 2 lecture and 3 studio hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite:
UNIV 200 or HONR 200. Enrollment is restricted to majors in the School
of the Arts. Explores basic theory and formal aspects of story, structure,
performance and character through readings, workshops and writing
exercises. Students develop skills specific to writing, preproducing,
staging and directing a short fiction film.

PHOTO 391. Topics in Photography and Film. 1-3 Hours.
Semester course; variable hours. 1-3 credits. May be repeated with
different topics for a maximum of 6 credits. A lecture and/or studio
course offered on a variety of photography or film issues. See the
Schedule of Classes for specific topics covered each semester.

PHOTO 392. Animation. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 2 lecture and 3 studio hours. 3 credits. Explores
various materials and processes, analog and digital, involved in creating
animated moving image works. Emphasizes studio technique and artistic
exploration.

PHOTO 394. Documentary I. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 2 lecture and 3 studio hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite:
PHOTO 280. Introduces strategies for developing, shooting and editing
various types of documentary and nonfiction media including, but not
limited to, the electronic essay, biography/portraiture, ethnographic
film and new genres. Covers key historical moments and ethical issues
related to the representation of the real world.

PHOTO 420. Senior Thesis I. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 2 lecture and 3 studio hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite:
senior standing in the department. Critical analysis and development of
a yearlong creative thesis project with emphasis on the completion of
a conceptually coherent body of work. Course emphasizes professional
standards, technical proficiency and individual artistic expression
informed by historical perspectives and critical theory.

PHOTO 421. Senior Thesis II. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 2 lecture and 3 studio hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite:
PHOTO 420. Critical analysis and development of a yearlong creative thesis
project with emphasis on the completion of a conceptually coherent body
of work. Course emphasizes professional standards, technical mastery
and individual artistic expression informed by historical perspectives and
theory. This course is a capstone experience integrating effective oral,
written and visual communication, critical thinking and advanced studio
techniques.

PHOTO 435. Professional Practice. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Examines a range of
business models, practices and tools applicable to building a career
in photography and related artistic, commercial and media fields.
Emphasizes practical skills, marketing, legal and ethical issues.

PHOTO 436. Senior Suitcase. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Examines a range of
professional practices and tools applicable to building a career in
the media arts. Students develop ancillary materials related to their
overall student film portfolio. Emphasizes practical skills, marketing and
audience-engagement issues.

PHOTO 442. Lighting II: Location. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 2 lecture and 3 studio hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite:
PHOTO 340. Explores photography using lighting design on location.
Students concentrate on balancing and matching available lighting
with electronic flash and continuous lighting tools. Emphasis is on the
technical, professional and logistical skills required of a photographer
working on location assignments and on using creative approaches to
lighting and image design.

PHOTO 474. Contemporary Critical Perspectives. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: PHOTO 352.
Explores and interrogates multiple theories of representation and
the aesthetic, ideological, ethical and cultural issues raised by
contemporary photography and related media. Students will view work,
read contemporary criticism, engage in discussion and produce original,
critical writing.
PHOTO 475. Advanced Production Workshop. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 2 lecture and 3 studio hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: PHOTO 390. A practical, intensive workshop in which students work collaboratively in standard industry crew positions to complete a single project. Students explore craft, aesthetics, storytelling and production issues at an advanced level.

PHOTO 484. Thesis Film I. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 2 lecture and 3 studio hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: PHOTO 475. Students complete writing, previsualization, preproduction and initial production on their thesis films. Students engage in workshops, screenings and critiques in order to further develop their professional identities and to advance their understanding of the methods and tools deployed by independent film and media artists.

PHOTO 485. Thesis Film II. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 2 lecture and 3 studio hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: PHOTO 484. Students complete all production, editing, sound design and outreach materials for their thesis films. Students engage in workshops, screenings and critiques in order to further develop their professional identities and to advance their understanding of the methods and tools deployed by independent film and media artists. This course is a capstone experience integrating effective oral, written and visual communication, critical thinking and advanced studio techniques.

PHOTO 491. Topics in Photography and Film. 1-4 Hours.
Semester course; variable hours. 1-4 credits. May be repeated with different topics for a maximum of 12 credits. A seminar or workshop that intensively engages photography, film and related-media subjects, including, but not limited to, a range of historical and contemporary photographic/cinematic practices, trends, theories and concerns within a wider artistic and art historical context. See the Schedule of Classes for specific topics covered each semester.

PHOTO 492. Independent Study in Photography and Film. 1-3 Hours.
Semester course; variable hours. 1-3 credits. May be repeated for a maximum total of 6 credits. Prerequisites: junior or senior standing as a major in photography and film, and approval of department chair and instructor. Individual instruction and supervision of a special project. Learning experiences should be designed with the supervising faculty member in the form of a contract between student and instructor. This course is limited to those students who have demonstrated an exceptional level of ability and intense commitment to their discipline.

PHOTO 493. Teaching Practicum in Photography and Film. 1-3 Hours.
Semester course; variable hours. 1-3 credits. Repeatable for a maximum of 6 credits. Prerequisites: senior standing in the department and a minimum GPA of 3.0. Advanced students in photography and film are mentored in the classroom while serving as teaching apprentices. Specific duties are negotiated between the student and the mentor and approved by the department chair. Duties will typically include regular classroom attendance, peer tutoring and assistance in technical demonstrations of equipment and/or software.

PHOTO 494. Documentary II. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 2 lecture and 3 studio hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: PHOTO 394. Students will explore advanced concepts and techniques in documentary and nonfiction media creation through in-class exercises, screenings, independent productions and group critiques.

PHOTO 495. Photography and Film Internship. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 10 hours per week for a total of 150 hours of professional work experience. 3 credits. May be repeated. Prerequisite: consent of internship supervisor and academic adviser. Practical work experiences are coordinated with professionals in the field of photography, film and related media.