

# 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.

## Student 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/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 the 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 and present visual illustrations, representations, descriptions, explanations and/or contextualization of their artistic, research-based and career-oriented photography/film pursuits, ideas and emotions for a broad range of purposes and audiences.

- **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.

- **Effective oral communication**

Students can effectively deliver oral descriptions, explanations and/or contextualization of their artistic, research-based and career-oriented photography/film pursuits, ideas and emotions for a broad range of purposes and audiences.

## Filmmaking concentration-specific outcome

- **Competency in filmmaking technique**

Students effectively recognize, explain and deploy the use of basic to advanced film and digital media tools, techniques 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 analog and digital filmmaking.

## Special requirements

Successful completion of ARTF 131, ARTF 132, ARTF 133, and ARTF 134 is required for current art foundation students to major in photography and film. Core photography and film courses typically begin in the fall semester. However, students may also start in the spring semester, depending on individual advising and course availability. Please note that starting in the spring may extend the time needed to complete degree requirements beyond six semesters.

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

Course	Title	Hours
<b>General education</b> ( <a href="https://bulletin.vcu.edu/undergraduate/undergraduate-study/general-education-curriculum/">https://bulletin.vcu.edu/undergraduate/undergraduate-study/general-education-curriculum/</a> )		
Select 30 credits of general education courses in consultation with an adviser.		30
<b>Major requirements</b>		
• Major core requirements		
PHTO 280	Moving Pixels	3
PHTO 281	Digital Imaging I	3
PHTO 350	Concepts I	3
• Concentration requirements		
PHTO 275	Film as Material	3
PHTO 295	Revolutionary Cinema	3
PHTO 361	Sound and Color	3
PHTO 362	Lighting and Cinematography	3
PHTO 377	The Film Image	3
PHTO 390	Writing and Directing for the Screen	3
PHTO 394	Documentary I	3
PHTO 436	Senior Suitcase	3
PHTO 475	Advanced Production Workshop	3

PHTO 484 & PHTO 485	Thesis Film I and Thesis Film II	6
PHTO 494	Documentary II	3
<b>Ancillary requirements</b>		
Art Foundation Program		
ARTF 131	Drawing Studio	3
ARTF 132	Surface Research	3
ARTF 133	Space Research	3
ARTF 134	Time Studio	3
ARTF 139 or ARTF 138	Project Studio Project Seminar	2
ARTH 103 & ARTH 104	Survey of Art I and Survey of Art II	6
<b>Additional requirements</b>		
ARTH 270 & ARTH 271	History of the Motion Picture I and History of the Motion Picture II	6
ARTH 374 or ARTH 370	Studies in Film History of Animated Film	3
Art electives		7
<b>Open electives</b>		
Select any course.		9
<b>Total Hours</b>		<b>120</b>

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.

## Recommended course sequence/plan of study

### Freshman year

<b>Fall semester</b>		<b>Hours</b>
ARTF 131	Drawing Studio	3
ARTF 133	Space Research	3
ARTF 139 or ARTF 138	Project Studio or Project Seminar	1
ARTH 103	Survey of Art I	3
UNIV 111 Play course video for Introduction to Focused Inquiry: Investigation and Communication	Introduction to Focused Inquiry: Investigation and Communication (satisfies general education UNIV foundations)	3
General education course		3
<b>Term Hours:</b>		<b>16</b>
<b>Spring semester</b>		
ARTF 132	Surface Research	3
ARTF 134	Time Studio	3
ARTF 139 or ARTF 138	Project Studio or Project Seminar	1
ARTH 104	Survey of Art II	3

UNIV 112 Play course video for Focused Inquiry II	Focused Inquiry II (satisfies general education UNIV foundations)	3
General education course		3
<b>Term Hours:</b>		<b>16</b>
<b>Sophomore year</b>		
<b>Fall semester</b>		
ARTH 270	History of the Motion Picture I	3
PHTO 275	Film as Material	3
PHTO 280	Moving Pixels	3
PHTO 281	Digital Imaging I	3
UNIV 200	Advanced Focused Inquiry: Literacies, Research and Communication (satisfies general education UNIV foundations)	3
<b>Term Hours:</b>		<b>15</b>
<b>Spring semester</b>		
ARTH 271	History of the Motion Picture II	3
PHTO 362	Lighting and Cinematography	3
PHTO 377	The Film Image	3
PHTO 394	Documentary I	3
General education course		3
<b>Term Hours:</b>		<b>15</b>
<b>Junior year</b>		
<b>Fall semester</b>		
PHTO 350	Concepts I	3
PHTO 390	Writing and Directing for the Screen	3
PHTO 494	Documentary II	3
Art elective		4
General education course		3
Open elective		3
<b>Term Hours:</b>		<b>19</b>
<b>Spring semester</b>		
PHTO 295	Revolutionary Cinema	3
PHTO 361	Sound and Color	3
PHTO 475	Advanced Production Workshop	3
General education course		3
Open elective		3
<b>Term Hours:</b>		<b>15</b>
<b>Senior year</b>		
<b>Fall semester</b>		
ARTH 374	Studies in Film	3
PHTO 436	Senior Suitcase	3
PHTO 484	Thesis Film I	3
General education course		3
<b>Term Hours:</b>		<b>12</b>
<b>Spring semester</b>		
PHTO 485	Thesis Film II	3
Art elective		3
General education course		3

Open elective	3
<b>Term Hours:</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>Total Hours:</b>	<b>120</b>

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