

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

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.

Photography concentration-specific outcome

- **Competency in photography and exhibition technique**

Students effectively recognize, explain and deploy the use of basic to advanced photographic and digital media tools, techniques and processes in the context of artist books, fine art gallery and public art installations, or other creative venues 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 photography.

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 photography

Course	Title	Hours
General education (https://bulletin.vcu.edu/undergraduate/undergraduate-study/general-education-curriculum/)		
Select 30 credits of general education courses in consultation with an adviser.		30
Major requirements		
• Major core requirements		
PHTO 280	Moving Pixels	3
PHTO 281	Digital Imaging I	3
PHTO 350	Concepts I	3
• Concentration requirements		
PHTO 243	Darkroom	3
PHTO 260	Experiments in Sequencing	3
PHTO 307	Processes and Techniques	3
PHTO 340	Lighting I: Studio	3
PHTO 352	Concepts II: Junior Project	3
PHTO 381	Digital Imaging II	3
PHTO 420 & PHTO 421	Senior Thesis I and Senior Thesis II	6
PHTO 435	Professional Practice	3

PHTO 442	Lighting II: Location	3
PHTO 474	Contemporary Critical Perspectives	3
Ancillary requirements		
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	Project Studio	2
or ARTF 138	Project Seminar	
ARTH 103 & ARTH 104	Survey of Art I and Survey of Art II	6
Additional requirements		
ARTH 270	History of the Motion Picture I	3
or ARTH 271	History of the Motion Picture II	
or ARTH 370	History of Animated Film	
ARTH 372	History of Photography	3
Arts electives		10
Open electives		
Select any course.		12
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.

Recommended course sequence/plan of study

Freshman year

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

UNIV 112	Focused Inquiry II (satisfies general education UNIV foundations)	3
Play course video for Focused Inquiry II		
General education course		3

Term Hours: 16

Sophomore year

Fall semester

ARTH 270	History of the Motion Picture I	3
PHTO 243	Darkroom	3
PHTO 280	Moving Pixels	3
PHTO 281	Digital Imaging I	3
General education course		3

Term Hours: 15

Spring semester

PHTO 260	Experiments in Sequencing	3
PHTO 307	Processes and Techniques	3
PHTO 381	Digital Imaging II	3
UNIV 200	Advanced Focused Inquiry: Literacies, Research and Communication (satisfies general education UNIV foundations)	3

Arts elective 3

General education course 3

Term Hours: 18

Junior year

Fall semester

ARTH 372	History of Photography	3
PHTO 340	Lighting I: Studio	3
PHTO 350	Concepts I	3
Open elective		3

Term Hours: 12

Spring semester

PHTO 352	Concepts II: Junior Project	3
PHTO 442	Lighting II: Location	3
Art elective		4
General education course		3
General education course		3

Term Hours: 16

Senior year

Fall semester

PHTO 420	Senior Thesis I	3
PHTO 435	Professional Practice	3
PHTO 474	Contemporary Critical Perspectives	3
General education course		3
Open elective		3

Term Hours: 15

Spring semester

PHTO 421	Senior Thesis II	3
Art elective		3

Open electives	6
Term Hours:	12
Total Hours:	120

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