

M.F.A. IN MOTION PICTURES

Overview

The Department of Cinematic Arts prepares a new generation of innovators, storytellers and leaders to succeed in the film, television, and digital emergent technologies. The M.F.A. in Motion Pictures guide students to advance their technical proficiency and critical studies while learning innovative narrative skills. Students concentrate in production, screenwriting, or producing. The M.F.A. in Motion Pictures offers a comprehensive curriculum in the creative uses of technology, narrative and documentary, positioning students with the business practices needed to bring their work to the expanding marketplace. Students are required to complete a minimum of 66 credit hours. At least 24 of these credit hours must be at or above the 700-level. At least 12 credit hours must be earned at the 800-level for thesis work. Students in the Motion Picture program are strongly encouraged to explore not only a primary but also a secondary area of specialization and develop a minimum of 2 creative projects in consultation with their faculty advisory committee. The 3 year program culminates in a thesis portfolio. Students need to work closely with their primary advisor and committee to ensure they are fulfilling their degree expectations, which typically include a short motion picture project abroad and a summer internship.

Admission Requirements

The following is a list of the required conditions as well as the required documents/fees for your application for admission to the Master of Fine Arts degree program in Motion Pictures in the School of Communication.

- A baccalaureate degree from a regionally accredited institution
- The School's official application
- An \$85.00 non-refundable application fee
- Three letters of recommendation
- 500-word typed statement of academic and professional goals
- Official transcripts of all college work, both undergraduate and graduate.
 - Note: In addition, international applicants must send an official copy of their diploma for all degrees earned, and all documentation that confers their degree, with English translation for all degrees earned.
 - Note: All transcripts must be the original document, forwarded directly from the university. Xerox copies, true copies, notarized copies and other types of copies are not acceptable.
- Official TOEFL or IELTS scores
 - Note: Only for international applicants.
- Copy of current passport
 - Note: Only for international applicants. The name entered on the graduate application must exactly match your name as it appears on your passport.
- Portfolio

Contact the Office of Graduate Studies, call 305-284-5236 or email (socgrad@miami.edu), for information.

Curriculum Requirements

Code	Title	Credit Hours
CCA 601	Principles of Aesthetics and Analysis	3
CCA 610	Foundation of Screenwriting	3
CCA 611	Writing the Short Film	3
CCA 620	Cinematography	3
CCA 621	Narrative Production	3
CCA 630	Introduction to Editing	3
CCA 660	Directing the Actor	3
CCA 670	The Independent Producer	3
CCA 680	Inside the Entertainment Industry	3
CCA 750	From Script to Screen	3
CCA 815	MFA Thesis (Total of 12 credits is required)	12
Motion Pictures Studies Course (600 Level or Above)		3
CCA Elective Courses ^{1, 2}		21
Total Credit Hours		66

¹ Students must select eight elective CCA courses with approval from their advisor. Courses outside of CCA may count towards elective credits, with permission. See below for a list of approved CCA elective courses.

² No more than 9 credit hours will be allowed for graduate internships and advanced projects and directed research.

List of Approved Electives

Students can enroll in other approved CCA courses or courses outside of the department with approval from their advisor.

Code	Title	Credit Hours
CCA 602	Global Issues and Filmmaking	3
CCA 609	Legal Aspects of Motion Pictures	3
CCA 612	Write for TV	3
CCA 626	Adaptation	3
CCA 658	Documentary Production	3
CCA 660	Directing the Actor	3
CCA 666	Character and Dialogue	3
CCA 670	The Independent Producer	3
CCA 686	Online Writing the Genre Script	3
CCA 694	Motion Picture Marketing and Distribution	3
CCA 707	Pedagogy and Film	3
CCA 710	Writing the Feature-Length Screenplay	3
CCA 730	Advanced Editing	3
CCA 740	Sound Design	3
CCA 752	Advanced Cinematography	3
CCA 761	Directing the Camera	3
CCA 794	Motion Picture Internship ¹	1-3
CCA 795	Special Topics in Motion Pictures	3

¹ No more than 6 credits total of CCA 794 can count towards the degree.

Suggested Plan of Study

First Year		
Fall		Credit Hours
CCA 601	Principles of Aesthetics and Analysis	3
CCA 611	Writing the Short Film	3
CCA 620	Cinematography	3
CCA 660	Directing the Actor	3
	Credit Hours	12
Spring		
CCA 610	Foundation of Screenwriting	3
CCA 630	Introduction to Editing	3
CCA 621	Narrative Production	3
CCA 670	The Independent Producer	3
	Credit Hours	12
Second Year		
Fall		
CCA 680	Inside the Entertainment Industry	3
Motion Pictures Studies Course (600 Level or Above)		3
Elective ^{1,2}		3
Elective ^{1,2}		3
	Credit Hours	12
Spring		
CCA 750	From Script to Screen	3

Elective ^{1,2}		3
Elective ^{1,2}		3
Elective ^{1,2}		3
Credit Hours		12
Third Year		
Fall		
CCA 815	MFA Thesis	6
Elective ^{1,2}		3
Credit Hours		9
Spring		
CCA 815	MFA Thesis	6
Elective ^{1,2}		3
Credit Hours		9
Total Credit Hours		66

¹ Select 600/700 level courses with input from advisor. At least 12 selected credits must be at or above the 700-level. Courses may be taken, with program director approval, from other programs or departments within the University of Miami.

² No more than 9 credit hours will be allowed for graduate internships and advanced projects and directed research.

Mission

The M.F.A. in Motion Pictures focuses on media creation with an emphasis on combining advanced technical proficiency and innovative narrative skills. Students gain practical and theoretical mastery of their particular professional concentration in screenwriting, production, and producing. Additionally, all students engage in critical studies of film history and theory in order to develop the analytical skills necessary for creative, cutting edge experimentation.

Goals

The Program's objective is to nurture individual creative voices and encourage independent thinking, as well as to support the unique creative collaborative process of media creation. Graduates are prepared to pursue careers as professional moving image artists, enter the teaching profession, provide service to the community and beyond, and enter moving image related professional fields.

Student Learning Outcomes

- Students will demonstrate advanced production skills in their area of concentration (producing, directing, cinematography or editing) in both analog and digital technologies. Students are also expected to learn and practice the primary activities of both creative and physical production: to follow the producing process from idea through script to preparation and execution of a production plan, as well as finish and exhibit the resultant production.
- Students will demonstrate film literacy with a clear fluency regarding important classic and contemporary international cinema and its cultural and social contexts.
- Screenwriting students will demonstrate advanced skills in screenwriting and television writing, with attention to professional screenwriting standards.