

M.F.A. DOCUMENTARY

Overview

The Department of Cinematic Arts and the Department of Journalism and Media Management propose a 54-credit, two-year, MFA degree in Documentary. This new interdisciplinary degree will provide students with skills in non-fiction creative storytelling and knowledge in advanced production and distribution delivered across a range of platforms.

Admission Requirements

A baccalaureate degree from an accredited institution. Portfolios are welcome but not required. (Samples of certain work products are required when submitting an application.)

Curriculum Requirements

Code	Title	Credit Hours
Required Coursework		
JMM 628	Seminar in Visual Storytelling	3
JMM 641	Advanced Audio Video Narratives	3
NEW JMM COURSE: Documentary Photography (Still Photo/Multi-Picture Package)		3
NEW JMM COURSE: Public Affairs Research and Reporting		3
JMM 614	Law and Ethics in Journalism and Media Management	3
CCA 658	Documentary Production (Cinematic Documentary Production)	3
CCA 602	Global Issues and Filmmaking	3
CCA 629	Nonfiction Film (Studies in Documentary)	3
NEW CCA COURSE: Writing for the Screen through Editing		3
CCA 670	The Independent Producer	3
Select one course from:		3
CCA 620	Cinematography	
CCA 630	Introduction to Editing	
NEW CCA COURSE: Sound Production and Location Sound		
Electives (9 credits) ¹		
Choose at least 3 credits from CIM, JMM, or IM departments from the list below. ²		3-6
CCA		
CCA 619	Seminar in Documentary Production	
CCA 620	Cinematography	
CCA 630	Introduction to Editing	
CCA 655	Science Documentary: Autism	
CCA 651	Motion Graphics and Compositing	
CCA 752	Advanced Cinematography	
CCA 730	Advanced Editing	
CCA 740	Sound Design	
NEW CCA COURSE: Sound Production and Location Sound		
JMM		
JMM 617	Television News Reporting	
JMM 620	Reporting and the Internet	
JMM 619	Interactive Storytelling	
JMM 646	Travel Writing	
NEW JMM COURSE: Documentary Photography (Still Photo/Multi-picture Package)		
CIM		
CIM 623	Building Virtual Worlds	
CIM 633	Augmented Reality	
CIM 658	Immersive Storytelling	
CIM 602	Innovation Design	
CIM 618	Internet and Media Activism	

CIM 601	Prototyping	
Choose three to six credits elective from outside of SoC (course by approval) ²		3-6
(Examples include Africana Studies, Anthropology, Education, Latin American Studies, Marine Science, Nursing and Health Sciences, Psychology, Sociology, History, Gender and Sexuality Studies.)		
Practicum		6
Choose one of the combinations below:		
CCA 794 & JMM 609	Motion Picture Internship and Internship in Journalism and Media Management	
CCA 799 & JMM 699	Advanced Projects and Directed Research and Advanced Projects and Directed Research	
Non-ETD Thesis or Project		6
CCA 815	MFA Thesis	
JMM 815	Multimedia Project	
Total Credit Hours		54

¹ No elective from above list may be repeated.

² Though encouraged to take these electives outside the School of Communication, a student has the option to fulfill one or more of these electives within the the SoC, pending approval of advisor and program director.

Sample Plan of Study

Year One		Credit Hours
Fall		
CCA 658	Documentary Production (Cinematic Documentary Production I)	3
CCA 629	Nonfiction Film (Studies in Documentary)	3
JMM 6##	Documentary Photography (Still Photo and Multi-Picture Package)	3
JMM 628	Seminar in Visual Storytelling	3
Credit Hours		12
Spring		
JMM 641	Advanced Audio Video Narratives	3
JMM 6##	Public Affairs Research and Reporting (NEW)	3
CCA 6##	Writing for the Screen through Editing (NEW)	3
CCA Elective ((e.g., CCA 620 Cinematography; CCA 630 Introduction to Editing; CCA 6XX Sound Production and Location Sound)		3
Credit Hours		12
Summer		
CCA 794 & CCA 609	Motion Picture Internship and Legal Aspects of Motion Pictures (Or CCA 799 & JMM 699)	6
Credit Hours		6
Year Two		
Fall		
CCA 602	Global Issues and Filmmaking	3
CCA 670	The Independent Producer	3
SoC Elective		3
SoC Elective or outside SoC Elective		3
Credit Hours		12
Spring		
JMM 614	Law and Ethics in Journalism and Media Management	3
3rd Elective (Outside SoC) ¹		3
CCA 815 or JMM 815	MFA Thesis or Multimedia Project	6
Credit Hours		12
Total Credit Hours		54

Mission

There is great urgency to make sense of and accurately communicate the state of our world, to illuminate and explain humanity's most pressing challenges: climate change, environmental degradation, poverty, health care, immigration, gender and racial equality, human rights, and the sustainability of cities and communities. Students are increasingly drawn to documentary as a form of communicating powerful stories while addressing concerns that they care most deeply about. The documentary is a powerful medium that broadens horizons, introduces new ideas, inspires questioning and critical thinking, and takes viewers to unusual places. It has the capacity to transform lives and move people to action for the social good.

By virtue of its commitment to community engagement and distinctive location, the University of Miami is well positioned to offer an interdisciplinary graduate documentary program. This is an ideal home to nurture the next generation of visual storytellers. The aspirations and priorities identified by the University, ranging from environmental sustainability to health care to hemispheric activities, will naturally attract those pursuing a documentary degree.

The MFA in Documentary directly supports the University of Miami's mission to "strive to transform the world in positive ways through innovative education, impactful research and scholarship, and the translation of knowledge into solutions." It reinforces our core commitment to the "freedom of inquiry-the freedom to think, to question, to criticize, and to dissent."

Goals

- Deliver a comprehensive graduate educational experience in Documentary, grounded in a journalistic framework, and provide skills in advanced research and production techniques.
- Prepare students to enter a rapidly changing business and distribution marketplace for documentary content in many forms and over multiple platforms.

Student Learning Outcomes

- Students will demonstrate a depth of knowledge in the legal, historical, theoretical, ethical, and aesthetic dimensions of documentary.
- Students will understand and display mastery of advanced research skills and video production techniques.
- Students will demonstrate an understanding of the marketplace for documentary distribution.
- Students will be able to apply skills, strategies and processes critical to both traditional and independent production: self-distribution, creative packaging and promotion, and incorporating an entrepreneurial orientation.