

Film and Media Arts BFA with Screenwriting Concentration

Overview

The Department of Film and Media Arts offers both the Bachelor of Arts (BA) and Bachelor of Fine Arts (BFA) in Film and Media Arts (FMA). The FMA program focuses on the development of creative expression and technical skills in film, video, audio, digital media, and new technologies, and the theoretical understanding of media and culture. The program recognizes and explores the creative tension between individual expression and the social, political and economic forces that shape culture at large through the creation and study of film, video and new media.

Students are trained in developing meaningful content as well as craft, theory and practice. In learning independent and mainstream approaches to production and theory, graduates will be prepared to develop their own independent productions and to assume a creative role in the motion picture, television and media industries.

Initially students declare either the Bachelor of Arts in Film and Media Arts or the Bachelor of Arts in Film and Media Arts with an optional Concentration in Screen Studies. In the spring of their sophomore year (60 credits), students may apply to enter one of three upper-level optional BFA concentrations in Directing, Media Arts or Screenwriting or one of three upper-level optional BA concentrations in Cinematography, Producing or Post Production.

The **Bachelor of Fine Arts in Film and Media Arts with an optional Concentration in Screenwriting** is an intensive, professional degree that prepares students to enter graduate Film programs or pursue professional careers in Film and Serial writing. It focuses on narrative feature-film and serial writing. Studies will culminate in the writing and polishing of a feature screenplay or long-form television serial bible in the BFA Screenwriting Final Project Classes.

Students interested in applying for the Screenwriting concentration should complete the following classes by the end of their sophomore year:

Code	Title	Credit Hours
FMA 1141	Film, Video and Interactive Foundations I	4
FMA 1142	Film, Video and Interactive Foundations II	4
FMA 1171	Media & Culture	3
FMA 1172	Introduction to Film and Video Analysis	3
FMA 2396	Screenwriting I	4
One of the following:		4
FMA 2551	Editing Film and Video	
FMA 2771	Producing	

Campus Location: Main

Program Code: CA-FMA-BFA

To Apply for a BFA in Film and Media Arts with Concentrations in Directing, Media Arts or Screenwriting

To be considered, students need to complete 60 credits by the end of their sophomore year, earn an average of 3.0 in six foundational and intermediate courses (see each program page for details), submit a BFA application to the department, and provide a portfolio. The BFA application must be submitted to the department no later than the deadline announced on the Film and Media Studies Undergraduate Listserv in the spring semester in which the student reaches sixty credits. Students with less than an average of 3.0 in the six courses or who have only completed five of the six courses may petition the department for admission to one of the BFA concentrations. (See concentration faculty advisor.) Students who were not admitted to one of the BFA concentrations can continue in the BA in Film and Media Arts or the BA in Film and Media Arts with a Concentration in Screen Studies or apply for one of the three upper-level BA concentrations.

Transfer Students Applying to the BFA in Film and Media Arts with Concentrations in Directing, Media Arts or Screenwriting, or the BA in Film and Media Arts with Concentrations in Cinematography, Producing or Post Production

All internal and external transfer students who have transferred no equivalent FMA courses may apply to the BFA or the BA with an upper-level concentration in their second year as a Film and Media Arts student, provided they have completed all application requirements and a creative portfolio. Transfer students who have courses equivalent to the FMA core will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis and may be able to apply for the BFA or the

BA with an upper-level concentration in their first year as a Film and Media Arts student. Please see advisor for a long-term academic plan. All transfer students should be aware that completing either the BFA or the BA with an upper-level concentration may extend their time at Temple.

Exceptional cases for direct admission to the BFA or BA with upper-level concentrations will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis by the Concentration Faculty Advisor.

Los Angeles Study-Away Program

The Department of Film and Media Arts offers a department-run study-away academic and internship program in Los Angeles every semester. Students may apply to attend in fall, spring and summer of their junior and senior years. They may complete an online course, FMA 2670 with the topic *Hollywood Head Start*, before attending the Los Angeles Program, which may reduce program costs. Students interested in this option should apply to the Los Angeles Program through the Study-Away Office.

Special Considerations for Directing and Screenwriting BFA Students

Because it is a more structured curriculum than that of the other Film and Media Arts sequences, students in the BFA in FMA's concentrations in Directing and Screenwriting who wish to participate in the Los Angeles Program must carefully plan ahead. They should meet with the BFA Director well before the semester they plan to attend the Los Angeles Program. BFA in FMA students in the Directing and Screenwriting concentrations have the following options:

- **Option 1** is open to BFA students in the **Directing and Screenwriting concentrations**. They may attend the Los Angeles Program during the summer semester after their junior or senior years. To reduce summer cost, students may earn four of the eight hours normally required for the summer semester by completing an online course, with the topic *Hollywood Head Start*, during the fall or spring semesters. Students interested in this option should apply to the Los Angeles Program through the Study-Away Office.
- **Option 2** is open to BFA students in the **Directing concentration**. These students may seek permission from the Director to attend the Los Angeles Program during the spring of their junior year. They must 1) find a Los Angeles internship that will replace the normally required , 2) demonstrate from their performance in prior BFA courses that they can complete online the required , and 3) submit a plan to complete all otherwise required courses and credits to earn the BFA. These must be approved by the BFA Director.
- **Option 3** is open to BFA students in the **Screenwriting concentration**. These students may seek permission from the BFA Director to attend the Los Angeles Program during the spring of their junior year, or the fall or spring of their senior year. They must 1) demonstrate from their performance in prior BFA courses that they can complete online the required , and 2) submit a plan to complete all otherwise required courses and credits to earn the BFA. These must be approved by the BFA Director.

Other Internships and Special Programs

FMA has an extensive internship program throughout the year in Philadelphia. Additionally, many organizations in New York, New Jersey, Delaware and Washington, D.C. provide regular opportunities for student professional internships. Temple University offers Temple-run special programs for study and research in Rome and Tokyo.

Contact Information

Elisabeth Subrin, Professor
Annenberg Hall, Room 130
subrin@temple.edu

Learn more about the Bachelor of Fine Arts in Film and Media Arts.

These requirements are for students who matriculated in academic year 2023-2024. Students who matriculated prior to fall 2023 should refer to the Archives to view the requirements for their Bulletin year.

Bachelor of Fine Arts in Film and Media Arts with Concentration in Screenwriting

Summary of Requirements for the Degree

The Bachelor of Fine Arts degree may be conferred upon a student majoring in Film and Media Arts with a concentration in Screenwriting by recommendation of the faculty and upon satisfactory completion of a minimum of 122 credit hours. Students must complete:

1. University Requirements:
 - New students are required to complete the General Education (GenEd) curriculum.
 - All students must take a minimum of two writing-intensive courses specified by the major. The specific writing-intensive courses required for this major are listed below and identified with the code "WI".
2. No more than 21 FMA credits can be transferred to the major.
3. A student must earn a grade of "C-" or better in all Film and Media Arts courses that count towards the degree.
4. Students may take up to 6 internship credits in Film and Media Arts.
5. Students may count a maximum of 84 FMA credit hours toward the 122 credit hours required for the degree.

FMA Foundation Courses

Film and Media Arts students will complete the following courses by the end of the sophomore year:

Code	Title	Credit Hours
FMA 1141	Film, Video and Interactive Foundations I	4
FMA 1142	Film, Video and Interactive Foundations II	4
FMA 1171	Media & Culture	3
FMA 1172	Introduction to Film and Video Analysis	3

Concentration Requirements

Courses required after completion of FMA Foundation Courses:

Code	Title	Credit Hours
FMA 2241	Filmmaking	4
Select one of the following:		3
ENG 2004	Creative Writing: Fiction	
THTR 3801	Playwriting	
Select one of the following:		3-4
FMA 1451	Survey of New Media	
FMA 2675	Film History I (1895-1950)	
FMA 2676	Film History II (1950-Present)	
FMA 2678	History of Experimental Film and Video Art	
FMA 2396	Screenwriting I	4
FMA 2551	Editing Film and Video	4
FMA 2771	Producing	4
FMA 3000+	Studies Elective	3-4
FMA 3773	Contemporary Screen Studies	4
Select two of the following:		7-8
FMA 4341	Screen Directing	
FMA 3361	Screen Performance	
FMA 3341	Scene Analysis for Writers and Directors	
FMA 3343	Screenwriting II	4
FMA 3342	Serial Writing	4
FMA 3000+	Advanced Writing Intensive Elective (WI)	4
FMA 4342	BFA Screenwriting Projects I	4
FMA 4343	BFA Screenwriting Projects II	4
Total FMA Credit Hours:		70-73

Suggested Academic Plan

Please note that this is a **suggested** academic plan. Depending on your situation, your academic plan may look different.

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Suggested Plan for New Students Starting in the 2023-2024 Academic Year

Year 1		Credit Hours
Fall		
FMA 1141	Film, Video and Interactive Foundations I	4
FMA 1171	Media & Culture	3
ENG 0802	Analytical Reading and Writing	4
or ENG 0812	or Analytical Reading and Writing: ESL	
or ENG 0902	or Honors Writing About Literature	

GenEd Quantitative Literacy Course ^{GQ}		4
Credit Hours		15
Spring		
FMA 1142	Film, Video and Interactive Foundations II	4
FMA 1172	Introduction to Film and Video Analysis	3
IH 0851 or IH 0951	Intellectual Heritage I: The Good Life or Honors Intellectual Heritage I: The Good Life	3
GenEd Breadth Course		3
Elective		3
Credit Hours		16
Year 2		
Fall		
FMA 2241	Filmmaking	4
Select one of the following:		3-4
FMA 1451	Survey of New Media	
FMA 2675	Film History I (1895-1950)	
FMA 2676	Film History II (1950-Present)	
FMA 2678	History of Experimental Film and Video Art	
FMA 2551	Editing Film and Video	4
IH 0852 or IH 0952	Intellectual Heritage II: The Common Good or Honors Intellectual Heritage II: The Common Good	3
Credit Hours		14-15
Spring		
FMA 2396	Screenwriting I	4
Select one of the following:		3
ENG 2004	Creative Writing: Fiction	
THTR 3801	Playwriting	
FMA 2771	Producing	4
GenEd Breadth Course		3
Elective		3
Credit Hours		17
Year 3		
Fall		
FMA 3773	Contemporary Screen Studies	4
Select one of the following:		3-4
FMA 4341	Screen Directing	
FMA 3361	Screen Performance	
FMA 3341	Scene Analysis for Writers and Directors	
FMA 3342	Serial Writing	4
GenEd Breadth Course		3
Credit Hours		14-15
Spring		
FMA 3000+ Advanced Writing Intensive Elective ^{WI}		4
Select one of the following:		3-4
FMA 4341	Screen Directing	
FMA 3361	Screen Performance	
FMA 3341	Scene Analysis for Writers and Directors	
FMA 3343	Screenwriting II	4
GenEd Breadth Course		3
Credit Hours		14-15

Year 4		
Fall		
FMA 4342	BFA Screenwriting Projects I	4
FMA 3000+ Studies Elective		3-4
GenEd Breadth Course		3
Electives		6
Credit Hours		16-17
Spring		
FMA 4343	BFA Screenwriting Projects II	4
GenEd Breadth Course		3
GenEd Breadth Course		3
Electives		6
Credit Hours		16
Total Credit Hours		122-126