

# Screenwriting Arts, BA

The major in screenwriting arts draws on the university's rich traditions in both filmmaking and creative writing to help students learn the art of writing for film, television, and related media. Students are instructed on practical skills and knowledge needed to become successful members of the screenwriting industry, but they also learn about the history and theories related to screenwriting, encouraging the writing and production of cinema to rise to the level of art.

## Learning Outcomes

Screenwriting arts students achieve nine learning outcomes within three major areas.

### Obtaining Foundational Understanding and Skills

Students will:

- find and form ideas;
- learn research methods to enhance creativity;
- understand the history and genres of narrative forms and styles; and
- learn the history of world cinema and film language.

### Executing, Developing, and Completing Screenplay Projects

Students will:

- engage with step-by-step screenwriting models; and
- edit, workshop, and revise screenwriting drafts.

### Practical Skills and Screen Industry Knowledge

Students will learn:

- oral communication skills;
- filmmaking processes including sound, cinematography, editing, and directing; and
- business and industrial dimensions through networking and building communities.

## Requirements

The Bachelor of Arts with a major in screenwriting arts requires a minimum of 120 s.h., including 32 s.h. of work for the major. Students must maintain a grade-point average of at least 2.00 in all courses for the major and in all UI courses for the major. They must also complete the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences GE CLAS Core. They must earn a minimum of 30 s.h. for the major at the University of Iowa, with at least 15 s.h. in cinematic arts courses (prefix CINE) taken at the University of Iowa. Students may count a maximum of 56 s.h. of cinematic arts coursework toward the 120 s.h. required for the Bachelor of Arts degree.

Screenwriting arts students may earn a minor in cinema. The cinema minor requires 15 s.h., and a maximum of 3 s.h. may count for both the cinema minor and the screenwriting arts major. Students earning a major in screenwriting arts and a minor in cinema must complete at least 12 s.h. in courses

offered by the Department of Cinematic Arts that are not required for the screenwriting arts major.

Screenwriting arts students may earn a cinema major if the requirements for each major are met. Both majors require CINE:1602 Introduction to Film Studies and CINE:1834 Modes of Film and Video Production. These two courses are required for both majors and are prerequisites for other key courses in the majors. Students must earn a grade of C or higher in each of these courses to advance in both majors. Students completing both the screenwriting arts and cinema majors may only double count CINE:1602 Introduction to Film Studies (3 s.h.) and CINE:1834 Modes of Film and Video Production (4 s.h.) for a total of 7 s.h. A screenwriting arts and cinema double major requires at least 58 s.h. of coursework in the majors. Students earning a double major in the Department of Cinematic Arts (screenwriting and cinema), or a major and minor in the department (screenwriting major and cinema minor) may apply more than 56 s.h. from cinematic arts courses (prefix CINE) toward their degree, but they must earn at least 56 s.h. of credit outside the Department of Cinematic Arts in order to graduate.

The BA with a major in screenwriting arts requires the following coursework.

Requirements	Hours
Foundation Courses	10
Core Courses	16
Elective Courses	6

## Foundation Courses

Course #	Title	Hours
All of these:		
CINE:1300	Foundations of Screenwriting (with a grade of C or higher)	3
CINE:1602	Introduction to Film Studies (with a grade of C or higher)	3
CINE:1834	Modes of Film and Video Production (with a grade of C or higher)	4

## Core Courses

Course #	Title	Hours
All of these:		
CINE:3315	Topics in Screenwriting (students are required to take this course twice, for a total of 6 s.h.)	6
CINE:3361	Intermediate Screenwriting Workshop	3
CINE:4377	Advanced Screenwriting	4
CINE:4399	Screenwriting Practicum	4

## Elective Courses

Students must complete a minimum of 6 s.h. from the following list of electives that includes related courses on writing fiction, nonfiction, poetry, or other genres, and on production, acting, and directing. Many of these courses are repeatable for credit, allowing students to focus on a single genre or production experience if they choose to. Some of these courses have additional requirements and prerequisites; students must complete all of a course's prerequisites before

they may register for that course. Students should confer with their advisor before they choose elective coursework.

Course #	Title	Hours
<b>Cinematic Arts</b>		
CINE:1185	Internship	1-3
CINE:2310	Great Screenplays: Seeing Film Like a Writer	3
CINE:2600	Writing Film Reviews and Criticism	3
CINE:2615	Introduction to Film Theory	3
CINE:2620	American Cinema	3
CINE:2623	Introduction to Documentary Film	3
CINE:2626	History of Animation	3
CINE:2655	Paris on Film	3
CINE:2868	Film/Video Production: Fiction	3
CINE:3080	Film/Video Production: The Business of Filmmaking	3
CINE:3195	Undergraduate Seminar	3
CINE:3750	Topics in Cinema and Culture	3
CINE:4198	Honors Project I	3
CINE:4199	Honors Project II	3
CINE:4618	Topics in World Cinemas	3
CINE:4620	Topics in Film Form, Style, and Theory	3
CINE:4845	Film/Video Production: Advanced Editing	4
CINE:4890	Media Production Workshop	4
<b>Classics and Religious Studies</b>		
CLSA:3742/ WRIT:3742	Word Power: Building English Vocabulary	3
<b>Communication Studies</b>		
COMM:2065	Television Criticism	3
COMM:2069/ AFAM:2070	Black Television Culture	3
COMM:3077	Writing and Producing Sitcoms	3
<b>Creative Writing (Iowa Writers' Workshop)</b>		
CW:2100	Creative Writing: Foundations for Nonmajors	3
CW:2870	Fiction Writing	3
CW:2875	Poetry Writing	3
CW:3003	Writing and Reading Science Fiction	3
CW:3215/ INTD:3300	Creative Writing and Popular Culture	3
CW:3870	Advanced Fiction Writing	3
CW:3875	Advanced Poetry Writing	3
<b>English</b>		
ENGL:4720	Advanced Creative Writing Workshop-Seminar	3
ENGL:4721	Advanced Writers' Seminar: Fiction	3
ENGL:4722	Advanced Writers' Seminar: Poetry	3
ENGL:4723	Advanced Writers' Seminar: Nonfiction	3
<b>Theatre Arts</b>		

THTR:2301	Playwriting I	3
THTR:3301	Playwriting II	3
THTR:3310	Undergraduate Playwriting Workshop	3
THTR:3320	Writing for Film	3
THTR:4180	Directing I	3
THTR:6310	Special Topics in Playwriting	3

### Languages, Linguistics, Literatures, and Cultures

WLLC:3208/ ASIA:3208/ CHIN:3208/ TRNS:3208	Classical Chinese Literature Through Translation	3
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## Experiential Learning Opportunities

The department offers the following experiential learning courses: CINE:1185 Internship, CINE:1560 Cinematic Arts Ambassador Seminar, and/or CINE:3050 Teaching Practicum. Only CINE:1185 counts toward the major.

The major does not require an internship, but an internship (CINE:1185) is an elective course option (see "Elective Courses"). The Department of Cinematic Arts strongly encourages students to participate in internships and related activities.

## Honors

### Honors in the Major

Students have the opportunity to graduate with honors in the major. Departmental honors students must maintain a cumulative grade-point average (GPA) of at least 3.33 in all UI coursework and a cumulative GPA of at least 3.50 in all cinematic arts coursework.

Once a student has earned 75 s.h., the student submits a written proposal for an honors thesis, screenwriting, or production project. The proposal must be approved by the faculty member who heads the student's honors thesis/project committee; the committee must be composed of at least two faculty members from the Department of Cinematic Arts. For more specific honors thesis/project requirements in the screenwriting arts major, including required courses, contact the Department of Cinematic Arts or visit the department's Honors in Cinematic Arts website.

### University of Iowa Honors Program

In addition to honors in the major, students have opportunities for honors study and activities through membership in the University of Iowa Honors Program. Visit Honors at Iowa to learn about the university's honors program.

Membership in the UI Honors Program is not required to earn honors in the screenwriting arts major.

## Career Advancement

Screenwriting arts majors find employment as writers in the entertainment field, including filmmaking as well as TV, marketing, advertising, public relations, and other related areas that specialize in communication through words and images. The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics notes in the

Occupational Outlook Handbook that occupations for writers are expected to grow by 8% over the next decade. Related occupations such as public relations will grow at around 10% as well as positions in advertising, promotions, and marketing. Students who study screenwriting will possess the knowledge and skills needed for entry into these related positions.

Screenwriting arts students benefit from the University of Iowa's status as a renowned writing university. The Department of Cinematic Arts organizes panels with faculty members, current students, and alumni working in the industry. In addition to the wealth of internship opportunities at the University of Iowa and surrounding areas, students may enroll in courses that address career opportunities for screenwriters (e.g., labs, workshops, fellowships) and also have the option to enroll in CINE:3080 Film/Video Production: The Business of Filmmaking, a course devoted to careers in cinema.

The Pomerantz Career Center offers multiple resources to help students find internships and jobs.

## Academic Plans

### Four-Year Graduation Plan

The following checkpoints list the minimum requirements students must complete by certain semesters in order to stay on the university's Four-Year Graduation Plan. Courses in the major are those required to complete the major; they may be offered by departments other than the major department.

**Before the fifth semester begins:** completion of three foundation courses: CINE:1300 Foundations of Screenwriting (with a grade of C or higher), CINE:1602 Introduction to Film Studies (with a grade of C or higher), and CINE:1834 Modes of Film and Video Production (with a grade of C or higher).

**Before the seventh semester begins:** at least three more courses in the major (total of six): CINE:3315 Topics in Screenwriting (taken both times; this course is required twice) and CINE:3361 Intermediate Screenwriting Workshop.

**Before the eighth semester begins:** at least two more courses in the major: CINE:4377 Advanced Screenwriting and one require elective course.

**During the eighth semester:** enrollment in all remaining coursework in the major, including CINE:4399 Screenwriting Practicum, all remaining GE CLAS Core courses, and a sufficient number of semester hours to graduate.

### Sample Plan of Study

Sample plans represent one way to complete a program of study. Actual course selection and sequence will vary and should be discussed with an academic advisor. For additional sample plans, see MyUI.

### Screenwriting Arts, BA

Course	Title	Hours
<b>Academic Career</b>		
<b>Any Semester</b>		
Maximum of 56 s.h. from Department of Cinematic Arts courses (prefix CINE) may be counted toward the 120 s.h. total required for graduation.		
GE CLAS Core: Sustainability <sup>a</sup>		
<b>Hours</b>		<b>0</b>

#### First Year

<b>Fall</b>		
CINE:1300	Foundations of Screenwriting <sup>b</sup>	3
CINE:1602	Introduction to Film Studies <sup>b, c</sup>	3
ENGL:1200 or RHET:1030	Interpreting Literature or Rhetoric: Writing and Communication	3 - 4
GE CLAS Core: Understanding Cultural Perspectives <sup>d, e</sup>		3
CSI:1600	Success at Iowa	1
<b>Hours</b>		<b>13-14</b>

#### Spring

CINE:1834	Modes of Film and Video Production <sup>b, c</sup>	4
RHET:1030 or ENGL:1200	Rhetoric: Writing and Communication or Interpreting Literature	3 - 4
Elective course <sup>f</sup>		3
Elective course <sup>f</sup>		3
Elective course <sup>f</sup>		3
<b>Hours</b>		<b>16-17</b>

#### Second Year

<b>Fall</b>		
CINE:3315	Topics in Screenwriting <sup>g</sup>	3
CINE:3361	Intermediate Screenwriting Workshop	3
GE CLAS Core: Natural Sciences with Lab <sup>e</sup>		4
GE CLAS Core: World Languages First Level Proficiency or elective course <sup>h</sup>		4 - 5
<b>Hours</b>		<b>14-15</b>

#### Spring

CINE:3315	Topics in Screenwriting <sup>g</sup>	3
GE CLAS Core: Natural Sciences without Lab <sup>e</sup>		3
GE CLAS Core: Social Sciences <sup>e</sup>		3
GE CLAS Core: World Languages Second Level Proficiency or elective course <sup>h</sup>		4 - 5
Elective course <sup>f</sup>		3
<b>Hours</b>		<b>16-17</b>

#### Third Year

<b>Fall</b>		
Major: elective course <sup>i</sup>		3
GE CLAS Core: Quantitative or Formal Reasoning <sup>e</sup>		3
GE CLAS Core: World Languages Third Level Proficiency or elective course <sup>h</sup>		4 - 5
Elective course <sup>f</sup>		3
Elective course <sup>f</sup>		3
<b>Hours</b>		<b>16-17</b>

#### Spring

Major: elective course <sup>i</sup>		3
GE CLAS Core: Historical Perspectives <sup>e</sup>		3
GE CLAS Core: World Languages Fourth Level Proficiency or elective course <sup>h</sup>		4 - 5
Elective course <sup>f</sup>		2
Elective course <sup>f</sup>		3
<b>Hours</b>		<b>15-16</b>

#### Fourth Year

<b>Fall</b>		
CINE:4377	Advanced Screenwriting	4

GE CLAS Core: International and Global Issues <sup>e</sup>	3
Elective course <sup>f</sup>	3
Elective course <sup>f</sup>	3
Elective course <sup>f</sup>	3
<b>Hours</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>Spring</b>	
CINE:4399 Screenwriting Practicum	4
GE CLAS Core: Values and Society <sup>e</sup>	3
Elective course <sup>f</sup>	3
Elective course <sup>f</sup>	3
Elective course <sup>f</sup>	3
Degree Application: apply on MyUI before deadline (typically in February for spring, September for fall) <sup>j</sup>	
<b>Hours</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>Total Hours</b>	<b>122-128</b>

- a Sustainability must be completed by choosing a course that has been approved for Sustainability AND for one of these General Education areas: Natural Sciences; Quantitative or Formal Reasoning; Social Sciences; Historical Perspectives; International and Global Issues; Literary, Visual, and Performing Arts; or Values and Society.
- b CINE:1602, CINE:1834, and CINE:1300 should all be completed during the first year.
- c CINE:1602 and CINE:1834 can be taken in any order. However, students should prioritize taking CINE:1834 because of seat availability.
- d COMM:2069 fulfills the GE CLAS Core Understanding Cultural Perspectives requirement and also counts as semester hours toward the Screenwriting Arts requirements.
- e GE CLAS Core courses may be completed in any order unless used as a prerequisite for another course. Students should consult with an advisor about the best sequencing of courses.
- f Students may use elective courses to earn credit towards the total s.h. required for graduation or to complete a double major, minors, or certificates.
- g Take CINE:3315 twice for a total of 6 s.h.
- h Students who have completed four levels of a single language or two levels of two different languages in high school or college have satisfied the GE CLAS Core World Languages requirement. Students who have completed three levels of a single language may complete a fourth-level course in the same language or may choose an approved World Language and Cultural Exploration course. Enrollment in world languages courses requires a placement exam, unless enrolling in a first-semester-level course. Contact your academic advisor or CLAS Undergraduate Programs Office with questions concerning the World Languages requirement.
- i Students must complete at least 6 s.h. of related coursework on writing fiction, nonfiction, poetry, or other genres, and on production, acting, and directing; see the General Catalog for list of approved courses.
- j Please see Academic Calendar, on Office of the Registrar website, for current degree application deadlines. Students should apply for a degree for the session in which all requirements will be met. For any questions on appropriate timing, contact your academic advisor or Degree Services.