

Cinema, BA

The major in cinema prepares students as engaged participants in the ever-changing media environment by offering them conceptual and practical tools for analyzing and creating films informed by a dialogue between film studies and film production. Students build a comprehensive knowledge of motion pictures through film studies courses focused on topics such as major film movements, directors, and critical debates in the history and theory of cinema, as well as production courses focused on narrative, documentary, and experimental films, using 16mm and digital technologies.

The major in cinema is an individualized, interdisciplinary study of film and the production of creative work in film, video, and interactive multimedia. It is designed to promote cultural and artistic awareness, increase speaking and writing skills, and develop capacities for systematic reasoning and effective production in cinema arts.

All students are expected to gain a perspective on the study and the production of film, video, or digital media while becoming acquainted with the historical, critical, and theoretical issues of the area. In conjunction with an appropriate overall curriculum, the major in cinema can offer effective preparation for continuing study or creative work in the humanities, arts, and cinema; provide a solid foundation for careers in film, video, television, and digital production; and lead to careers in arts administration, advertising, and business.

Learning Outcomes

Cinema graduates will be able to:

- develop a broad proficiency in cinematic creativity in areas such as editing, cinematography, screenwriting, sound design, and animation as well as the business of filmmaking, while emphasizing their own expressive vision;
- display an understanding of preproduction, production, and postproduction in the filmmaking process; succinctly describe, pitch, and reflect on their own filmmaking practice; benefit from having assessed and evaluated their own and their peers' films in workshops that emphasize constructive critique;
- speak confidently, read critically, and research and write persuasively about the history and theory of cinema as a multifaceted medium with artistic, educational, and cultural implications;
- recognize and critically evaluate the variety of film styles and practices from historical and contemporary, as well as international, perspectives;
- demonstrate the mutually beneficial skills developed across film production and film studies courses by making films informed by film studies and by writing essays informed by filmmaking;
- display critical thinking about the relationship between form and content in moving images;
- apply this knowledge and these skills to a range of 21st-century careers permeated by media production, whether in the film and culture industries; media, arts, and marketing professions; or higher education and other related areas; and

- understand and use cinema as a powerful tool for learning about the world and creating positive change as an engaged global citizen.

Requirements

The Bachelor of Arts with a major in cinema requires a minimum of 120 s.h., including 33 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 also must complete the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences GE CLAS Core. Students may count a maximum of 56 s.h. of Department of Cinematic Arts coursework (prefix CINE) toward the 120 s.h. required for the Bachelor of Arts degree. A maximum of 9 s.h. of transfer credit may be counted toward the cinema major.

Cinema students may earn a screenwriting arts major if the requirements for each major are met. Both majors require CINE:1601 Introduction to Film Analysis 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 cinema and screenwriting arts majors may only double count CINE:1601 (3 s.h.) and CINE:1834 (4 s.h.) for a total of 7 s.h. A cinema and screenwriting arts double major requires at least 68 s.h. of coursework in the majors. Students earning a double major in the Department of Cinematic Arts (cinema and screenwriting) 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 in order to graduate.

The course CINE:1834 Modes of Film and Video Production is the only production course required for the cinema major. Students may use more advanced production courses to complete the major, but admission to these courses is limited and depends on the student's achievement in prerequisite production courses.

The BA with a major in cinema requires the following coursework.

Requirements	Hours
Required Courses	13
Electives Courses	20

Required Courses

Course #	Title	Hours
All of these:		
CINE:1601	Introduction to Film Analysis (with a grade of C or higher)	3
CINE:1834	Modes of Film and Video Production (with a grade of C or higher)	4
CINE:2615	Introduction to Film Theory	3
CINE:3195	Undergraduate Seminar	3

Elective Courses

An additional 20 s.h. in elective cinematic arts (prefix CINE) coursework is required. From the 20 s.h., students must select at least 6 s.h. in advanced film studies courses. Courses CINE:1100 The Art of Smartphone Filmmaking and CINE:1602 Introduction to Film Studies will not count toward the 20 s.h. of required elective credit.

Advanced Film Studies Courses

Advanced film studies courses may be selected from the following.

Course #	Title	Hours
At least 6 s.h. from these:		
CINE:3195	Undergraduate Seminar (students receive advanced film studies credit only if they take this course a second time; the first enrollment is applied toward the capstone requirement)	3
CINE:3750	Topics in Cinema and Culture	3
CINE:4610	Studies in Film and Music	3
CINE:4618	Topics in World Cinemas	3
CINE:4620	Topics in Film Form, Style, and Theory	3
CINE:4705	Chicano Cinema	3

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 cinema 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 cinema major.

Career Advancement

Because the film and TV industries include a wide array of jobs, the cinema degree is not a direct track to any one specific career, but it does provide a solid foundation for entry into this field.

University of Iowa graduates have found work on sets in Hollywood and New York as location managers, editors, camera assistants, writers, producer's assistants, location managers, casting agents, and more. Graduates also have found work in San Francisco, Chicago, Milwaukee, Seattle, and many other cities, with jobs in distribution, programming, documentary research, and education, among others. The U.S.

Bureau of Labor Statistics notes in the Occupational Outlook Handbook that occupations for film and video editors and camera operators are expected to grow by 18% over the next decade, which is much higher than average job growth. Related jobs in broadcast and sound engineering are expected to grow by 9%, and film archivist and curator positions are expected to grow by 11%, both much higher than average.

In addition to student-run clubs and professional experiences—Student Video Production (SVP); panels with faculty members, current students, and alumni now in the industry; and a wealth of internship opportunities—cinema students 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.

CINE:1100 The Art of Smartphone Filmmaking and CINE:1602 Introduction to Film Studies will not count toward the 20 s.h. of required elective cinematic arts credit.

Students must take CINE:1601 Introduction to Film Analysis before or with CINE:1834 Modes of Film and Video Production; both courses require grades of C or higher.

Before the fifth semester begins: at least two courses in the major, including CINE:1601 Introduction to Film Analysis and CINE:1834 Modes of Film and Video Production; students must earn grades of C or higher in both courses.

Before the seventh semester begins: at least five more courses in the major (total of seven), including CINE:2615 Introduction to Film Theory, and at least 90 s.h. earned toward the degree.

Before the eighth semester begins: at least three more courses in the major, preferably including CINE:3195 Undergraduate Seminar.

During the eighth semester: enrollment in all remaining coursework in the major, 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.

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Course	Title	Hours
Academic Career		
Any Semester		
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 ^a		
Hours		0

First Year**Fall**

CINE:1601	Introduction to Film Analysis	3
Major: cinema elective course ^b		
ENGL:1200	The Interpretation of Literature	3 - 4
	or RHET:1030 or Rhetoric	
GE CLAS Core: Understanding Cultural Perspectives		3
c, d		
CSI:1600	Success at Iowa	2
Hours		14-15

Spring

CINE:1834	Modes of Film and Video Production	4
Major: cinema elective course ^b		
RHET:1030	Rhetoric	3 - 4
	or ENGL:1200 or The Interpretation of Literature	
GE CLAS Core: Literary, Visual, and Performing Arts		3
d, e		
Elective course ^f		3
Hours		16-17

Second Year**Fall**

Major: cinema elective course ^b		
GE CLAS Core: Natural Sciences with Lab ^d		4
GE CLAS Core: World Languages First Level Proficiency or elective course ^g		4 - 5
Elective course ^f		3
Elective course ^f		2
Hours		16-17

Spring

CINE:2615	Introduction to Film Theory	3
Major: cinema elective course ^b		
GE CLAS Core: Natural Sciences without Lab ^d		3
GE CLAS Core: Social Sciences ^d		3
GE CLAS Core: World Languages Second Level Proficiency or elective course ^g		4 - 5
Hours		16-17

Third Year**Fall**

Major: cinema elective course ^b		
GE CLAS Core: Quantitative or Formal Reasoning ^d		3
GE CLAS Core: World Languages Third Level Proficiency or elective course ^g		4 - 5
Elective course ^f		3
Elective course ^f		3
Hours		15-16

Spring

CINE:3195	Undergraduate Seminar	3
GE CLAS Core: Historical Perspectives ^d		3
GE CLAS Core: World Languages Fourth Level Proficiency or elective course ^g		4 - 5
Elective course ^f		3
Elective course ^f		3
Hours		16-17

Fourth Year**Fall**

Major: cinema advanced film studies course ^h		
		3

GE CLAS Core: International and Global Issues ^d	3
Elective course ^f	3
Elective course ^f	3
Elective course ^f	3

Hours 15

Spring

Major: cinema advanced film studies course ^h		3
GE CLAS Core: Values and Society ^d		3
Elective course ^f		3
Elective course ^f		3
Elective course ^f		3

Degree Application: apply on MyUI before deadline (typically in February for spring, September for fall)ⁱ

Hours 15

Total Hours 123-129

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 and Formal Reasoning; Social Sciences; Historical Perspectives; International and Global Issues; Literary, Visual, and Performing Arts; or Values and Society.

b CINE:1100 and CINE:1602 will not count toward the 20 s.h. of required elective cinematic arts credit.

c CINE:1625 fulfills the GE CLAS Core Understanding Cultural Perspectives requirement and also counts as semester hours toward the Cinema requirements.

d 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.

e Options include CINE:1610.

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 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.

h Students complete 20 s.h. total of elective cinema arts credit, of which at least 6 s.h. must be selected from CINE:3195, CINE:3750, CINE:4610, CINE:4620, CINE:4705.

i Please see Academic Calendar, 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.