Cinema, B.A.

The major in cinema prepares students as engaged participants in the ever-changing media environment by offering them the 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 across topics ranging from studies courses focused on major film movements, directors, and critical debates in the history and theory of cinema, and production courses focused on narrative, documentary, and experimental films, using 16mm and digital technologies.

Learning Outcomes

Cinema graduates will be able to:

- develop a broad proficiency in cinematic creativity (in areas such as editing, cinematography, screenwriting, sound design, 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;
- be in a position to apply this knowledge and 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 g.p.a. 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. A maximum of 9 s.h. of transfer credit may be counted toward the cinema major. Students may count a maximum of 6 s.h. of coursework from another major, minor, or certificate toward the major in cinema.

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, to increase speaking and writing skills, and to 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.

Cinema students may earn a screenwriting arts major if the requirements for each major are met and no more than 7 s.h. are double counted between majors. Two of the foundation/required courses, CINE:1601 Introduction to Film Analysis (3 s.h.) and CINE:1834 Modes of Film and Video Production (4 s.h.), are required for both majors. A maximum of 56 s.h. may be taken in Department of Cinematic Arts courses (prefix CINE).

The course CINE:1834 Modes of Film and Video Production is the only production course required for the 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 B.A. with a major in cinema requires the following coursework.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Required Courses</td>
<td></td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elective Courses</td>
<td></td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Hours</td>
<td></td>
<td>33</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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, CINE:1150 Introduction to Screenwriting for Nonmajors, CINE:1195 Video Games and Identity, CINE:1560 Cinematic Arts Ambassador Seminar, 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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>At least 6 s.h. from these:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CINE:3315</td>
<td>Topics in Screenwriting</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CINE:3750</td>
<td>Topics in Cinema and Culture</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Honors in the Major

Students have the opportunity to graduate with honors in the major. Departmental honors students must maintain a cumulative g.p.a. of at least 3.33 in all UI coursework and a cumulative g.p.a. 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 a 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 Graduating with Honors in Cinematic Arts web page.

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.

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.

Students must take CINE:1601 Introduction to Film Analysis before or with CINE:1834 Modes of Film and Video Production.

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

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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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CINE:1601</td>
<td>Introduction to Film Analysis</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RHET:1030</td>
<td>Rhetoric or The Interpretation of Literature</td>
<td>3 - 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GE CLAS Core: Diversity and Inclusion a, b</td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GE CLAS Core: World Languages First Level Proficiency or elective course c</td>
<td>4 - 5</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CSI:1600</td>
<td>Success at Iowa</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Spring

CINE:1834 Modes of Film and Video Production

ENGL:1200 The Interpretation of Literature or RHET:1030 Rhetoric

GE CLAS Core: Values and Culture b

GE CLAS Core: World Languages Second Level Proficiency or elective course c

Elective course d

Hours 15-17

Second Year

Fall

Major or elective course d, e

GE CLAS Core: Literary, Visual, and Performing Arts b, f

GE CLAS Core: Quantitative or Formal Reasoning b

GE CLAS Core: World Languages Second Level Proficiency or elective course c

Elective course d

Hours 16-18

Spring

CINE:2615 Introduction to Film Theory

Elective course d

GE CLAS Core: Natural Sciences with Lab b

GE CLAS Core: World Languages Fourth Level Proficiency or elective course c

Elective course d

Hours 16-17

Third Year

Fall

Major: cinema course e

Major: cinema course (advanced film studies) e

Elective course d

GE CLAS Core: Natural Sciences without Lab b

GE CLAS Core: Historical Perspectives b

Hours 15-16

Spring

Major: cinema course e

Major: cinema course (advanced film studies) e

3 - 4
GE CLAS Core: Social Sciences  
Elective course  
Elective course  
| Hours | 15-16 |

**Fourth Year**

**Fall**

CINE:3195 Undergraduate Seminar  
Major: cinema course  
Elective course  
Elective course  
GE CLAS Core: International and Global Issues  
| Hours | 15-16 |

**Spring**

Major: cinema course (elective course if cinema hours are complete)  
Major: cinema course (elective course if cinema hours are complete)  
Elective course  
Elective course  
Elective course  
| Hours | 15-16 |

Total Hours  123-133

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a CINE:1625 fulfills the GE CLAS Core Diversity and Inclusion requirement and also counts as semester hours towards the Cinema requirements.

b 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.

c Students who have completed four years of a single language in high school have satisfied the GE CLAS Core World Languages requirement. Enrollment in world languages courses requires a placement exam, unless enrolling in a first-semester-level course.

d 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.

e CINE:1100, CINE:1150, CINE:1195, CINE:1560, and CINE:1602 will not count toward the 20 s.h. of required elective cinematic arts credit.

f Options include CINE:1610.

g 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. For more information visit [http://commencement.uiowa.edu/](http://commencement.uiowa.edu/). If applicable search for ‘Early and Late Participation’ to find this page (e.g. participate in graduation ceremony in May, degree conferral in August).

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**Career Advancement**

Because the film and television 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.

In addition to student-run clubs offering professional experience, such as Student Video Production (SVP), panels with faculty, 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.