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 56 s.h. may be taken in Department of Cinematic Arts courses (prefix CINE). 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. Both majors require CINE:1601 Introduction to Film Analysis (3 s.h.) and CINE:1834 Modes of Film and Video Production (4 s.h.). Those two courses are required for both majors and are prerequisites for other key courses in the major. Students must earn a grade of C or higher in each of these courses.

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 B.A. with a major in cinema requires the following coursework.

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<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Required Courses</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>CINE:1601 Introduction to Film Analysis</td>
<td>3</td>
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<td>(with a grade of C or higher)</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>CINE:1834 Modes of Film and Video Production</td>
<td>4</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(with a grade of C or higher)</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>CINE:2615 Introduction to Film Theory</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>CINE:3195 Undergraduate Seminar</td>
<td>3</td>
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</tbody>
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Total Hours: 33

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.
Job growth. Related jobs in broadcast and sound engineering and camera operators are expected to grow by 18 percent.

Outlook Handbook U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics notes in the documentary research, and education, among others. The and many other cities, with jobs in distribution, programming, managers, casting agents, and more. Graduates also have camera assistants, writers, producer's assistants, location Hollywood and New York as location managers, editors, and Theory

Honors 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 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.

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. 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 percent over the next decade, which is much higher than average job growth. Related jobs in broadcast and sound engineering are expected to grow by nine percent, and film archivists and curatorial jobs are expected to grow 11 percent, both much higher than average.

In addition to student-run clubs offering professional experience, such as 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.

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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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fall</td>
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<tr>
<td>CINE:1601</td>
<td>Introduction to Film Analysis</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>ENGL:1200 or RHET:1030</td>
<td>The Interpretation of Literature or Rhetoric</td>
<td>3 - 4</td>
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<tr>
<td>GE CLAS Core: Diversity and Inclusion</td>
<td>a, b</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>GE CLAS Core: World Languages First Level Proficiency or elective course</td>
<td>c</td>
<td>4 - 5</td>
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<td>CSI:1600</td>
<td>Success at Iowa</td>
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<td>Spring</td>
<td></td>
<td>15-17</td>
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<tr>
<td>CINE:1834</td>
<td>Modes of Film and Video Production</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
ENGL:1200 or RHET:1030
The Interpretation of Literature or Rhetoric 3 - 4
GE CLAS Core: Values and Culture b 3
GE CLAS Core: World Languages Second Level Proficiency or elective course c 4 - 5
Elective course d 2
Hours 16-18

Second Year
Fall
Major or elective course d, e 3
GE CLAS Core: Literary, Visual, and Performing Arts b,f 3
GE CLAS Core: Quantitative or Formal Reasoning b 3
GE CLAS Core: World Languages Second Level Proficiency or elective course c 4 - 5
Elective course d 3
Hours 16-17

Spring
CINE:2615 Introduction to Film Theory 3
Elective course d 3
GE CLAS Core: Natural Sciences with Lab b 4
GE CLAS Core: World Languages Fourth Level Proficiency or elective course c 4 - 5
Elective course d 2
Hours 16-17

Third Year
Fall
Major: cinema course e 3 - 4
Major: cinema course (advanced film studies) e 3
Elective course d 3
GE CLAS Core: Natural Sciences without Lab b 3
GE CLAS Core: Historical Perspectives b 3
Hours 15-16

Spring
Major: cinema course e 3 - 4
Major: cinema course (advanced film studies) e 3
GE CLAS Core: Social Sciences b 3
Elective course d 3
Elective course d 3
Hours 15-16

Fourth Year
Fall
CINE:3195 Undergraduate Seminar 3
Major: cinema course e 3 - 4
Elective course d 3
Elective course d 3
GE CLAS Core: International and Global Issues b 3
Hours 15-16

Spring
Major: cinema course (elective course if cinema hours are complete) e 3 - 4
Major: cinema course (elective course if cinema hours are complete) e 3
Elective course d 3
Elective course d 3
Elective course d 3
Hours 15-16

Total Hours 123-133

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