

FILM AND VIDEO STUDIES, BA

Banner Code: AR-BA-FAVS

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The Film and Video Studies degree is the first multidisciplinary undergraduate degree in Virginia focusing on cinematic arts production and film theory and history with core courses in ethics, business, writing for the moving image, fiction, documentary, interactive storytelling and episodic television.

Students complete courses in the Film Core. To fine-tune their craft, students select advanced courses of study from four concentrations:

- Directing
- Producing
- Production/Post-Production (Cinematography or Editing/Sound)
- Screenwriting

Each concentration includes a capstone experience wherein students are mentored by faculty on original projects in their senior year that prepare them for work in the cinematic arts.

Admissions & Policies

Admissions

All students are admitted to the Film and Video Studies (FAVS) program of study separately from their admission to the university and only by portfolio review.

Policies

Major GPA

All Film and Video Studies undergraduate students must earn a minimum grade of C in all courses in their major.

For policies governing all undergraduate degrees, see AP5 Undergraduate Policies. See College of Visual and Performing Arts for policies specific to the college.

Requirements

Degree Requirements

Total credits: 120

Students must earn a minimum grade of C in all core and required FAVS courses.

Mason Core

Film majors may not double-count Literature and Art courses toward both the Film major and Mason Core requirements. The synthesis requirement is part of the Film core requirements.

Code	Title	Credits
Foundation Requirements		
ENGH 101	Composition (Mason Core) ¹	3
ENGH 302	Advanced Composition (Mason Core) ¹	3
	Oral Communication	3
	Quantitative Reasoning	3
	Information Technology	3
Exploration Requirements		
	Arts	3
	Global Understanding	3
	Literature	3
	Natural Science ²	7
	Social and Behavioral Sciences	3
	Western Civilization/World History	3
Total Credits		37

¹ Nonnative speakers of English with limited proficiency in the language may substitute ENGH 100 Composition for Multilingual Writers (Mason Core) for ENGH 101 Composition (Mason Core). Students must attain a minimum grade of C in ENGH 100 Composition for Multilingual Writers (Mason Core) or ENGH 101 Composition (Mason Core), as well as ENGH 302 Advanced Composition (Mason Core), to fulfill degree requirements.

² including one laboratory science

Major

Code	Title	Credits
Film and Video Studies Core Requirements		
AVT 204	Visual Thinking	3
ENGH 373	Film and Video Forms	3
FAVS 225	The History of World Cinema (Mason Core)	3
FAVS 250	Business of Film and Video	3
FAVS 255	Video Production for Film	3
FAVS 280	Writing for the Moving Image	3
FAVS 311	Producing I	3
FAVS 352	Ethics of Film and Video (Mason Core)	3
FAVS 400	Career Development Seminar	3
FAVS 450	Internship in Film and Video Studies	3
Analysis, History, Theory		
Choose one course from the following:		3
AVT 377	Cyberpunk	
COMM 380	Media Criticism	
COMM 399	Special Topics in Communication ¹	
ENGH 319	Popular Culture	
ENGH 370	Introduction to Documentary (Mason Core)	

ENGH 371	Television Studies (Mason Core)
ENGH 372	Introduction to Film (Mason Core)
ENGH 470	RS: Topics in Film/Media History (Mason Core)
ENGH 472	Topics in Film/Media Theory
ENGH 474	Topics in Film/Media Studies
FAVS 399	Special Topics in Film and Video Studies ¹
HIST 389	Topics in U.S. History ¹
HIST 393	Topics in Film and History
INTS 308	American Landscapes in Fiction, Film, and History (Mason Core)
MUSI 301	Music in Motion Pictures (Mason Core)
THR 411	Great Film Directors (Mason Core)
THR 412	Great Film Performances (Mason Core)
Other courses as approved by Program Director	

Diversity of Perspectives

Choose one course from the following:		3
ARAB 360	Topics in Arabic Cultural Production	
COMM 365	Gender, Race, and Class in the Media	
COMM 399	Special Topics in Communication ¹	
ENGH 318	Introduction to Cultural Studies ¹	
ENGH 319	Popular Culture	
ENGH 362	Global Voices (Mason Core) ¹	
ENGH 418	Cultural Constructions of Sexualities	
FAVS 300	Global Horror Film (Mason Core)	
FAVS 399	Special Topics in Film and Video Studies ¹	
FREN 470	French and Francophone Cinema	
FRLN 331	Topics in World Cinema (Mason Core)	
HIST 357	Postwar Japan (Mason Core)	
INTS 347	Gender Representation in Popular Culture (Mason Core)	
JAPA 320	Japanese Cinema	
WMST 300	Current Issues in Women and Gender Studies ¹	
WMST 450	Current Topics in Women and Gender Studies ¹	
Other courses as approved by Program Director		

Concentration

Select one of the following concentrations:		30
Directing		
Producing		
Production and Post-Production		
Screenwriting		

Total Credits 66

¹ Must be approved by Program Director.

² May not be used to fulfill Mason Core.

Concentration in Directing (DIR)

Code	Title	Credits
Fundamental Courses		
FAVS 260	Video Editing for Film	3
FAVS 331	Cinematography	3

FAVS 333	Sound Editing and Recording	3
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Fundamental Electives

Select one course from the following:		3
AVT 382	2D Experimental Animation	
AVT 383	3D Experimental Animation	
FAVS 356	Film Marketing	
FAVS 380	TV Writing	
FAVS 460	Advanced Video Editing	
FAVS 483	Feature-Length Scriptwriting	
MUSI 301	Music in Motion Pictures (Mason Core)	
THR 210	Acting I (Mason Core)	
Other courses as approved by Program Director		

Authoring Courses

FAVS 365	Documentary Filmmaking	3
FAVS 375	Fiction Film Directing	3

Authoring Electives

Choose two courses from the following:		6
AVT 390	Video Art	
AVT 457	Documentary Photography	
FAVS 312	Film Lab	
FAVS 377	Interactive Storytelling for Social Change	
FAVS 378	Web Series	
FAVS 399	Special Topics in Film and Video Studies ¹	
FAVS 475	Advanced Fiction Directing	
THR 329	Directing	
THR 340	Advanced Studies in Directing	
Other courses as approved by Program Director		

Required Core

FAVS 498	Development for Senior Project	3
FAVS 499	Senior Project (Mason Core)	3

Total Credits 30

¹ Must be approved by Program Director.

Concentration in Producing (PRD)

Code	Title	Credits
Fundamental Courses		
FAVS 260	Video Editing for Film	3
FAVS 356	Film Marketing	3
FAVS 380	TV Writing	3
Fundamental Electives		
Select two courses from the following:		6
AMGT 471	Introduction to Grant Writing	
BULE 303	Legal Environment of Business	
COMM 305	Foundations of Intercultural Communication (Mason Core)	
COMM 204	Introduction to Public Relations	
COMM 350	Mass Communication and Public Policy	
COMM 359	Media Management	
COMM 375	Mass Communication Advertising and Promotions	
COMM 430	Persuasion	
COMM 435	Digital Communication	

FAVS 331	Cinematography
INTS 404	Ethics and Leadership
INTS 405	Women and Leadership
INTS 431	Principles of Fund Raising
INTS 435	Leadership in a Changing Environment
MBUS 301	Managing People and Organizations in a Global Economy
MBUS 304	Entrepreneurship: Starting and Managing a New Enterprise
MBUS 305	Introduction to International Business (Mason Core)

Other courses as approved by Program Director

Authoring Courses

FAVS 312	Film Lab	3
FAVS 375	Fiction Film Directing	3

Authoring Electives

Choose two courses from the following: 6

FAVS 365	Documentary Filmmaking
FAVS 377	Interactive Storytelling for Social Change
FAVS 378	Web Series
FAVS 399	Special Topics in Film and Video Studies ¹
FAVS 475	Advanced Fiction Directing

Other courses as approved by Program Director

Required Core

FAVS 497	Senior Film Practicum (Mason Core)	3
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Total Credits 30

¹ Must be approved by Program Director.

Concentration in Production and Post Production (PROP)

Code	Title	Credits
Fundamental Courses		
FAVS 260	Video Editing for Film	3
FAVS 331	Cinematography	3
FAVS 333	Sound Editing and Recording	3
Fundamental Electives		
Choose four courses from the following:		12
ARTH 101	Introduction to the Visual Arts (Mason Core)	
or ARTH 102	Symbols and Stories in Art (Mason Core)	
or ARTH 200	History of Western Art I (Mason Core)	
or ARTH 201	History of Western Art II (Mason Core)	
or ARTH 203	Survey of Asian Art (Mason Core)	
or ARTH 204	Survey of Latin American Art (Mason Core)	
or ARTH 206	Survey of African Art (Mason Core)	
AVT 252	Darkroom Photography I (Mason Core)	
AVT 253	Digital Photography I (Mason Core)	
AVT 311	Graphic Design Methods and Principles	
AVT 328	Mixed Media	
AVT 354	Digital Photography II	
AVT 356	Photo Studio Techniques	
AVT 374	Sound Art I	

AVT 382	2D Experimental Animation
AVT 383	3D Experimental Animation
AVT 390	Video Art
AVT 411	Motion Design
AVT 458	Advanced Studio Lighting
AVT 474	Sound Art II
COMM 358	Multi-Camera Studio Production
COMM 364	Videography
COMM 366	Visual Communication
COMM 397	Special Topics in Production ¹
FAVS 399	Special Topics in Film and Video Studies ¹
GAME 231	Computer Animation for Games
GAME 250	Music for Film and Video
GAME 398	Advanced Game Design Animation
MUSI 301	Music in Motion Pictures (Mason Core)
MUSI 355	Recording Techniques
MUSI 359	Topics in Music Technology ¹
THR 230	Fundamentals of Production (Mason Core)
THR 313	Event Technical Production
THR 314	Lighting Stagecraft
THR 315	Sound Engineering
THR 333	Scenic Design
THR 334	Lighting Design
THR 337	Sound Design
THR 339	Principles of Design
THR 342	Makeup Design
THR 343	Costume Technology
THR 415	Advanced Sound Engineering
THR 434	Advanced Lighting Design

Other courses as approved by Program Director

Authoring Electives

Choose one course from the following: 3

AVT 390	Video Art
AVT 457	Documentary Photography
FAVS 312	Film Lab
FAVS 365	Documentary Filmmaking
FAVS 375	Fiction Film Directing
FAVS 377	Interactive Storytelling for Social Change
FAVS 378	Web Series
FAVS 380	TV Writing
FAVS 483	Feature-Length Scriptwriting
FAVS 399	Special Topics in Film and Video Studies ¹

Other courses as approved by Program Director

Advanced Skills Electives

Choose one course from the following: 3

FAVS 431	Advanced Cinematography
FAVS 460	Advanced Video Editing

Other courses as approved by Program Director

Required Core

FAVS 497	Senior Film Practicum (Mason Core)	3
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Total Credits 30

¹ Must be approved by Program Director.

Concentration in Screenwriting (SCWR)

Code	Title	Credits
Courses		
ENGH 396	Introduction to Creative Writing (Mason Core)	3
FAVS 380	TV Writing	3
FAVS 483	Feature-Length Scriptwriting	3
Elective Course in English		
Select one course from the following:		3
ENGH 377	Digital Creative Writing	
ENGH 386	Editing for Audience, Style, and Voice	
ENGH 398	Fiction Writing	
ENGH 399	Creative Nonfiction Writing	
ENGH 492	Advanced Fiction Writing Workshop	
ENGH 493	Advanced Workshop in Nonfiction	
ENGH 497	Topics in Creative Writing	
Or other courses as approved by Program Director		
Elective Course in Computer Game Design or Communication		
Choose one course from the following:		3
COMM 303	Writing across the Media	
COMM 397	Special Topics in Production	
COMM 399	Special Topics in Communication	
GAME 332	RS: Story Design for Computer Games ¹	
GAME 399	Special Topics ¹	
Or other courses as approved by Program Director		
Elective Course in Film and Video Studies		
Choose two courses from the following:		6
FAVS 260	Video Editing for Film	
FAVS 312	Film Lab	
FAVS 365	Documentary Filmmaking	
FAVS 375	Fiction Film Directing	
FAVS 377	Interactive Storytelling for Social Change	
FAVS 378	Web Series	
FAVS 399	Special Topics in Film and Video Studies ¹	
Or other courses as approved by Program Director		
Elective Courses in Theater		
Choose two courses from the following:		6
THR 380	Playwriting I	
THR 381	Playwriting II	
THR 480	Advanced Playwriting	
THR 482	Advanced Screenplay Workshop	
THR 484	Translation Adaptation for Stage Screen	
Or other courses as approved by Program Director		
Required Core		
FAVS 496	Advanced Visual Storytelling (Mason Core)	3
Total Credits		30

¹ Must be approved by Program Director.

General Electives

Code	Title	Credits
Students must use general electives to complete a minor, a double major or double degree outside their primary major field of study (15-21 credits) or demonstrate intermediate-level proficiency in one foreign language (0-9 credits). After fulfilling one of these options, the remaining general electives may be taken inside or outside of the department.		17
Total Credits		17