

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 program 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 (<http://catalog.gmu.edu/policies/academic/undergraduate-policies/>). See College of Visual and Performing Arts (<http://catalog.gmu.edu/colleges-schools/visual-performing-arts/>) for policies specific to the college.

Requirements

Degree Requirements

Total credits: 120

Students must earn a minimum grade of C in all required Film degree 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) (http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/) ¹	3
ENGH 302	Advanced Composition (Mason Core) (http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/) ¹	3
	Oral Communication (http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/#oral)	3
	Quantitative Reasoning (http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/#quantitative)	3
	Information Technology (http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/#information-technology)	3
Exploration Requirements		
	Arts (http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/#arts)	3
	Global Understanding (http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/#global)	3
	Literature (http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/#literature)	3
	Natural Science (http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/#natural-science) ²	7
	Social and Behavioral Sciences (http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/#social-behavioral-science)	3
	Western Civilization/World History (http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/#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) (<http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/>) for ENGH 101 Composition (Mason Core) (<http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/>). Students must attain a minimum grade of C in ENGH 100 Composition for Multilingual Writers (Mason Core) (<http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/>) or ENGH 101 Composition (Mason Core) (<http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/>), as well as ENGH 302 Advanced Composition (Mason Core) (<http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/>), to fulfill degree requirements.

² including one laboratory science

Major

Code	Title	Credits
Film and Video Studies Core Requirements		
FAVS 204	Ways of Seeing: Perception, Form and Film (Mason Core) (http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/)	3
FAVS 225	Introduction to World Cinema (Mason Core) (http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/)	3
FAVS 250	Business of Film and Television	3
FAVS 255	Video Production for Film	3

FAVS 280	Writing for the Moving Image (Mason Core) (http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/)	3
FAVS 304	Ways of Thinking: Film, TV, and Beyond	3
FAVS 352	Ethics of Film and Video (Mason Core) (http://catalog.gmu.edu/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 370	Introduction to Documentary (Mason Core) (http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/)	
ENGH 371	Television Studies (Mason Core) (http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/)	
ENGH 372	Introduction to Film (Mason Core) (http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/)	
ENGH 470	RS: Topics in Film/Media History (Mason Core) (http://catalog.gmu.edu/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 380	Uncovering the U.S. Past Through Film	
HIST 389	Topics in U.S. History ¹	
HIST 393	Topics in Film and History	
INTS 312	Images and Experiences of Childhood: Social Construct, Literature, and Film	
MUSI 301	Music in Motion Pictures (Mason Core) (http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/)	
THR 411	Great Film Directors (Mason Core) (http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/)	
THR 412	Great Film Performances (Mason Core) (http://catalog.gmu.edu/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 362	Global Voices (Mason Core) (http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/) ¹	
ENGH 418	Cultural Constructions of Sexualities	
FAVS 300	Global Horror Film (Mason Core) (http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/)	
FAVS 320	Afrofuturism and Their Kin (Mason Core) (http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/)	
FAVS 399	Special Topics in Film and Video Studies ¹	
FREN 470	French and Francophone Cinema	
FRLN 331	Contexts for Global Cinema (Mason Core) (http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/)	

GERM 340	Topics in German Literature and Film	
HIST 357	Postwar Japan (Mason Core) (http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/)	
HIST 367	History, Fiction, and Film in Latin America	
ITAL 320	Topics in Italian Film and Literature (Mason Core) (http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/)	
INTS 347	Gender Representation in Popular Culture (Mason Core) (http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/)	
JAPA 320	Japanese Cinema	
RUSS 470	Topics in (Post) Soviet Film	
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 63

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
Fundamental Electives		
Select one course from the following: 3		
FAVS 311	Producing I	
FAVS 356	Film Marketing	
FAVS 460	Advanced Video Editing	
FAVS 431	Advanced Cinematography	
FAVS 433	Advanced Sound	
FAVS 483	Feature-Length Scriptwriting	
AVT 382	2D Experimental Animation	
AVT 383	3D Experimental Animation	
THR 210	Acting I (Mason Core) (http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/)	
	or THR 310 Acting II	
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

FAVS 312	Film Lab	
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FAVS 366	Video Production for Social Change	
FAVS 377	Interactive Storytelling for Social Change	
FAVS 378	Web Series	
FAVS 380	TV Writing	
or FAVS 483	Feature-Length Scriptwriting	
FAVS 399	Special Topics in Film and Video Studies ¹	
FAVS 475	Advanced Fiction Directing	
AVT 309	Art as Social Action	
AVT 390	Video Art	
AVT 457	Documentary Photography	
THR 329	Directing	
THR 340	Advanced Studies in Directing	
Other courses as approved by Program Director		

Capstone

FAVS 498	Development for Senior Project	3
FAVS 499	Senior Project (Mason Core) (http://catalog.gmu.edu/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 311	Producing I	3
FAVS 356	Film Marketing	3
Fundamental Electives		
Select two courses from the following:		6
FAVS 331	Cinematography	
AMGT 471	Introduction to Grant Writing	
BULE 303	Legal Environment of Business	
COMM 305	Foundations of Intercultural Communication (Mason Core) (http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/)	
COMM 204	Introduction to Public Relations	
COMM 350	Mass Communication and Public Policy	
COMM 359	Media Management	
COMM 375	Digital Advertising and Promotions	
COMM 430	Persuasion	
COMM 435	Digital Communication	
INTS 404	Ethics and Leadership	
INTS 405	Women and Leadership	
INTS 431	Principles of Fund Raising	
INTS 435	Leadership in a Changing Environment	
MBUS 304	Entrepreneurship: Starting and Managing a New Enterprise	
MBUS 305	Introduction to International Business (Mason Core) (http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/)	
MGMT 303	Principles of Management	
Other courses as approved by Program Director		
Authoring Courses		
FAVS 380	TV Writing	3

FAVS 375	Fiction Film Directing	3
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Authoring Electives

Choose two courses from the following: 6

FAVS 365	Documentary Filmmaking	
FAVS 366	Video Production for Social Change	
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

Capstone

FAVS 497	Senior Film Practicum (Mason Core) (http://catalog.gmu.edu/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
FAVS 460	Advanced Video Editing	3
or FAVS 431	Advanced Cinematography	
or FAVS 433	Advanced Sound	
Fundamental Electives		
Choose four courses from the following:		12
ARTH 101	Introduction to the Visual Arts (Mason Core) (http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/)	
or ARTH 102	Symbols and Stories in Art (Mason Core) (http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/)	
or ARTH 200	History of Western Art I (Mason Core) (http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/)	
or ARTH 201	History of Western Art II (Mason Core) (http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/)	
or ARTH 203	Survey of Asian Art (Mason Core) (http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/)	
or ARTH 204	Survey of Latin American Art (Mason Core) (http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/)	
or ARTH 206	Survey of African Art (Mason Core) (http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/)	
AVT 252	Darkroom Photography I (Mason Core) (http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/)	
AVT 253	Digital Photography I (Mason Core) (http://catalog.gmu.edu/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 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 311	Producing I	
FAVS 399	Special Topics in Film and Video Studies ¹	
FAVS 431	Advanced Cinematography	
or FAVS 433	Advanced Sound	
or FAVS 460	Advanced Video Editing	
GAME 231	Three-Dimensional Game Art I	
GAME 250	Music for Film and Video	
GAME 398	Three-Dimensional Game Art II	
MUSI 355	Recording Techniques	
MUSI 359	Topics in Music Technology ¹	
THR 230	Fundamentals of Production (Mason Core) (http://catalog.gmu.edu/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
FAVS 312	Film Lab	
FAVS 365	Documentary Filmmaking	
FAVS 366	Video Production for Social Change	
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	
AVT 309	Art as Social Action	
AVT 390	Video Art	
AVT 457	Documentary Photography	
Other courses as approved by Program Director		
Capstone		
FAVS 497	Senior Film Practicum (Mason Core) (http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/)	3

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) (http://catalog.gmu.edu/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 ¹	
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 ¹	
COMM 399	Special Topics in Communication ¹	
GAME 332	RS: Story Design for Computer Games	
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 311	Producing I	
FAVS 312	Film Lab	
FAVS 365	Documentary Filmmaking	
FAVS 366	Video Production for Social Change	
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		
Capstone		

FAVS 496	Advanced Visual Storytelling (Mason Core) (http://catalog.gmu.edu/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.		
Total Credits		17

4-Year Plan

Bachelor of Arts in Film and Video Studies

The sample plan below is a recommended sequencing of courses based on prerequisites and scheduling. This may not fit every student's needs and is a guideline, not a requirement. Students should confirm major requirements with their academic advisor and with PatriotWeb Degree Evaluation to ensure they enroll in the proper courses and are on track to graduate.

First Year

Fall Semester	Credits	Spring Semester	Credits
FAVS 255 or 280	3	FAVS 255 or 280	3
FAVS 250 or 225	3	FAVS 250 or 225	3
FAVS 204 or Mason Core	3	FAVS 204 or Mason Core	3
ENGH 100/1 or Oral Communication	3	Mason Core	3
Mason Core	3	ENGH 100/1 or Oral Communication	3
		15	15

Second Year

Fall Semester	Credits	Spring Semester	Credits
Film Concentration	3	FAVS Analysis, History Theory	3
FAVS Diversity of Perspective	3	Film Concentration	3
Mason Core (Literature)	3	ENGH 302	3
FAVS 300 Global Horror or Mason Core (Global Understanding)	3	Mason Core	3

Mason Core (Non-lab Science)	3	Mason Core (Lab Science)	4
		15	16

Third Year

Fall Semester	Credits	Spring Semester	Credits
FAVS 304 or 352	3	FAVS 304 or 352	3
Film Concentration	3	Film Concentration or FAVS 450 Internship ¹	3
Film Concentration	3	Film Concentration	3
Minor or Film Concentration	3	Minor or Film Concentration	3
Minor or Foreign Language	3	Minor or Foreign Language	3
		15	15

Fourth Year

Fall Semester	Credits	Spring Semester	Credits
Film Concentration or FAVS 450 Internship ¹	3	FAVS 496 or FAVS 497 or FAVS 499	3
FAVS 400 or Film Concentration	3	FAVS 400 or Film Concentration	3
Minor or Foreign Language or Film Concentration	3	Minor or General Elective or Film Concentration	3
Minor or General Elective or Film Concentration	3	Minor or General Elective	3
Minor or General Elective	3	Minor or General Elective	3
		15	15

Total Credits 121

¹ FAVS 450 is recommended for the summer between Junior and Senior year.

Detailed four year plans and degree planning checklists can be found at <https://advising.gmu.edu/current-student/majors-at-mason/>.