

FILM, BFA

Overview

The Bachelor of Fine Arts in Film immerses you in every aspect of the filmmaking process, giving you a deep understanding of how every role contributes to the whole. Our program emphasizes hands-on learning across all areas of film production—including cinematography, sound recording, editing, directing, producing, screenwriting, and idea development—so you graduate with a well-rounded skill set.

We explore all film genres—narrative, documentary, animation, experimental, and hybrid forms—encouraging you to push creative boundaries and expand your vision of what filmmaking can be. Through screenings, workshops, and exercises, you will be introduced to a world of cinematic forms and learn how to analyze and understand filmmaking techniques on a new level. Our goal is to develop your artistic voice while equipping you with the technical expertise needed to thrive in the film industry and other creative fields.

Request Info (<https://uwm.edu/arts/request-information/>) | Visit (<https://uwm.edu/arts/visit/>) | Apply (<https://uwm.edu/arts/apply/>)

Faculty and Staff

Our inspirational faculty and staff make sure students feel welcome and empowered to think outside the box and explore all possibilities of making art at UWM. Visit the Peck School of the Arts directory (<https://uwm.edu/arts/directory/>) to meet these artists, explore their biographies and engage with recent work.

Scholarships and Aid

Financial constraints shouldn't hinder your artistic dreams. Our comprehensive range of scholarships and aid programs (<https://uwm.edu/arts/students/scholarships-aid/>) is designed to empower and support artists like you.

Study Abroad

We believe that a complete education in the arts should take you beyond the classroom and the local community. By studying abroad, you'll gain more than a change of scenery. You'll embark on a transformative educational experience and bring a global perspective to your field of study. Explore upcoming trips (<https://uwmilwaukee.studioabroad.com/?FuseAction=Programs.AdvancedSearch>) offered in partnership with the Center for International Education.

Requirements

Credit Overview

Code	Title	Credits
	General Education Requirements (p. 1)	30
	Arts Requirements (p. 1)	12
	Major Requirements (p. 1)	72
	Electives (p. 2)	6
	Total Credits	120

Preparatory Coursework

Based on individual placement results, some students may be required to complete preparatory coursework before enrolling in the courses listed here. This may include English language or composition preparation,

developmental math, introductory chemistry, and/or student support courses for students participating in the First Year Bridge program.

General Education Requirements (GER)

UW-Milwaukee has General Education Requirements (<https://catalog.uwm.edu/policies/undergraduate-policies/#generaleducationtext>) that must be met in order to earn a bachelor's or associate degree. They include at minimum 30 credits (10 courses) in six categories that are designed to assure basic student competencies and provide a broad body of knowledge as a context for specialization.

Some degree requirements may fulfill GERs. Please review the requirements and consult with your academic advisor.

Code	Title	Credits
General Education Categories and Credits		
	Civics and Perspectives (CP)	6
	Communication and Literacy (CL)	6
	Humanities and Arts (HA)	6
	Mathematics and Quantitative Reasoning (MQR)	3
	Natural Science and Wellness (NSW/NSWL)	6
	Social and Behavioral Science (SBS)	3
	Total Credits	30

Admission Requirements

Undergraduate applicants must meet general University admission requirements (<https://catalog.uwm.edu/admission-costs/undergraduate-admission/>) in addition to specific Peck School of the Arts requirements (<https://uwm.edu/arts/apply/>).

Credits and Courses

Arts Requirements

Code	Title	Credits
Peck School of the Arts Credits		
	12 credits must be taken in at least three of the four departments outside of the student's discipline: Art and Design, Dance, Music or Theatre.	12
	Total Credits	12

Major Requirements

Code	Title	Credits
Department Foundation		
FILM 110	Foundation Topics:	3
FILM 111	Cinema as Experiment	3
FILM 180	Foundation Production: Fiction	6
FILM 181	Foundation Production: Nonfiction	6
Post-Foundation Studios		
FILM 222	Digital Filmmaking	3
Choose one course (3 credits) from the following:		
FILM 220	16mm Filmmaking	
FILM 231	Writing for Film	
FILM 232	Animation I	
FILM 234	Introduction to the Screenplay	
FILM 255	Introduction to Digital Arts	
Contextual		
FILM 303	Current Topics in Media Arts Production	3
Choose two courses (6 credits) from the following:		
		6

FILM 305	Digital Cinema and the Computer
FILM 319	Theory/Practice Seminar:
FILM 321	Science Fiction in Animation
FILM 320	The Art of the Short Film
FILM 323	Film as a Modernist Art Form
FILM 324	Genre and the Horror Film
FILM 325	Indie Cinema
FILM 326	Philosophy and Film
FILM 327	Cartoons, Animation, and the Graphic Novel
FILM 328	Radical Cinema
FILM 329	Sociological Cinema
FILM 331	The Animated Short
FILM 332	Miyazaki Shorts and Features
FILM 336	Special Effects and Illusion in Cinema

Production

Choose five courses (15 credits) from the following: 15

FILM 379	Storyboarding
FILM 390	Directing
FILM 391	Cinematography
FILM 393	Sound Design
FILM 398	Editing and Post-Production
FILM 378	Art Direction and Production Design
FILM 376	Zen and the Art of Filmmaking
FILM 377	Collaborative Filmmaking
FILM 382	Visual Effects
FILM 394	Film Score Studio
FILM 347	Introduction to 3D Animation
FILM 383	Character Design and Animation
FILM 386	Interactive Animation
FILM 387	Puppetry
FILM 480	Advanced Production Topics:
FILM 481	Advanced 16MM Film Production
FILM 482	Advanced Cinematography
FILM 498	Advanced Editing

Portfolio

Choose two courses (6 credits) from the following: 6

FILM 361	Animation Studio
FILM 362	Documenting Community
FILM 363	Mumblecore: Fundamental Cinema
FILM 364	Music Video Production
FILM 366	Experimental Sound Techniques
FILM 367	Personal Cinema
FILM 368	Dreams: Yours, Mine, Ours
FILM 460	Advanced Portfolio Topics:
FILM 396	Video Installation
FILM 461	Landscape Cinema
FILM 462	Humor and Filmmaking
FILM 463	Experimental Documentary
FILM 464	Observational Documentary
FILM 465	Experimental Narrative
FILM 466	Appropriated Media

FILM 467	Film and Performance
Professional Practice	
Choose one course (3 credits) from the following: 3	
FILM 342	Milwaukee Underground Film Festival
FILM 344	The Producer's Role
FILM 345	The Screenwriting Business
FILM 346	Documentary Projects: doc/UWM
FILM 450	Advanced Internship/Professional Practice

Senior Capstone

FILM 509	Senior Project I	3
FILM 510	Senior Project II	6

Film Electives

Choose two courses (6 credits) from any category of FVANG courses. 6

Total Credits 72**Electives**

Code	Title	Credits
Choose 6 credits from any department on campus (including Film) in consultation with your advisor.		6

Total Credits 6**Undergraduate Advising**

Academic advising is a collaborative process that empowers students to realize their maximum educational potential. Students are encouraged to visit the Peck School of the Arts Advising & Student Services page (<https://uwm.edu/arts/students/advising/>) to meet with your advisor prior to each semester's registration period. Advisors provide students with individualized appointments to assist with degree requirements, course selection, campus resources, college success strategies, graduation assessment, academic policies and more.

Sample Plan of Study

Year 1		Credits
Fall		
FILM 110	Foundation Topics: ¹	3
FILM 180	Foundation Production: Fiction ¹	6
GER Course ¹⁰		3
GER Course ¹⁰		3
Credits		15

Spring		
FILM 181	Foundation Production: Nonfiction ¹	6
FILM 111	Cinema as Experiment ¹	3
GER Course ¹⁰		3
GER Course ¹⁰		3
Credits		15

Year 2		Credits
Fall		
FILM 222	Digital Filmmaking ²	3
Select one of the following: ²		3
FILM 220	16mm Filmmaking	
FILM 231	Writing for Film	
FILM 232	Animation I	
FILM 234	Introduction to the Screenplay	
FILM 255	Introduction to Digital Arts	
FILM 303	Current Topics in Media Arts Production ³	3
GER Elective ¹⁰		3

GER Elective ¹⁰		3
Credits		15
Year 3		
Fall		
FILM 325	Indie Cinema ³	3
FILM 391	Cinematography ⁴	3
FILM 393	Sound Design ⁴	3
GER Course ¹⁰		3
PSOA Arts Distribution ⁹		3
Credits		15
Spring		
FILM 328	Radical Cinema ³	3
FILM 462	Humor and Filmmaking ⁵	3
FILM 390	Directing ⁴	3
GER Course ¹⁰		3
GER Course ¹⁰		3
Credits		15
Year 4		
Fall		
FILM 509	Senior Project I ⁷	3
FILM 498	Advanced Editing ⁸	3
FILM 396	Video Installation ⁴	3
PSOA Arts Distribution ⁹		3
General Elective ¹¹		3
Credits		15
Spring		
FILM 510	Senior Project II ⁷	6
FILM 394	Film Score Studio ⁸	3
General Elective ¹¹		3
PSOA Arts Distribution ⁹		3
Credits		15
Total Credits		120

- ¹ Film Foundation courses: 15 cr. total, completion required before advancing in the major:
 - Required: FILM 109, FILM 111, FILM 180, FILM 181
- ² Post-Foundation Studio: 6 cr. total (two courses)
 - Required: FILM 222
 - One additional post-foundation studio, select from: FILM 220, FILM 231, FILM 234, or FILM 255
- ³
 - Required: FILM 303
 - Select two additional Contextual electives from the Department of Film, Video, Animation and New Genres.
- ⁴ Production Electives: 15 cr. total (five courses)
 - Select five Production electives from the Department of Film, Video, Animation and New Genres.
- ⁵
 - Select two Portfolio electives from the Department of Film, Video, Animation and New Genres.

- ⁶
 - Select one Professional Practice/Internship electives from the Department of Film, Video, Animation and New Genres.
- ⁷ Senior Capstone: 9 cr. total (two courses)
 - Required: FILM 509
 - Required: FILM 510
- ⁸ Department Electives: 6 cr. required (two courses)
 - Select any two courses offered within the Department of Film, Video, Animation and New Genres.
- ⁹ PSOA Arts Distribution Requirement for FVANG (four courses)
 - 12 credits outside PSOA
 - 12 credits within PSOA but outside of FVANG in at least 3 PSOA departments outside of discipline (Art and Design, Dance, Music, and Theater)
- ¹⁰ GER Requirements (UWM Core) - 30 cr. total (ten courses)
 - (2) Communications and Literacy courses (total 6 cr.)
 - (1) Mathematics and Quantitative Reasoning course (total 3 cr.)
 - (1) Social and Behavioral Science course (total 3 cr.)
 - (2) Humanities and Art courses (total 6 cr.)
 - (2) Natural Science and Wellness courses, one with lab (total 6 cr.)
 - (2) Civics and Perspectives courses (total 6 cr.)
- ¹¹ General Elective: 6 cr. required (two courses)
 - Select two courses from anywhere in UWM, including the Department of Film, Video, Animation and New Genres.

Film, BFA Learning Outcomes

Students graduating with the BFA in Film will be able to:

- Create and produce original films, videos, and/or moving image works of art that demonstrate the effective application and knowledge of a diverse set of artistic principles, conventions, methods, and practices.
- Distinguish between discrete elements of the composition of films and critique their effectiveness with specific attention to creative concepts, aesthetic choices, and the technical requirements of film projects.
- Demonstrate media literacy and knowledge of core concepts, capabilities, and tools of filmmaking technologies across a range of independent creative and industry contexts.
- Implement high-quality production values in film projects by applying professional-level standards and/or creative approaches to skills including lighting, sound design, cinematography, and editing.
- Demonstrate the ability to communicate and collaborate effectively, and to apply critical and creative thinking skills toward problem-solving within a wide range of professional and production scenarios.
- Apply technical and creative skillsets across fiction, non-fiction, and hybrid artist-practices with an emphasis on storytelling.
- Produce projects individually and collaboratively, engaging fully in planning the entire production process from concept to distribution, and across a variety of roles and responsibilities.

Policies and Regulations

Academic Regulations

For information on University-wide Academic Action Policy and honors for scholarship, see Academic Policies (<https://catalog.uwm.edu/policies/undergraduate-policies/>).

Auditing Courses

No studio or performance courses may be audited.

Grievance and Appeal Procedures

If you have concerns about a class or a grade, or if you've been dropped from a program and would like to appeal, follow the grievance procedures found under the resources section on the Peck School of the Arts Advising & Student Services page (<https://uwm.edu/arts/students/advising/#FAQs>).

Independent Study

Under special conditions, juniors and seniors are permitted to take courses in independent study. For regulations on independent study, see the departmental advisor.

Program Changes

All program changes must be signed by the instructor and the Peck School of the Arts Office of Student Services. Certain other courses may also require this approval indicated in the semester's *Schedule of Classes*.

Second Bachelor's Degree Candidates

Students with good scholastic records who wish to earn a second bachelor's degree in the Peck School of the Arts must obtain the recommendation of the Peck School of the Arts department in which they wish to major before they can be accepted. Upon acceptance, students must earn in residence a minimum of 30 credits beyond the studies for the first degree and must satisfy all curriculum requirements.

Semester Credit Load

A full-time Peck School of the Arts student is one who takes a minimum of 12 credits per semester. Typically, Peck School of the Arts students are not permitted to carry more than 18 credits per semester. Students who have a 3.0+ cumulative GPA may, with the permission of the Peck School of the Arts Office of Student Services, carry up to 21 credits per semester.

Transfer Students

Transfer students from other universities and colleges or UWM units are accepted by the Peck School of the Arts provided they meet the UWM admissions criteria and have a 2.0+ cumulative GPA.

Honors in the Major

- **Honors in the Major** is granted to students who have earned a GPA of 3.500 or greater in the major and the academic department's recommendation.
- **High Honors in the Major** is granted to students who have earned a cumulative GPA of 3.500 or greater and the academic department's recommendation.
- **Departmental Honors** are granted to students recommended by their academic department for Honors excellence in performance not reflected in the GPA.
- **Dean's Honors** are granted to students with major achievements in one or more of the arts.

College of the Arts and Architecture Dean's Honor List

GPA of 3.750 or above, earned on a full-time student's GPA on 12 or more graded credits in a given semester.

Honors College Degree and Honors College Degree with Distinction

Granted to graduating seniors who complete Honors College requirements, as listed in the Honors College (<https://catalog.uwm.edu/honors-college/>) section of this site.

Commencement Honors

Students with a cumulative GPA of 3.500 or above, based on a minimum of 40 graded UWM credits earned prior to the final semester, will receive all-university commencement honors and be awarded the traditional gold cord at the December or May Honors Convocation. Please note that for honors calculation, the GPA is **not** rounded and is truncated at the third decimal (e.g., 3.499).

Final Honors

Earned on a minimum of 60 graded UWM credits: Cum Laude - 3.500 or above; Magna Cum Laude - 3.650 or above; Summa Cum Laude - 3.800 or above.

Contact

Advising & Student Services
Theatre Building Room 120

uwm.edu/arts/contact/ (<https://uwm.edu/arts/contact/>)