

FILM, VIDEO, ANIMATION AND NEW GENRES

Overview

Joining the Peck School of the Arts Department of Film, Video, Animation & New Genres is more than just choosing an education—it's an invitation to be part of a thriving community of storytellers and artists. Here, you'll cultivate your creative potential while gaining the skills, experience, and connections needed to launch your career.

What sets us apart is our commitment to meaningful connections. Our faculty of working artists, dedicated staff, fellow creatives, and the broader arts community will serve as your mentors and collaborators. These relationships will form a valuable professional network, supporting you long after graduation.

Located along the shores of Lake Michigan, our department provides access to a vibrant, creative economy and stunning visual landscapes. As a student, you'll learn from active filmmakers and artists while gaining real-world experience through internships and collaborations with arts organizations and creative agencies—both in Wisconsin and beyond.

We offer unique hands-on learning experiences, including docUWM, a professional documentary media center where students work with real clients to produce documentary media, and the Milwaukee Underground Film Festival, where students gain experience in every aspect of running a film festival.

Within our department, every space is designed to fuel your artistic journey. You'll have access to state-of-the-art production equipment, and our studios, cinemas, and screening rooms provide the perfect environment for experimentation and creative exploration. Additionally, we offer unique resources and opportunities, including a black box studio, greenscreen studio, and audio studio with a voice-over chamber; 16mm analog filmmaking resources; the Union Cinema offering free screenings; Experimental Tuesdays screening series featuring visiting artists; one of the largest collections of 16mm artist films available for public screenings and classroom study; a variety of student-run clubs and organizations; and a dedicated Living Learning Community for students in Film, Video, Animation & New Genres.

But our greatest asset is our community—a space where students collaborate, create, and form lasting friendships and professional relationships that extend far beyond graduation.

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.

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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.

Mission

The Department of Film, Video, Animation & New Genres is dedicated to transforming students into expressive filmmakers and artists. Our programs foster creativity, ideation, and technical expertise while providing the flexibility to explore all aspects of the field. What sets us apart is our strong community—artist faculty, dedicated staff, fellow creatives, and the wider Milwaukee film scene—who cultivate meaningful connections and support the next generation of innovative filmmakers. Joining our department means immersing yourself in a dynamic creative environment, honing your craft, and developing the skills to navigate the professional world.

Programs

Undergraduate Majors

- Animation Arts, BA (<https://catalog.uwm.edu/arts-architecture/arts/film/animation-ba/>)
- Animation Arts, BFA (<https://catalog.uwm.edu/arts-architecture/arts/film/animation-arts-bfa/>)
- Film, BFA (<https://catalog.uwm.edu/arts-architecture/arts/film/film-bfa/>)

Minors

- Film, Video, Animation and New Genres, Minor (<https://catalog.uwm.edu/arts-architecture/arts/film/film-video-animation-new-genres-minor/>)

Graduate Degrees

- Cinematic Arts, MFA (<https://catalog.uwm.edu/arts-architecture/arts/film/cinematic-arts-mfa/>)

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.

Graduate Advising

Individual Peck School of the Arts graduate advisors are assigned upon admission. Your advisor will work closely with you during your time here. To connect with your graduate program representative, please visit

the Graduate tab on the Peck School of the Arts apply page (<https://uwm.edu/arts/apply/>).

Faculty

Name	Rank	Degree	School	Graduate Faculty	Emeritus Faculty
Benjamin Balcom	Assistant Professor	MFA	University of Wisconsin - Milwaukee	✓	
Joel Benjamin	Assistant Professor	MFA	DePaul University	✓	
Richard Blau	Professor Emeritus	PhD	Yale University		✓
Portia Cobb	Professor	MA	San Francisco State University	✓	
Michael Gibisser	Associate Professor	MFA	University of Illinois at Chicago	✓	
Laura Harrison	Assistant Professor	MFA	School of the Art Institute of Chicago	✓	
Kelly Kirshner	Associate Professor	PhD	University of California, Irvine	✓	
Jesse Malmed	Assistant Professor	MFA	University of Illinois at Chicago	✓	
Marquise Mays	Assistant Professor	MA	University of Southern California	✓	
Jesse McLean	Associate Professor, Chair	MFA	University of Illinois at Chicago	✓	
Stephen Wetzel	Associate Professor, Head of School	MFA; MFA	University of Chicago; University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee	✓	

Contact Information

Advising & Student Services

Theatre Building, Room 120

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