

Master of Arts in Film and Media Studies

Why study film and media?

The Department of Film and Media Studies unites the inquiry of the academic with the practice and technique of the artist. Scholars and filmmakers work and study together in an environment of mutual encouragement and collegiality.

The affiliation of the Department with the **College of Liberal Arts and Sciences** (<http://clas.ku.edu/>) and the **School of the Arts** (<http://sota.ku.edu/>) reflects a liberal arts perspective towards the study of film and media as well as hands-on production elements. We see film and media as ways of ordering, clarifying, and understanding human experience.

We are humanists, sharing the general goal of discovering and putting into communicable form hypotheses about human beings and the world as they interact with it. We are scholars and practitioners, and our work includes the creation of film and media, teaching, and scholarship. As a result we serve our disciplines, the University, and the surrounding community in our capacities as teachers, scholars, and artists.

Discover how film and media can change your life. In KU Film and Media Studies you'll find a community that shares your passion for film and media and is dedicated to helping you succeed in today's changing media landscape. You'll find your place here within the School of the Arts' creative community.

The Master's degree is a two-year studies and research-based program. The M.A. degree is an academic degree, but students are also expected to complete courses in film and video production. All M.A. students in Film and Media Studies must write a thesis as the culmination of their degree.

Admission to Graduate Studies

Admission Requirements

- All applicants must meet the requirements outlined in the Admission to Graduate Study (<https://policy.ku.edu/graduate-studies/admission-to-graduate-study/>) policy.
- Bachelor's degree: A copy of official transcripts showing proof of a bachelor's degree (and any post-bachelor's coursework or degrees) from a regionally accredited institution, or a foreign university with equivalent bachelor's degree requirements is required.
- English proficiency: Proof of English proficiency (<https://gradapply.ku.edu/english-requirements/>) for non-native or non-native-like English speakers is required. There are two bands of English proficiency, including Admission and Full proficiency. For applicants to online programs, Full proficiency is required.

Graduate Admissions

Please submit the following materials with your application*:

- An **official transcript**, sent directly to KU, from every previous college or university attended (copies issued to students not accepted).

- Three (3) recent **letters of recommendation**, two of which should be from your current or former teachers.
- A **current resume** of academic and artistic experiences
- A **statement of personal goals** that explains why you want to pursue graduate study.
- A **writing sample** (no more than 15 pages) that demonstrates your ability to theorize, analyze, and synthesize scholarly information.
- Non-native English speakers must demonstrate **proof of English proficiency** before gaining admission to a graduate program. There are specific requirements for students wishing to hold a Graduate Teaching Assistant (GTA) position.

The Department of Film and Media Studies does not admit new students for the Spring or Summer terms. Please see the department website (<https://film.ku.edu/admissions/>) for application deadlines. The completed application should be submitted **online** (<https://gradapply.ku.edu/apply/>).

Contact Information

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M.A. Degree Requirements

The Master of Arts in film and media is an academic degree, but students are expected to complete 3 hours in film and video production. All M.A. students must write a thesis as the culmination of the degree.

To complete the M.A., the student must sustain a grade-point average of 3.0 or higher through 30 graduate credit hours.

Requirements for the M.A. in Film and Media Studies

Code	Title	Hours
Core Courses		
FMS 800	Introduction to Graduate Study in Film/Media	3
FMS 862	Survey of Film and Media History	3
FMS 865	Film and Media Theory	3
Production Course: One graduate level (600 or above) FMS production class chosen in consultation with an advisor from the course list below.		3
Electives:		12
Select 12 additional hours of courses including: 6 credits of FMS courses at the 600 level or above, 6 credits of non-FMS electives at the 500 level or above.		
FMS 673	Problems in Basic Screenwriting	
FMS 675	Problems in Basic Video Production	
FMS 702	Graduate Seminar in: _____	
FMS 707	Film/Media Internship	
FMS 715	Survey of Japanese Film	
FMS 716	Latin American Cinema	
FMS 718	Anti-war Films	
FMS 722	Soviet and Post-Soviet Russian Cinema	

FMS 743	Contemporary Japanese Film	
FMS 750	Indigenous Film and Media	
FMS 773	Problems in Intermediate Screenwriting	
FMS 775	Problems in Intermediate Video Production	
FMS 776	Problems in Cinematography	
FMS 777	Post-Production	
FMS 801	Professional Development Seminar	
FMS 811	Development of the American Sound Film	
FMS 813	Development of the International Sound Film	
FMS 814	Development of African-American Images in Film	
FMS 875	Problems in Advanced Video Production	
FMS 880	Development of American Popular Culture in the:	

FMS 888	Special Problems in Film History and Criticism	
FMS 895	Intensive Film Project Seminar	
FMS 897	Practicum in Film	
FMS 898	Investigation and Conference (for Master's Students)	
FMS 902	Film Seminar in: _____	
Thesis hours		
FMS 899	Master's Thesis	6
Total Hours		30

At least 50% of coursework for the master's degree must be taken at the 700 level or above.

A thesis is required for successful completion of the M.A. degree. After completion of the thesis, an oral defense must be held before the graduation deadline in consultation with the student's advisor and thesis committee.

All courses should be selected in consultation with the advisor. Please visit the Graduate Studies Policy Library (<https://policy.ku.edu/office/Graduate-Studies/>) for information regarding additional requirements that may apply.

For more information on department policies, please see the Graduate Student Handbook found on our website (<https://film.ku.edu/graduate-degree/>).

At the completion of this program, students will be able to:

- use creative inquiry & research.
- use critical writing.
- understand cultural diversity.
- be professional.