Doctor of Philosophy 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.

Admission to Graduate Studies

An applicant seeking to pursue graduate study in the College may be admitted as either a degree-seeking or non-degree-seeking student. Policies and procedures of Graduate Studies govern the process of Graduate admission. These may be found in the Graduate Studies (http://catalog.ku.edu/graduate-studies) section of the online catalog.

Please consult the Departments & Programs (http://catalog.ku.edu/liberal-arts-sciences) section of the online catalog for information regarding program-specific admissions criteria and requirements. Special admissions requirements pertain to Interdisciplinary Studies degrees, which may be found in the Graduate Studies section of the online catalog.

Graduate Admission

Graduate Admission Criteria

M.A. Degree

To be admitted, a student ordinarily is expected to have a Graduate Record Examination score of at least 160 (verbal), 144 (quantitative), and 4.5 analytical writing.

Ph.D. Degree

To be admitted, a student ordinarily is expected to have a Graduate Record Examination score of at least 160 (verbal), 144 (quantitative), and 4.5 analytical writing. Applicants also must have a grade-point average of at least 3.2 for undergraduate and at least 3.5 for graduate work, and a master’s degree acceptable to the graduate faculty. Deficiencies in a student’s background may require make-up work.

How to Apply (Graduate Level)

Deadlines

To apply for admission in the fall term, please submit all application materials for admission no later than

- January 1 to be considered for funding
- February 15 to be considered without funding

The department does not admit new students in the spring or summer terms.

Online Submission of Application and Fee

Submit your application fee and graduate application online (http://graduate.ku.edu/prospective-students).

Application Materials

Graduate Record Examination scores should be sent directly from the Educational Testing Service. For routing, the institution code is 6871; the department code is 4505. Check with your GRE Examination Center (http://www.ets.org/gre) to be certain your scores will arrive at KU by the application deadline.

The following materials below should be submitted online with the application and/or mailed to the address below:

- An official transcript, sent directly to KU, from every previous college or university attended (copies issued to students are not accepted).
- 3 recent letters of recommendation, 2 of which should be from your current or former teachers. Each letter of recommendation must be accompanied by Graduate Letter of Recommendation Form. Completed letters with accompanying forms may be sent directly to the department by your recommenders, uploaded with your application, or included (in signed and sealed envelopes) with the rest of the materials you send us.
- A current résumé 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. (Please do not send theses, DVDs, CDs, USB drives, or videotapes.)
- International students must provide TOEFL scores (http://policy.ku.edu/graduate-studies/english-proficiency-international-students) and the international I-20 Request Form.

The University of Kansas
Department of Film and Media Studies
Attn: Graduate Secretary
Summerfield Hall
1300 Sunnyside Ave.
Lawrence, KS 66045

Ph.D. Degree Requirements

The Ph.D. is an academic degree, but students are expected to complete 6 hours in film and video production.

To be admitted, a student ordinarily is expected to have a Graduate Record Examination score of at least 160 (verbal), 144 (quantitative), and 4.5 analytical writing. The applicant also must have a grade-point average of at least 3.2 for undergraduate and at least 3.5 for graduate work and a master’s degree acceptable to the graduate faculty. Deficiencies in background may require make-up work.

Ph.D. Degree in Film and Media Studies

The degree requires 60 hours not including language proficiency. Please meet with your advisor or graduate director each semester to assess your progress.

Core Requirements

24 hours of core courses are required. Doctoral students in film and media studies must take a core of courses aimed at strengthening methodological, historical, and theoretical grounding. 1 course must be taken in non-Western/indigenous film; 2 graduate-level production courses are required, and 2 courses in FMS 902 Film Seminar are mandatory.

Elective Requirements

9 hours of electives are required. Elective courses focus on the academic study of history, international cinema, popular culture, and film criticism.
These courses are selected with a graduate advisor to reflect the student’s special interest. The advisor may increase the number of hours, depending on the student’s academic needs.

Production Requirements

6 hours of production courses are required. Production courses give students an understanding of the production process in making film, video, or animation pieces. On graduation, doctoral students can perform as competent artisans in addition to research scholars. Production courses are selected with a graduate advisor to reflect the student’s specific interest. The advisor may increase the number of hours, depending on the student’s academic needs.

Secondary Field Requirements

9 hours of secondary field courses at the graduate level from outside the Department of Film and Media Studies, are chosen to assist the student in writing the dissertation. They are related to the student’s proposed area of specialization. Examples include English; history; women, gender, and sexuality studies; American studies; education; and social welfare.

Research Skills and Responsible Scholarship Requirements

KU requires all doctoral students to meet the Research Skills requirement before proceeding to comprehensive exams. Compliance with this policy requires all graduate students to receive training in responsible scholarship pertinent to the field of research and obtain research skills pertinent to the doctoral level of research in their field(s). Research Skills requirements may be satisfied by taking either FMS 902 : Research Methods and Applications of New Media or FMS 902 : Visual Methods. Students may also elect to demonstrate proficiency in one foreign language for conducting research.

Comprehensive Examination

2 publishable papers are due at the time of the examination. The examination includes written responses to questions in history, theory, production, and literature/criticism, followed by an oral examination.

Dissertation

18 hours of dissertation credit are required. The finished dissertation must constitute a palpable contribution to knowledge in the candidate’s chosen field. After its completion, an oral defense must be held no less than 4 weeks before the graduation deadline. The committee consists of 1 chair, 3 departmental members, and an outside member.

Ph.D. in Film and Media Studies Program of Study

Core (24)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>FMS 800</td>
<td>Introduction to Graduate Study in Film/Media</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FMS 801</td>
<td>Professional Development Seminar</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FMS 862</td>
<td>Survey of Film and Media History</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FMS 863</td>
<td>Survey of Documentary and Experimental Film and Media</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FMS 864</td>
<td>Classical Film and Media Theory</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FMS 865</td>
<td>Contemporary Film and Media Theory</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FMS 902</td>
<td>Film Seminar in:</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Select one graduate-level non-Western/indigenous film course

Electives (9)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>FMS 621</td>
<td>American Film Criticism</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FMS 702</td>
<td>Graduate Seminar in:</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FMS 814</td>
<td>Development of African-American Images in Film</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>FMS 841</td>
<td>Asian Film</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FMS 880</td>
<td>Development of American Popular Culture in the:</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FMS 902</td>
<td>Film Seminar in:</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FMS 998</td>
<td>Investigation and Conference (for Doctoral Students)</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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Others to be added from semester offerings at the graduate level.