



MFA PROGRAM GUIDELINES

OVERVIEW AND DEADLINES

This document outlines basic expectations, guidelines and funding opportunities. As university schedules are frequently in flux, opportunities and deadlines are subject to change and updates are posted annually. If in doubt please talk with your advisor, the graduate director and/or the division's graduate administrator.

Pre-enrollment

Students discuss their course of study with their assigned faculty advisor and the graduate director. Students register for courses in advance of arrival through the Graduate School. The department has several arrays (also known as tracks) in Cinematic Arts, Media Arts, Screenwriting. Students are automatically enrolled in Cinematic Arts (which includes narrative and documentary filmmaking) unless they have specifically applied to another area. Students who wish to change arrays after their arrival need to discuss any change with their advisor and should apply for permission to change as early as possible as changing arrays may lead to the need to fulfill additional requirements.

First year expectations

Students select core requirements and electives in pursuit of their degree.

REVIEW: In the spring semester, students present a sample of works to faculty in the First Year Review, which is discussed later in this document. The review is usually held in early April of the first year.

COMPREHENSIVE EXAMS: Students begin to develop their comprehensive questions in their second semester, including completing one draft paper in their second semester history/theory course. During the semester, students must select a comprehensive exams advisor (this may be their regular advisor or another faculty), and preferably form a comps committee before summer to advise on their summer/fall papers. (Details explained below)

TASHIPS: Students submit a letter of interest to the chair if they wish to be considered for a second year TAsip. The deadline for this letter is usually in early April.

GRANTS: Students may apply for FMA Distribution Grants in the fall or spring term. Students may apply for FMA Production Grants (a.k.a. completion grants) in the spring term, although priority for these awards goes to thesis projects. Students are also encouraged to apply for other internal and external production funding including Dean's Grants; the deadline for Dean's Grants is usually in the late fall.

Second Year Expectations

Students select core requirements and electives in pursuit of their degree, completing all required courses but for the final Thesis Production Workshop.

REVIEW: Students present a sample of works and their draft thesis proposal to faculty in the Second Year Review. Reviews are held in April of the second year.

COMPREHENSIVE EXAMS (Comps: Over the summer after their first year and fall of the second, students revise their first comps paper and write two further papers and an artist statement. These are completed in concurrence with registration in Critical Methods and in dialog with the students' individual comps committees. Students should meet with their committee members individually or as a group during the process of developing the questions and writing the papers. Comps must be completed and passed on time to retain standing in the department and eligibility for future funding, such as grants, TAships and Fellowships. Detailed comps guidelines is available on the FMA website.

THESIS PROPOSALS: Students develop a thesis committee no later than April of their second year. Students present a draft thesis proposal in 2nd Year Review. Students submit a signed thesis proposal no later than the last day of class in their fourth semester. Students must complete the requirement to remain in good standing and be eligible for funding and support. See below for thesis guidelines for more details.

TASHIPS/ADJUNCT TEACHING: Students submit a letter of interest to the chair if they wish to be considered for a third year TAship or adjunct teaching position. The deadline for this letter is usually in March or early April.

GRANTS: Students may apply for FMA Distribution Grants in the fall or spring term. Students may apply for FMA Production Grants (a.k.a. completion grants) in the spring term, although priority for these awards goes to thesis projects. Students are also encouraged to apply for other internal and external production funding including Dean's Grants.

Third Year Expectations

Students in Cinematic Arts (Narrative and Documentary) and Media Arts Streams complete Thesis Production Workshop. Although students in the Screenwriting track do not have to take the workshop, all students complete a thesis project.

TASHIPS/ADJUNCT TEACHING: There are a limited number of TAships and adjunct teaching positions that may be available in the 3rd year. Selection is based on faculty and department needs, student needs and merit. Students submit a letter of interest to the chair early in the semester before they would like to teach. For example, second year students who might wish to teach in the fall of their third year should inform the chair in early February, and 5 semester students (not sure what it means by "5 semester students") who might like to adjunct spring of their third year should let the chair know in late September.

PRODUCTION GRANTS: Students may apply for FMA Production Grants (a.k.a. completion grants) in the fall or spring term. Students are also encouraged to apply for other internal and external production funding including Dean's Grants.

UNIVERSITY TERMINAL DEGREE COMPLETION AWARDS: Students may apply to the department to be nominated for a University Terminal Degree Completion Award. These are highly competitive university-wide awards that pay a student a stipend with no teaching obligations *for his/her final semester*. There

is an important restriction: students may not teach or receive other university awards after having received a University Terminal Degree Completion Award. Deadlines are generally in early October and mid-February.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

All entering MFA students are in the Cinematic Arts Track unless they have specifically applied otherwise and been accepted into another track. On occasion, students may apply to switch tracks in their first year with permission of their advisor and the graduate director.

*Note for University Fellowship Students. The Grad School pays 27 Credits and the department pays for the other 27 credits.

MFA in Cinematic Arts (Narrative and Documentary

The CINEMATIC ARTS array prepares students for professional careers in film and video production and teaching. Average completion will be 3 years.

Requirements are:

- FMA 5241 "Cinematography Workshop" (1st year)
- FMA 5242 "Videography" (1st year)
- FMA 5361 "Writing For Media I" (1st year)
- FMA 8671 "Film History And Theory" (1st year)
- FMA 8674 "Critical Methods Seminar" (2nd year)
- FMA 5670 M.F.A. "Colloquium" (two semesters)
- 5 FMA electives (1st or 2nd year)
- FMA 9245 "Thesis Development Workshop" (2nd year)
- FMA 9246 "Thesis Production Workshop" (3rd year)

Sample Curriculum: Cinematic Arts

YEAR ONE

Cinematography (4 Credits)	Videography (4 Credits)
MFA Fall Colloquium (1 credits)	Film History and Theory (3 Credits)
Writing for Media (4 Credits)	Elective (4 Credits)
Elective (3 or 4 Credits)	MFA Spring Colloquium (1 Credits)

YEAR TWO

Critical Methods (3 Credits)	Thesis Projects Development (4 credits)
Elective (3 or 4 Credits)	Elective (3 or 4 Credits)
Elective (3 or 4 Credits)	Elective (3 or 4 Credits)

YEAR THREE

Thesis Workshop (4 credits)	Thesis Credit (1 or 2 credits)
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Thesis Credit (1 credit)

M.F.A. in Screenwriting

The SCREENWRITING array prepares students for careers in writing for film, television, and new media and includes training in dramatic writing for theater. Students will take four screenwriting courses in addition to their thesis and will complete the program with two feature screenplays, a short produced work and optional writings in other forms such as playwriting. They can complete the program in 2 ½ or 3 years.

Requirements are:

- FMA 5241 "Cinematography Workshop" (1st year)
- FMA 5361 "Writing For Media I" (1st year)
- FMA 8671 "Film History And Theory" (1st year)
- FMA 8361 "Writing For Media II" or FMA 5362 "Serial Writing" (1st or 2nd year)
- FMA 8362 "Joint Writing Workshop 1" (2nd year)
- FMA 8363 "Joint Writing Workshop 2" (2nd year)
- FMA 8674 "Critical Methods Seminar" (2nd year)
- FMA 5670 M.F.A. "Colloquium" (two semesters)
- 3 FMA electives (1st or 2nd year)
- A Research for Writers Course (FMA 8461 "Visual Research Film Workshop" and/or approved other graduate-only research course approved by the student's advisor and graduate director)

SAMPLE CURRICULUM: SCREENWRITING

YEAR ONE	
Cinematography (4 Credits)	Writing for media II or Serial Writing (New) (4 Credits)
MFA Fall Colloquium (1 Credit)	Film History and Theory (3 Credits)
Writing for Media I (4 Credits)	Elective (3 or 4 credits)
Visual Research (3 or 4 Credits)	
YEAR TWO	
<u>Joint Writing Wksp I</u> (4 Credits)	<u>Joint Writing Wksp II</u> (4 Credits)
Critical Methods (3 Credits)	Elective (3 or 4 Credit)
Elective (3 or 4 Credits)	Elective (3 or 4 Credits)
Elective (3 or 4 Credits)	MFA Spring Colloquium (1 Credit)
YEAR THREE	
Thesis Credit (1 credit)	Thesis Credit (1 credit)

M.F.A. in Media Arts

THE MEDIA ARTS array prepares students for professional careers in creative media arts and teaching. The change corresponds to developments in digital media that have occurred over the past decade by offering students flexibility to develop works for nonlinear, mobile and installation media. A Media Arts student completes his/her degree with thesis show. Average completion will be 3 years.

Requirements are:

- FMA 5674 "Media Arts Theory/Practice" (1st year)
- FMA 5242 "Videography" (1st year)
- One of the following Content Design Course/writing courses from list. [LIST of approved courses: FMA 5361 "Writing For Media I", FMA 8461 "Interactive Narratives", FMA 8462 "Visual Research Film Workshop"] (1st or 2nd year)
- FMA 5670 M.F.A. "Colloquium" (two semesters)
- FMA 8468 "Arts-Culture-Technology Seminar" (new course) (1st year)
- FMA 8674 "Critical Methods Seminar" (2nd year)
- 3 FMA Media Arts courses from list. [LIST of approved courses: FMA 8461 "Interactive Narratives", FMA 5243 "Audio: Production And Aesthetics", FMA 5451 "Animation Workshop", FMA 8451 "Digital Animation", 8244. "Experimental Methods", FMA 8452 "New Technology Laboratory", FMA 8551 "Digital Post-Production"] (1st or 2nd year)
- 2 FMA electives (1st or 2nd year)
- Two Non-FMA Electives with approval of advisor (1st or 2nd year)
- FMA 9246 "Thesis Production Workshop" (3rd year)

SAMPLE CURRICULUM: MEDIA ARTS

YEAR ONE

Media Arts Theory Practice (4 credits)	Videography (4 Credits)
FMA Media Arts Menu Elective (4 credits)	Arts-Culture-Techno Studies (4 credits)
Open FMA elective (4 credits)	A Content Design Course (4 credits)
Colloquium (1 credit)	MFA Spring Colloquium (1 Credit)

YEAR TWO

Critical Methods (3 Credits)	FMA Media Arts Menu Elective (4 Credits)
FMA Media Arts Menu Elective (4 Credits)	Open FMA elective (4 Credits)
Non-FMA elective (3 or 4 Credits)	Non-FMA elective (3 or 4 Credits)

YEAR THREE

Thesis Workshop (4 credits)	Thesis Credit (1 credit)
Thesis Credit (1 credit)	** Thesis show in April-May.

M.A. in Media Arts: Cinema for New Technologies and Environments

The 30-Credit Media arts, M.A. prepares students for professions new media industries, public organizations, and emergent cinematic forms and the arts. Requirements are:

- FMA 5674 Media Arts Theory & Practice (4 credits)
- FMA 5242. Videography (4 credits)
- FMA 8468 Arts-Culture-Technology Seminar (new course) (4 credits)
- 3 to 4 mixed level FMA electives (12 to 16 credits)
- 1 to 2 non- FMA electives in a related art or computing (3 to 8 credits)

SAMPLE CURRICULUM: MEDIA ARTS M.A. DEGREE

Fall

1. FMA 5674 Media Arts Theory & Practice
2. mixed level FMA elective
3. mixed level FMA elective
4. mixed level FMA or non- FMA elective

Spring

5. FMA 5242 Videography
6. FMA 8468 Arts-Culture-Technology
7. mixed level FMA elective
8. non- FMA elective

Some suggested FMA electives include

- 4248. Introduction to 3D Modeling (4 Credits)
- 4440. Topics In Production (4 Credits)
- 4451. Digital Animation, Compositing And Modeling (4 Credits)
- 4670. Topics In Film Study (4 Credits)
- 4674. Anthropological Film/Media (3 Credits)
- 4771. Pathways To Media Careers (2 Credits)
- 5243. Audio: Production And Aesthetics (4 Credits)
- 5244. Lighting for Film and Video (4 Credits)
- 5451. Animation Workshop (4 Credits)
- 8242 Experimental Media Workshop (4 Credits)
- 8243. Film And Video Sound (4 Credits)
- 8244 Experimental Methods (4 Credits)
- 8452. New Technology Lab (4 Credits)
- 8461. Interactive Narrative (4 Credits)
- 8551. Digital Post Production (4Credits)

Some suggested non-FMA electives confirmed by their faculty include:

- DANC 8849 Studio Research (Profs. Merian Soto and Kariamu Welsh) (3 or 4 Credits)
- DANC 9831 Moving Across Genres (Prof. Kariamu Welsh) (3 Credits)
- DANC 9841 Experience, Engagement and Multisensory Inquiry (Karen E. Bond) (3 Credits)
- ARTE 8087 Seminar in Community Arts (Prof. Billy Yalowitz) (3 Credits).
- MUST 8712 Digital Synthesis (3 Credits)
- MUST 8716 Composing Music For Film (Louis Delise) (3 Credits)

- MUST 8727 Electronic Music Composition (Matt Greenbaum) (3 Credits)
- PDS 8501 Theories of Visual Representation (3 Credits)

GRADUATE CERTIFICATE in Documentary Arts and Ethnographic Practice

Temple University's Graduate Certificate Program in Documentary Arts and Ethnographic Research (DAER) is a 13-credit interdisciplinary program that involves faculty and courses in the Center of the Arts, the College of Liberal Arts and the School of Media and Communication. Students must complete four courses in a three-year period, of which at least two must be selected from the core menu and at least two must be grad-only courses.

Required core courses:

1. ANTHRO 8408: Approaches in the Anthropology of Visual Communications *or* ANTHRO 8409: Approaches in the Anthropology of Visual Communications II
2. FMA 5461: Visual Research and Documentary Methods

Required electives: select two from this list:

- ANTHRO 8408: Approaches in the Anthropology of Visual Communication I
- ANTHRO 8409: Approaches in the Anthropology of Visual Communication II
- FMA 5461: Visual Research and Documentary Methods
- ANTHRO 5389: Fieldwork in Ethnography
- ANTHRO 5438: Anthropology of Mass Media
- ANTHRO 5439: The Anthropology of Photography
- ANTHRO 5444: Anthropological Problems in Visual Production
- FMA 4674: Anthropological Film
- FMA 5674: Media Theory and Practice
- FMA 5672: History of Documentary Film
- FMA 8245: Documentary Workshop
- FMA 8246: Advanced Documentary Workshop
- FMA 8244: Experimental Methods
- FMA 5673: Time-Image Arts / Cinema Praxis
- MMC 9605: Visual Communication

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

Students have a variety of funding opportunities. These include teaching assistantships, university fellowships, production/distribution grants. Students are also nominated for national awards, such as the Princess Grace. Many students also earn supplementary funds through work-study financial aid awards and through adjunct teaching positions at area colleges and art schools.

DEPARTMENT PRODUCTION AND DISTRIBUTION GRANTS

The department offers both production grants and distribution grants. Production grants are designed to help 3rd year students complete thesis projects; on occasion other projects from 1st and 2nd year students will be supported in the

spring round if there are funds remaining. Distribution grants are open to all students and intended to help students show finished works, by, for example, covering festival fees or helping to support travel to a festival or gallery where the student is showing work.

Fall FMA Production Grants. Only third year students may apply for completion grants for the fall deadline. Late Fall Application Deadline.

Fall FMA Distribution Grants. All students may apply for distribution grants for the fall deadline. Late Fall Application Deadline.

Spring FMA Production Grants. Students of all years may apply for Completion Grants with priority going to third year students working on thesis projects. Late Spring Application Deadline.

Spring FMA Distribution Grants. Students of all years may apply for Distribution Grants with priority going to first and second year students. Late Spring Application Deadline.

FMA/PHILADELPHIA PSYCHOLOGICAL SOCIETY AWARDS

The Philadelphia Psychological Society offers awards of up to \$5000 to support projects on themes related to psychology on an annual or biennial basis. Deadlines are generally in mid-winter.

CFA DEAN'S ART GRANTS.

Students of all years may apply for Dean's Arts Grants. Late Fall Application Deadline. Dean's Grants support all kinds of art projects, particularly those made outside of class requirements.

TFMA DEANS TRAVEL GRANTS

Rolling deadline. Up to \$750. These help support student travel to present work, where at festival, exhibitions, conferences, etc.

GRADUATE SCHOOL

Terminal Degree Thesis Completion Grants. These off stipend (Not what it means by "these off stipend") for one semester to complete a thesis project. Students are ineligible for any future university funds after receiving a completion grant. Deadlines: Early fall and early spring.

Presidential, University and Future Faculty Fellowships. These are awarded by an outside committee during the program application process.

CHAT GROUPS and UNIVERSITY SPEAKER SERIES FUNDING

Fall Deadlines. Faculty and students work together to apply for funds for group events, speakers and other activities.

NATIONAL

Students are encouraged to apply for national and international awards. The department nominates students for some awards annually. FMA students have had won many awards offering financial support, including Princess Grace, Kodak, and Fulbright Awards.

OTHER FMA OFFERINGS AND OPPORTUNITIES

DOCUMENTARY ARTS & ETHNOGRAPHIC PRACTICE CERTIFICATE PROGRAM

Temple University's Graduate Certificate Program in Documentary Arts and Ethnographic Practice (DAEP) is a 13-credit interdisciplinary program that involves faculty and courses in the Center of the Arts, the College of Liberal Arts and the School of Media and Communication. Visit the FMA website for details.

STUDY AWAY PROGRAMS

FMA offers study away programs in Los Angeles, San Francisco and Venice. For more details visit the FMA website.

TEMPLE-UPENN EXCHANGE AWARD. Application Deadline: February 15.

Every year, one student in the graduate M.F.A. program of Film and Media Arts at Temple University is awarded the opportunity to enroll in a course in cinema studies or related studies course at UPENN as part of a unique agreement between FMA and Penn's program in Cinema Studies. The program is designed for production students at Temple who will benefit from UPenn's scholarly courses and UPenn students in cinema studies whose work would be enriched through production coursework.

The application should consist of a one-paragraph explanation of why you want to take a course at Penn and how it will help advance your MFA project and/or advance your career goals. You must also include the name of a faculty member in FMA who can speak on your behalf. There may be a follow-up interview.

It is recommended that you review courses available on UPenn's Cinema Studies website and/or make contact with faculty whom you think you might like to work with to ask what they might be offering next year. The website for their program is: <http://cinemastudies.upenn.edu/>

Further questions and completed applications can be submitted by email torcover@temple.edu.

REVIEWS

Reviews are a fundamental part of the film/arts school experience and, indeed, career experiences to come. The reviews are a great opportunity to get direct feedback and discover connections with faculty, and learn from others. The reviews are not particularly tied to funding issues or any other matters that should cause stress.

There are two parts to this process of review. The first is *to see your faculty advisor to review your work and prepare*. The second step is the review session. The review session is 25 minutes. Reviews are generally held in April.

Expectations For 1st Year Reviews

Review sessions are about 25 minutes. You should plan to show 10 minutes of work. You should show work you feel is strongest and which indicates the direction in which you are going. In most cases this will be some/all of a single work, but for some it will be (excepts of) two works. Please limit your screening to 10 minutes.

Expectations For 2nd Year Reviews

Students should present completed work (or short excerpt of completed work) and maximum one-page statement about their intended thesis. Completed work presentation should be about 10 minutes and thesis presentation 5 minutes. This will be followed by about 10 minutes of discussion.

MFA COMPREHENSIVE EXAMINATIONS

Temple University's MFA program in Film and Media Arts requires a Comprehensive Examination (Comps) in addition to an MFA thesis. The program is committed to synthesizing theory and practice, allowing students to develop as makers, aesthetically and conceptually.

The comprehensive examinations consist of three 10 to 15 page essays and a 1 to 2 page Director's Statement/Artist Statement. Students form a Comps Committee consisting of three faculty, and they work with that committee to define three customized areas of inquiry – the questions – that embody their particular interests in film studies, media theory, or any other field of knowledge relevant to them and their work.

It is each student's responsibility to follow these guidelines and to coordinate completion with their committee members. Comprehensive exams must be completed and passed on time to retain standing in the department and eligibility for future funding, such as grants, TAship.

Students are required to turn in a signed Comps Committee form to the TFMA's Graduate Coordinator by September 15 of the second year and the signed Comps Examination Completion form to the TFMA's Graduate Coordinator by the deadline. Students must complete the Comps before they can officially begin the thesis project or apply for any department and university awards. Students who do not complete their requirements on time become ineligible for department distribution and production grants as well as college and university level support.

THESIS GUIDELINES

Students develop their thesis project proposals, treatments and/or scripts during their fourth semester and form a thesis committee at that time. Students in production streams should plan production in the summer/fall and post-production in the winter/spring.

A thesis project must be completed by the date set annually by TFMA and the University. This is usually around the 12th week of term. Thesis project must be delivered on time to be eligible for graduation that term. The student delivers a thesis project on a disc or similar physical medium as well as a production log to the thesis committee. Following completion the student is also responsible for arranging a thesis screening.

A thesis is a completed, stand alone work that fully realizes the thesis proposal. Rough drafts and drafts with placeholders are not considered complete thesis projects. While it is common and expected for students to develop thesis projects into works for professional public audiences that might entail additional changes, such as professional color correction, the thesis work must be complete and presentable.

If approved, the student receives a signed Thesis Completion Form. This form also requires a library signature, with the student receives upon delivery of a copy of the thesis and production notebook to the library.