



**APPLICATION PROCEDURE / STUDY PLAN 2016-2017**

*Questions regarding the Independent Film Track may be directed to:*

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*Send applications to:*

Program Coordinator  
**The Master of Fine Arts in Independent Film & Digital Imaging**  
College of Arts & Sciences  
Governors State University  
1 University Parkway  
University Park, IL 60484

Until a student is formally admitted to the MFA program,  
the attached study plan is for informational purposes only.

## **Study Plan for The Master of Fine Arts in Independent Film and Digital Imaging**

### **Master of Fine Arts in Independent Film and Digital Imaging**

The interdisciplinary Master of Fine Arts in Independent Film and Digital Imaging is a terminal degree in the applied arts of digital media production and imaging. The degree straddles the disciplines of Production in Media Communications and Digital Imaging in Art. Additional selective opportunities are available through English and Communications Studies.

Coursework for the Master of Fine Arts in Independent Film and Digital Imaging leads to specialized knowledge, creative development, and advanced technological skills in the applied digital arts of image making and media production. Beyond taking the required courses, students plan their specific programs in consultation with their advisors, adapting the degree path's selective sequences to their individual needs and interests. Graduates of the program will work in career areas such as higher education, filmmaking, graphic design, photography, 2D and 3D animation, motion graphics, web design, consulting, producing, media writing, TV production/direction, and training.

### **Special Admissions Requirements**

Applications for admission are due by the fourth Friday in March in any given year.

Applications for admission are available from the GSU Office of Admission and Student Recruitment and the Division of Liberal Arts Office. Due to limited space availability, this program can only accept fifteen students each year. Applicants will be ranked for admission on the basis of their academic potential and admission criteria.

In addition to meeting university admission criteria, applicants must:

A. Submit to the Office of Admission:

1. provide evidence of an undergraduate major in media, multimedia, communications, English, speech, or liberal arts.
2. have a minimum cumulative undergraduate G.P.A. of 3.5 on a 4.0 scale. Graduate courses can be substituted but the cumulative G.P.A. must be a 3.5 or better.
3. have appropriate prerequisite course work with a minimum prerequisite G.P.A. of 3.0 on a 4.0 scale. The GSU equivalent course is given in parenthesis.

The following courses (in semester credit-hours) or their equivalents are minimum prerequisites for entry into the M.F.A. program;

- a. English composition (3)
  - b. Speech course or oral communication (3)
  - c. Applied digital technology (3)
4. submit a supplementary application packet which includes:
    - a. supplemental information form;
    - b. a current resume;
    - c. three letters of recommendation; and
  5. provide official TOEFL scores (if applicable); and

6. submit the payment of the \$50 application fee.

B. Submit to the IFDI Program Coordinator:

1. a portfolio: for students in digital imaging, this entails a CD-ROM of stills; for students in digital filmmaking, this entails a sample of a prior production on DVD, tape, or URL for streaming video; and
2. a personal essay or statement of intent with respect to goals for the degree, and artistic philosophy.

Note: applicants may, at the discretion of the M.F.A. Admissions Committee, also be requested to participate in personal interviews. The M.F.A. Admissions Committee reserves the right to admit promising students on a conditional basis whether or not they strictly meet all of the above criteria.

### **Recommended Preparation**

Admission to the program is restricted to a maximum of 15 students at any given time on a “rolling” basis.

Admitted students will have maintained a GPA of 3.5 over the course of completing an undergraduate degree. All students must submit a portfolio demonstrating advanced proficiency and creative promise.

While admission to the program does not require an undergraduate major in Film, Video, or Photography, an undergraduate major in these or in one of the following fields is: media, multimedia, communications, English, speech, or liberal arts. In addition, students are expected to have demonstrable competence in digital technology and in oral and written communication.

### **Admission to Candidacy**

After admission as a degree-seeking student, a student also must apply for candidacy.

Application for candidacy should be made at the beginning of the trimester in which the student expects to fulfill the candidacy requirements. Application forms are available in the college office. To qualify for degree candidacy, a student must:

1. completion of the following core courses IFDI 5544, IFDI 8100, and IFDI 5702 with a grade of “B” or better;
2. completion of 12 hours from the selective sequences with a grade point average of 3.5 or better; and
3. completion of an approved proposal for both a thesis project and internship.

More detailed candidacy information is available through the division office or the student’s advisor.

### **Internship and Thesis/Project**

As part of this degree program, students will pursue both an internship and thesis/project. The student independently pursues a field-related internship and develops an agreement with the assistance of the internship site coordinator. Upon approval of the coordinator, the student may register for IFDI 8800 Internship with a GSU coordinator. The GSU coordinator must be a full-time faculty in ART, MCOM, or IFDI.

In the thesis/project, the student selects a committee consisting of a thesis/project advisor and two additional faculty members, and then develops a proposal acceptable to the committee. Faculty advisors and readers must be drawn from full-time faculty in IFDI, ART,

or MCOM. Students may register for IFDI 8990 once the committee has approved the student's proposal. The student then completes a project/production with the guidance of the thesis/project advisor. A paper must accompany all projects submitted for evaluation. Once the project is completed and approved by the committee, a grade is assigned.

### **Minimum Degree Requirements**

Students must maintain a GPA of 3.0 or higher to complete requirements for the MFA. A grade lower than "B" taken in any course will not be counted toward graduation.

#### **I. Prerequisite courses:**

ART 3325 Advanced Problems in Design or equivalent determined by advisor

MCOM 4740 Television Production or equivalent determined by advisor

#### **II. Common Core - Required Courses: (21 minimum hours)**

IFDI 6702 Digital Film Production.....	3
IFDI 6544 Digital Photographic Imaging.....	3
IFDI 8100 Survey of Independent Film and Digital Imaging .....	3
IFDI 8800 Internship: . . . ..	6-9
IFDI 8990 Masters Thesis Project: . . . ..	6-9

Note: not all courses are offered in all years or all trimesters. Many courses are offered just once per calendar year. Students are strongly advised to arrange appointments to consult with their advisors prior to beginning the program.

#### **III. Ethics, Theory and Aesthetics Selectives (9 minimum hours)**

*Select three or more of the following:*

IFDI 5410 History of Photography (3)

IFDI 6742 History of Film (3)

IFDI 8400 Graduate Film Seminar (3)

IFDI 8420 Critical Practices in Contemporary Photography (3)

IFDI 8701 Independent Study (1-4)

IFDI 8850 Digital Imaging Thesis Development Seminar (3)

ART 6520 Art in Context: . . . (3)

ART 8810 Studies in Art (3)

COMS 5100 Communication Ethics (3)

#### **IV. Applied Courses Selectives (15 minimum hours)**

*Select five or more of the following:*

IFDI 5000 Topics in Independent Film and Digital Imaging (1-3)

IFDI 5070 Media Workshop (1-4)

IFDI 6509 Electronic Drawing and Design (3)

IFDI 5720 Audio Production (4)

IFDI 5731 Screenwriting (3)

IFDI 5734 Video Production Editing (3)

IFDI 5735 Documentary Filmmaking (3)

IFDI 5460 Advanced Video Editing (3)

- IFDI 5549 Photography: Combined Color Processes (3)
- IFDI 5554 Documentary Photography (3)
- IFDI 5777 Cinematography (3)
- IFDI 6609 Advanced Electronic Drawing and Design (3)
- IFDI 6730 Directing Drama for TV /Film (3)
- IFDI 6644 Advanced Photographic Digital Imaging (3)
- IFDI 6700 Independent Film Workshop (3)
- IFDI 7725 Advanced Producing for Film-TV (3)
- IFDI 7730 The Screenplay Project (3)
- ART 6528 Digital Motion Graphics (3)
- ART 6605 Digital Mixed Media Techniques (3)
- ART 8830 Graduate Photography and Digital Imaging (3)
- MCOM 5005 Media Symposium: . . . (1)
- MCOM 5725 Desktop Publishing (3)
- MCOM 5739 Advanced Studio Production (4)
- MCOM 6760 Non-Broadcast TV Operations (3)

**V. Electives (0-9 hours)**

Up to 9 (nine) credit hours taken at Governors State University, drawn from the Liberal Arts and at the 500 level and higher, may be counted toward total credit hours allowable for graduation.

**VI. Total: 60 Hours**

**Minimum Degree Requirements**

Students must maintain a GPA of 3.0 or higher to complete requirements for the MFA. A grade lower than “B” taken in any course will not be counted toward graduation.

Prerequisite courses:

Note: Courses taken below the 500-level are not counted toward the total number of required Graduate credits. *The column after the course title identifies the trimester in which the course was most recently offered, and is meant to be a rough guideline for projecting your degree, not a fixed resource. Please consult the on-lines schedule in the weeks prior to the new trimester for the most up-to-date list. F = Fall, SP = Spring, SU = Summer, CS = Consult Schedule*

MCOM 4740 – Television Production or equivalent to be determined by advisor	F SP		
ART 3325 – Advanced Problems in Design or equivalent to be determined by advisor	F		

STUDENT NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ STUDENT ID: \_\_\_\_\_

Common Core - Required Courses: (21 minimum hours)

IFDI 8100 – The MFA in Independent Film and Digital Imaging – Survey Course (3)	FA		
IFDI 6702 – Digital Film Production (3)	FA SP		
IFDI 5544 - Photographic Digital Imaging (3)	FA SP		
IFDI 8800 – Internship (6-9)	FA SP SU		
IFDI 8990 – Applied Masters Thesis Project (6-9)	FA SP SU		
Subtotal:			

*Note: not all courses are offered in all years or all semesters. Many courses are offered just once per calendar year. Students are strongly advised to arrange appointments to consult with their advisors prior to beginning the program.*

Ethics, Theory and Aesthetics -

Select three or more of the following: (9 minimum hours)

IFDI 5040 – Film Seminar* (3)	FA SP SU		
IFDI 6742 – History of Film (3)	SU		
IFDI 5542 – History of Photography (3)	SP		
IFDI 5420 - Documentary Film Seminar (3)	CS		
IFDI 8400 – Film Seminar* (3)	SP		
IFDI 8420 – Critical Practices in Contemporary Photography (3)	SP		
IFDI 8701 – Independent Study (1-4) (6 total in MFA)	F SP SU		
IFDI 8850– Digital Imaging Thesis Development Seminar (3) **	SP		
ART 6520 – Art in Context (3)	CS		
ART 8810 – Studies in Art (3)	SP		
Subtotal:			

Applied Courses - Select five or more of the following: (15 minimum hours)

IFDI 5000 Topics in Independent Film and Digital Imaging* (3)	F SP SU		
COMS 5005 – Media Symposium (1)	CS		
IFDI 5509 – Electronic Drawing and Design (3)	CS		
IFDI 5720 – Audio Production (4)	SP		
MCOM 5725 – Desktop Publishing (3)	F		
ART 6528 - Digital Motion Graphics (3)	SP		
IFDI 5731– Screenwriting (3)	SP		
IFDI 5734 – Video Production Editing (3)	SP		
IFDI 5735 – Documentary Filmmaking (3)	W		
IFDI 5549 - Photography: Combined Color Process (3)	SP		
MCOM 6739 – Advanced Studio Production (4)	F		

IFDI 5554 – Documentary Photography	F		
IFDI 5460 – Advanced Video Editing (3)	SP		
IFDI 5070 – Media Workshop* (1-4)	F		
IFDI 5777 – Cinematography	SP		
ART 6605 - Digital Mixed Media Technique (3)	CS		
IFDI 6609 – Advanced Electronic Drawing /Design (3)	CS		
IFDI 6730 – Directing Drama for Film / TV (3)	SP		
IFDI 6644 - Advanced Digital Photographic Imaging (3)	SP		
MCOM 6760 – Non-Broadcast TV Operations (3)	SU		
IFDI 6700– Independent Film Workshop (3)	SP		
IFDI 6797 – Advanced Cinematography (3)	CS		
IFDI 7725 – Advanced Producing for Film / TV (3)	SP		
IFDI 7730 – The Screenplay Project (3)	SP		
ART 8830 – Graduate Photography and Digital Imaging (3)	SP		
Subtotal:			

\* course may be taken more than once for credit – consult advisor

\*\* required in Digital Imaging degree path

Electives: Up to 9 (nine) credit hours taken at Governors State at the 5000 level and higher may be counted toward total credit hours allowable for graduation.

	CS		
	CS		
	CS		
Subtotal:			

Total: 60 credit hours			
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Student signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Advisor signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

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