INTRODUCTION TO THE MAJOR

The Film & Media major is an interdisciplinary program that offers rigorous engagement with the entire culture of moving images. The program teaches students to think historically, theoretically, and analytically about a wide range of cinematic forms, and encourages students to look at moving images from the vantage point of other disciplines. Students may complement their study of the history and theory of moving images with the hands-on experience provided by production and screenwriting classes. Students can also take advantage of internships at the affiliated Pacific Film Archive and with local film production companies.

The Film & Media department also offers a three-course Summer Certificate in Film & Media Industries and Professions (FMIP).

"As Film & Media major, I studied films that were made against all odds—I learned about film movements, and auteurs that defied convention. In the process, I finally developed the confidence to tell my own stories, make my own films in forms that authentically articulate how I see the world."

– Sara Boutorabi, Class of 2019

THE MAJOR CURRICULUM

Core courses for the major include lower division courses on Film History and Film Theory, as well as a third course on either Film Aesthetics, Digital Media Studies or Television Studies. Upper division offerings cover Documentary, Avante-Garde/Experimental Film, Global Media and Media Technologies. Electives include courses on Genre, Auteurs, and semesterly Special Topics. The Film & Media department has also expanded its production course offerings. Existing courses such as Screenwriting and Advanced Digital Production are now accompanied by Documentary Production, TV Writing, Advanced Film Writing, The Essay Film, Experimental Production, and more production courses to come in future semesters.

AMPLIFY YOUR MAJOR

- Get involved with a student organization like Cinebears, CalTV, or GIANT Filmmakers
- Learn the workings of professional and nonprofit media companies with a Film & Media internship
- Challenge yourself with the Honors Program in Film & Media
- Explore research and internship opportunities with Berkeley Center for New Media, BAM/PFA, and Berkeley Arts + Design.
Explore your major

Meet with your major and college advisor to discuss your academic plans.
Review major and college requirements.
Start on the two core courses required for the major: FILM 10 and FILM 20.

Connect and build community

Get involved with Berkeley Connect and L&S Mentors Program.
Find study groups, tutoring, and academic support at the Student Learning Center.
Enroll in UGSS 98: College Success in L&S.
Explore the Library's Media Resources Center.

Discover your passions

Discover new interests in a Freshman Seminar, L&S 9 or a student-run DeCal course.
Attend the Undergraduate Research and Scholarships Fair in October.
Explore doing a certificate, course thread, or summer minor.

Engage locally and globally

Attend the Calapalooza student activities fair and get involved with a student organization.
Find service opportunities through the Public Service Center.
Explore study, internship, and research abroad options with Berkeley Study Abroad.
Attend film screenings at BAMPPA and check out local film festivals.

Reflect and plan your future

Visit the Career Center and Career Counseling Library.
Sign up for Handshake and CareerMail.
Explore career fields in the Career Connections Networking Series or a winter externship.
Explore career resources on the Arts and Humanities website.

FIRST YEAR

SECOND YEAR

Declare the major after you have completed FILM 10 or 20 and at least 30 units.
Complete your lower division requirement (FILM 3, 13, or 14) and optional elective (FILM 25).
Explore film and media courses in other departments such as English, Ethnic Studies, or French.
Review major guidelines for study abroad.

THIRD YEAR

FOURTH YEAR

Focus on upper division requirements and electives.
Consider a Film & Media internship for academic credit.
Review your degree progress with your major and college advisor.
Ask your major advisor about the Honors Program in Film & Media.

Do a degree check to ensure you are on track to graduate.
Submit your capstone statement.
Complete any "bucket list" courses and remaining major, college, and campus requirements.

Explore a Digital Media Lab for digital photography, video editing, sound, green screen, and mixed-use performance space access.
Explore Undergraduate Research Fellowships or the Undergraduate Certificate in New Media.

Join a professional association such as the Society for Cinema and Media Studies.
Get support for your thesis project in the Townsend Honors Thesis Workshop.
Connect with alumni groups and build your network as you prepare to graduate.
Submit a film or creative work for consideration for the Eisner Prize.

Planning a senior thesis or project? Apply to the Haas Scholars Program or SURF.
Curious about entrepreneurship? Enroll in HUM120: Entrepreneurship for All.
Hone your writing skills through a Writing seminar.
Teach your own DeCal course.
Undertake an optional honors thesis or independent study.
Keep pursuing your interests through a fellowship or gap year after graduation.

My Major?

The Film & Media major prepares students for film-related careers as well as business, law, and the arts and humanities. Many students pursue graduate study in film, the humanities, law, and business, with others finding exciting work in media.

Jobs and Employers

Asst. Creative Producer, MasterClass Asst. Producer, Full Frame Productions Editor, Millennium Film Journal Educational Specialist, UC Berkeley Junior Video Editor, Yelp Manager, Berkeley Art Museum Publicity Coordinator, Allied Integrated Marketing Researcher, Launchpad Entertainment 360 Sales Administrator, Kanopy Software Engineer, OpenTable Videographer, Honeyduke

Graduate Programs

Art History, PhD
Film, Masters
Film Archival, Masters
Film & Media Production, Masters
Film & Media Studies, PhD
Fine Arts, Masters
Information Management Systems, Masters
Journalism, Masters
Public Policy, Masters

Examples gathered from the First Destination Survey of recent Berkeley graduates.

Updated: 06/06/2023