

## Developing Artistry

The art of digital filmmaking and digital imaging blend communication skills and artistry to create a unique Master of Fine Arts program at Governors State University. The program facilitates the development of your internal voice as a digital artist or filmmaker, helping you grow creatively, pursue your highest ideals, and reach your academic and artistic goals.

“The imaginative artist willy-nilly influences his time. If he understands his responsibility and acts on it — taking the art seriously always, himself never quite — he can make a contribution equal to, if different from, that of the scientist, the politician, and the jurist.”

*Herman Wouk, (1915- ), author*

## Creative Preparation

Coursework leads to specialized knowledge, creative development, and advanced technological skills in image making and media production. You plan your specific programs with you advisor, adapting the selective sequence to your individual needs and interests.

## Selective Admission – Outstanding Preparation

Only 15 students each year are selected for the program. Applicants are ranked for admission on the basis of academic potential and admission criteria. As part of the MFA program, you learn and create through field-related internships. The in-depth thesis/project offers you the opportunity to combine all you have learned with your own creativity and style. Graduates of the program will go on to careers in filmmaking, graphic design, photography, 2D and 3D animation, motion graphics, web design, higher education, consulting, producing, media writing, training, and TV production and direction.

## Unlimited Opportunity

GSU offers a superior educational opportunity at an affordable tuition rate without sacrificing the professional quality of its programs. GSU's outstanding faculty and real world curriculum prepare graduates to meet the demands of the future.

## For more information:

Dan Nearing  
Academic Program Coordinator  
Faculty Advisor  
dnearing@govst.edu

2016 – 17 Catalog Year



# Master of Fine Arts in Independent Film & Digital Imaging

# College of Arts and Sciences

## Special Admissions Requirements

Applications for admission are due six weeks prior to the beginning of each semester. Applications for admission are available from the GSU Office of Admission and the CVPA Division office. Due to limited space availability, this program can only accept 15 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:

### Submit to the Office of Admission

- Provide evidence of an undergraduate major in media, multimedia, communications, English, speech, or liberal arts;
- 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;
- have appropriate prerequisite course work with a minimum prerequisite G.P.A. of 3.0. The following courses or equivalents are minimum prerequisites for entry into the M.F.A. program;
  - English composition (3)
  - Speech course or oral communication (3)
  - Applied digital technology (3)
- submit a supplementary application packet which includes:
  - supplemental information form;
  - a current resume;
  - three letters of recommendation;
  - provide official TOEFL scores (if applicable); and
  - submit application fee.

### Submit to the IFDI Program Coordinator

- A portfolio:
  - for digital imaging, this entails a CD-ROM of stills;
  - for digital filmmaking, this entails a sample of a prior production on DVD, tape, or URL for streaming video;
- 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.

## 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 semester 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-6544, IFDI-8100, and IFDI-6702 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.

# Master of Fine Arts in Independent Film & Digital Imaging

# College of Arts and Sciences

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.

## Prerequisite courses:

ART - 3325 Adv. Problems in Design (3) or equivalent  
MCOM - 4740 Television Production (3-4) or equivalent

## Common Core - Required Courses: (21-27 hours)

IFDI - 6702 Digital Film Production (3)  
IFDI - 6544 Digital Photographic Imaging (3)  
IFDI - 8100 Survey of IFDI (3)  
IFDI - 8800 Internship (1-9)  
IFDI - 8990 Master's Thesis Project (3-9)

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.

## Theory and Aesthetics Selectives (9-15 hours)

Select two to four of the following:

IFDI - 5410 History of Photography (3)  
IFDI - 6742 History of Film (3)  
IFDI - 8400 Film Seminar (3)  
IFDI - 8420 Critical Practices in Cont. Photography (3)  
IFDI - 8701 Independent Study (6)  
IFDI - 8850 Digital Imaging Thesis Development (3)  
ART - 6520 Art in Context: (3)  
ART - 8810 Studies in Art (3)  
MCOM - 6040 Film Seminar (3)

## Applied Courses Selectives (21-31 hours)

Select Five to Eight of the following:

IFDI - 5000 Topics in IFDI (3)  
IFDI - 5070 Media Workshop (3)  
IFDI - 5460 Advanced Video Editing (3)  
IFDI - 5490 Photo: Combined Color Processing (3)  
IFDI - 5540 Documentary Photography (3)  
IFDI - 5709 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 - 5777 Cinematography (3)  
IFDI - 6565 3D Modeling (3)  
IFDI - 6566 3D Animation (3)  
IFDI - 6567 3D Rendering (3)  
IFDI - 6700 Graduate Media Workshop (3)  
IFDI - 6709 Adv. Electronic Drawing and Imaging (3)  
IFDI - 6730 Directing Drama for TV and Film (3)  
IFDI - 6744 Advanced Photographic Digital Imaging (3)  
IFDI - 6769 Acting for Independent Film (3)  
IFDI - 7725 Advanced Producing for Film and TV (3)  
IFDI - 7730 The Screenplay Project (3)  
ART - 6528 Digital Motion Graphics (3)  
ART - 6605 Digital Mixed Media Techniques (3)  
ART - 8830 Grad. Photography and Digital Imaging (3)  
MCOM - 5005 Media Symposium (1)  
MCOM - 6760 Corp & Nontraditional Broadcasting (3)

## Electives (0-9 hours)

Up to 9 (nine) credit hours taken at Governors State University, drawn from the Liberal Arts and at the 5000 level and higher, may be counted toward total credit hours allowable for graduation.

## Total - 60 Hours

2016 – 17 Catalog Year



Master of Fine Arts in  
Independent Film & Digital Imaging

College of Arts  
and Sciences

Governors State University is accredited by the  
Higher Learning Commission of the North Central  
Association of Colleges and Schools.

This information is for reference only. For complete degree  
information, please refer to the current approved Governors  
State University catalog online at [www.govst.edu/catalog](http://www.govst.edu/catalog).