

# M.F.A. in Science and Natural History Filmmaking

The Master of Fine Arts Program in Science and Natural History Filmmaking at Montana State University is the largest and best known of only three programs in the world dedicated to this unique and rewarding field of filmmaking. Students in the program have had their work broadcast on many major channels and programs such as The Discovery Channel, National Geographic, The Science Channel, CNN, Sixty Minutes II, Larry King, CBS Evening News, and NBC Nightly News.

Students have produced films for the National Park Service, the National Science Foundation, the Department of Agriculture, NOAA, NASA, National Geographic, Discovery, and such non-profit organizations as the Wildlife Conservation Society, the Sierra Club, the Audubon Society, the Nature Conservancy, the Field Museum and the Boston Museum of Science. Students' work has also been featured in numerous festivals internationally.

Our students have won EMMYS, been awarded Fulbright scholarships, a Fred Rogers Scholarship from the National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences, Webby awards, and many other honors. The students have documented the work of explorers and scientists on every continent in the world. The graduate student podcast and website TERRA: THE NATURE OF OUR WORLD (<http://www.lifeonterra.com>) attracts and distributes some of the world's leading science and conservation productions to more than 100,000 viewers a month and has won three Webby awards.

Our mission is to provide filmmaking knowledge to students with formal education and experience in science, engineering and technology so they may create accurate, innovative, and exciting programs that advance the public understanding of science.

Candidates for the MFA take courses that include film and video production, the history and theory of science and natural history film, cinematography, production management, editing, and writing. All students must also work at one or more production internships during their time as MFA students.

## Program Requirements

The curriculum consists of a minimum of sixty semester credit hours of study, written thesis, and thesis film taken over a minimum of three years. To graduate, a student should complete the course of study in good academic standing and produce and defend a written thesis and thesis film.

FILM 504	Film and Documentary Theory	3
FILM 505	Crit Apprch Nat Hst Filmmaking	3
FILM 506	Crit Approach Sci Filmmaking (Delete course)	3
FILM 510	Fundamentals of Filmmaking	3
FILM 513	Advanced Cinematography	3
FILM 515	Science and Natural History Film Prod.	3
FILM 517	Production Management	3
FILM 518	Writing for Documentary and Non-Fiction Film	3
FILM 519	Post Production Workflow	3
FILM 521	Interactive Documentary	3
FILM 523	Second Year Film Prep	2
FILM 524	Research Methods (Delete Course)	3

FILM 525	Second Year Film Prod	3
FILM 526	Alternative Nonfiction	3
FILM 533	Adv Prob TV and Internet Prod (Change title to Web-Based Documentary)	1-3 Max 9 credits, May be repeated
FILM 560	Post Production Meets Info Design (Change title to Post Production Workflow)	3
FILM 581	Special Professional Proj	1-3 Max 9 credits, May be repeated
FILM 590	Master's Thesis	1-15
FILM 592	Independent Study	1-3
FILM 598	Professional Internship (Graduate Internships are 1-6 credits)	1-6

- FILM 592 Independent Study - 1-3 Credits, Max. 3 credits May be repeated
- FILM 598 Professional Internship - 1-12 Credits, max 12 Credits, credits, May be repeated
- FILM 591 Special Topics - 1-4 cr., Max. 12 credits, May be repeated
- FILM 581 Special Professional Proj - 1-3 Credits, Max 6 credits, May be repeated
- FILM 590 Master's Thesis - 1-15, May be Repeated

### **Font Notice**

This document should contain certain fonts with restrictive licenses. For this draft, substitutions were made using less legally restrictive fonts. Specifically:

Times was used instead of Adobe Garamond Pro.

The editor may contact Leepfrog for a draft with the correct fonts in place.