Bachelor of Fine Arts in Integrated Lens-Based Media

The School of Film and Photography (SFP) prepares students to meet the challenges of a rapidly expanding media environment as professionally trained creative artists and informed critical thinkers. Our students develop their own voices as tomorrow’s leaders through intensive hands-on exploration of film, photography and related media.

The School of Film and Photography offers two undergraduate degrees, a Bachelor of Arts degree (BA) in Film and Photography and a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree (BFA) in Integrated Lens-Based Media. The BA offers separate concentrations (options) in Film or Photography. Each of these two options offer ample opportunity to explore both areas if desired, while providing a strong focus for students to pursue professional career opportunities in the area of their choosing. Students who wish to explore the relationship between Film and Photography even further as integrated artistic media may apply for the Bachelor of Fine Arts (BFA) Program in Integrated Lens Media.

The Bachelor of Fine Arts in Integrated Lens-Based Media in the School of Film & Photography at MSU-Bozeman provides students with an intensive, interdisciplinary course of study in cinematic and photographic media that culminates in the creation of a comprehensive capstone project. As a professional degree, the BFA in Integrated Lens-Based Media prepares students to pursue graduate study and for careers as professional artists.

Students apply for admission to the BFA in the spring of their sophomore year, after having completed a prescribed sequence of foundational courses in the production, analysis, and history of film and photography. Admission into the program is limited to students who have already been admitted into both the Film and Photo option at the conclusion of their freshman year. Students admitted into the program are assigned two advisors—one photographer and one filmmaker—with whom they design a customized curriculum for the final two years of the degree.

A minimum of 120 credits are required for the BFA degree. 42 of the 120 must be Upper Division (UD) credits (300 or 400).

FRESHMAN COURSES (30 cr)

- FILM 100IH Intro to Film and Photography (3)
- FILM 101IH Understanding Film and Media (3)
- FILM 112 Aesthetics of Film Production (3)
- PHOT 113RA Understanding Photography (3)
- ONE OF THE FOLLOWING:
  - ARTZ 105RA VL-Drawing (3)
  - ARTZ 109RA VL-Comprehensive Fdns (4)
  - ARTZ 110RA VL-Ideation and Creativity (4)
- UNIVERSITY CORE** (12 cr)
  - WRIT 101W and US core must be taken freshman year.

Students must submit to and pass the film gate and photography portfolio review at the end of their first year.

SOPHOMORE COURSES (30 cr)

- FILM 212 Aesthetics of Film Production II (4)
- FILM 251 Scriptwriting (3)
- PHOT 255 Intro to Color Photography (S) (4)
- PHOT 258 View Camera (F) (4)
- FILM 201D Film History I: Origins to 1960s (3)
- FILM 202D Film History II: 1960s to Present (3)
- PHOT 303/304 Early/Recent History Photo (S) (3)

UNIVERSITY CORE (6 cr)

JUNIOR AND SENIOR COURSES (50 cr)

- PHOT 401 Contemp. Issues in Photo (F) (3)

STUDIES ELECTIVES, TWO OF THE FOLLOWING (6 cr)

- PHOT 303/304 Early/Recent History Photo (S) (3)
- FILM 381 Studies in Film (3)
- FILM 481 Advanced Studies in Film (3)

OTHER courses approved by your advisor like art history

FILM and PHOTO PRODUCTION, TWO OF EACH (12–16 cr)

Note: some courses are only offered fall or spring, some every other year. Discuss a course plan with your advisor to stay on track.

- FILM 253 Television Production (3)
- FILM 254 Acting for Film (3)
- THTR 304 Theatre Production (4)
- PHOT 331 Professional Practices (4)
- FILM 333 Production Management (3)
- PHOT 350 Landscape and the Book (4)
- FILM 351 Advanced Scriptwriting (3)
- FILM 352 Editing (3)
- PHOT 352 Adv. Lighting Practices (4)
- FILM 355 Cinematography (3)
- FILM 356 Production Design (3)
- FILM 357 Directing (3)
- FILM 359 Sound Design (3)
- PHOT 359 Alternative Photo Techniques (4)
- FILM 371 Nonfiction Film Production (4)
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PHOT 371 Portraiture (4)
FILM 372 Fiction Film Production (4)
FILM 373 Experimental Film (4)
PHOT 373 Image & Text (4)
PHOT 374 Experimental Photography (4)

OTHER courses approved by your advisor

ADDITIONAL RELEVANT COURSES

Discuss with your advisor which courses throughout the university will be relevant to your proposed course of study to fulfill 24-29 remaining credits. Courses can be SFP courses over and above the requirements for the degree or non-SFP courses.

SENIOR CAPSTONE (2 classes/10 cr)

Entry into Senior Capstone for Film requires senior standing, an accepted proposal, and completion of the Junior Production Requirements. If pursuing a role as Director, Producer, Cinematographer, Editor, Sound Designer, Production Designer or Lighting Designer, you are strongly encouraged to take the corresponding 300-level production elective prior to FILM 499. Entry into Senior Capstone for Photo requires senior standing. Senior capstone courses may be taken twice. Film production must go through FILM 499. Photo production through PHOT 499.

FILM 490R Senior Research Thesis (5)
PHOT 490R Senior Research Thesis (5)
FILM 499 Senior Production (5)
PHOT 499 Senior Production (5)

CORE REQUIREMENTS (30 cr, 12 fulfilled within the major)

TOTAL PROGRAM CREDITS 120

Students must meet university requirements of 42 upper division credits.