

CURRICULUM COURSES + DEGREE REQUIREMENTS

Requirements for graduation, 48 total credits (no summer graduations)

Typically, one takes 12 graduate credits (4 classes at 3 credits each) each semester, with 48 required class credits for graduation (over the course of 2 years). A student may sign up for either G (grad) or U/G classes (undergrad/grad split), as long as the class is 400-level and designated as G. If an undergraduate class seems fitting (U), permission from the instructor to take the course for graduate credit will be needed. Again, ALL credits need to be registered as graduate credit (G or U/G).

- 9 required credits in graduate seminar (Film 710, 712, 714: Graduate Film Studio/Seminar)
- 9 required credits in graduate thesis (Film 730, Film 732: Advanced Research in Film)
- The remaining 30 credits of the **48-credit Film MFA** degree are to be taken as Film MFA electives. For more details, see below.

Film MFA required courses (18 credits)

Film 710, 712, 714: Graduate Film Studio/Seminar - (9 credits required, 12 credits maximum)

The Graduate Seminar provides students with the opportunity to interact and respond to each other's works-in-progress on an ongoing basis. With faculty guidance, students help each other to articulate, refine and write about the ideas and meanings of their present work and to begin preparing for professional practices as artists. As such, the class often features visits and presentations by established local, national and international artists, curators and critics working in the areas of film, video and new genres. Visits to museums, galleries, screenings and other events also may constitute a significant part of this course.

Film 730 (3 credits), 732 (6 credits): Advanced Research in Film I and II

These courses are to be taken during the candidate's second year of graduate study. The work produced during this time constitutes the student's thesis project, (or group of smaller projects), worked on with the guidance of the student's Major Thesis Advisor.

Film MFA electives (30 credits)

Film 900: Graduate Studio (maximum of 12 credits)

Film 900 Graduate Studio is highly recommended elective for graduate students in their first year. The aims of the course are to facilitate greater development of the student's creative work and to better prepare students for critique—a fundamental aspect of both academia and art practice more generally. These aims are achieved through provided regular students time to develop work, and a schedule of meetings with each member of the graduate faculty to share and discuss studio practice and works-in-progress.

Film 720, 722: Graduate Media Arts Workshop I and II (maximum of 9 credits)

These highly recommended courses are taught by rotating Graduate Film faculty and involve topics-based screenings, readings, writings and creative productions. May be taken up to three times.

Film 700: Professional Practice (maximum of 9 credits)

Professional practice is an internship or project done in connection with a media-related enterprise to develop specialized skills and practical experience in the field. It may also be carried out with a non-profit agency, using media as a form of community. Enrollment in a professional practice course must be endorsed by the student's major thesis advisor and approved by the director of the graduate program in film.

Film 799: Independent Study (maximum of 9 credits).

An independent study is a course where the graduate student works one-on-one with graduate faculty to produce new studio work and develop research. This course is granted on a case-by-case basis and is done so at the discretion of the faculty member being asked to serve as the independent study instructor (given the increased teaching and administrative load faculty may not have time to work with students in an independent study).

Department of Film electives (maximum of 30 credits)

These are U/G and G classes in film, video & new genres that are regularly offered by the department, including topics such as 16mm film and video production, screenwriting, lighting, cinematography, audio production, animation, installation, and performance. Courses must be at a 400 above course number or require special permission. **You must enroll in the "G" section of a U/G course.**

Complementary Studies (maximum of 12 credits)

A complementary studies course is a U or U/G course offered outside the film department that is relevant to a student's proposed course of study. In the past, students have taken complementary studies credits in creative writing, theory, music, art history, anthropology, architecture, etc. Students interested in complementary studies are encouraged to discuss their options with the Director of the Graduate Program in film and the graduate faculty before enrolling in these courses.

Timeline Through the Program

First Year Semester 1 (Fall): course load: 12 credits

- Film 710: Graduate Film Studio/Seminar (required)
- Film 900: Graduate Studio (highly recommended)
- Film 720: Graduate Media Workshop I (highly recommended)
- Elective at 400 or above level

First Year Semester 2 (Spring): course load: 12 credits

- Film 712: Graduate Film Studio/Seminar (required) – 3 c.r.
- Film 900: Graduate Studio (highly recommended) – 3 c.r.
- Film 722: Graduate Media Workshop I (highly recommended) – 3 c.r.
- Elective at 400 or above level – 3 c.r.

Second Year Semester 3 (Fall): course load: 12 credits

- Film 714: Graduate Film Studio/Seminar (required) – 3 c.r.

- Film 730: Advanced Research in Film I (required) – 3 c.r.
- Film 722: Graduate Media Workshop I (highly recommended) – 3 c.r.
- Elective at 400 or above level – 3 c.r.

Second Year Semester 4 (Spring) course load: 12 credits

- Film 732: Advanced Research in Film II (required) – 6 c.r.
- Film 722: Graduate Media Workshop I (highly recommended) – 3 c.r.
- Elective at 400 or above level – 3 c.r.

Major Thesis Advisor and Graduate Review Committee

Graduate students will be assigned a Major Thesis Advisor upon entry to the program. Graduate students will work with this advisor over the course of the first year but have the option to change to a different advisor for their second (thesis) year.

In their second semester of the first year, graduate students will be assigned a Graduate Review Committee, to be determined by the graduate faculty by the end of their first semester. Selected by the graduate faculty, this committee will be comprised of graduate faculty members that will best serve the graduate students creative research needs.

Graduate students may add additional members from graduate faculty or department faculty/staff to their committee. Adding members from outside the department is also encouraged.

Film Graduate Faculty:

Ben Balcom, brbalcom@uwm.edu
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 Portia Cobb, pcobb@uwm.edu
 Lori Felker, felker@uwm.edu
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 Jesse McLean, mcleanj@uwm.edu
 Steve Wetzal, swetzel@uwm.edu

Graduate Reviews

A presentation of new and ongoing graduate work presented to the student’s Graduate Review committee is required every semester (the exception being the first semester). The goals of the review in the second (Spring) semester of your first year are two-fold:

1. To present current work and general creative progress to your committee
2. To discuss future work toward your thesis

End-of-semester Critiques

Much like the graduate review, the purpose of End-of-semester critiques is to share one's creative pursuits with others and open one's practice to engaged criticism, dialogue, and feedback. These are open critiques in the sense that all faculty and staff are invited, and the exhibiting graduate can invite others from the university and public to attend. These are required for all graduate students and graduate faculty, whether presenting or not.

Graduate students in their first (Fall) semester do not present work at EOS critiques. Graduate students present work during their second (Spring) and third (Fall) semester of study. Third-year graduate students present at fall EOS critiques (their fifth semester).

Fall EOS – Second and Third Year Grads present.

Spring EOS – First Year Grads present.

Graduation

At the beginning of the third semester a graduation application (intended for May graduation) will need to be submitted to the Graduate School (students will receive email notification regarding the graduation application deadline from both the Graduate School and the Graduate Director).

Thesis Presentation

Upon recommendation of the Major Thesis Advisor and Graduate Review Committee, each student presents a thesis work created while in the program. The screening or exhibition must be open to the public and notices must be distributed in advance of the screening/event. Typically, this presentation is part of a MFA Thesis Screening, held on campus, however alternative sites and methods (installation/exhibition/mixed media) may be explored.

Teaching Assistantship (TA ship)

A Teaching Assistantship is a 33% teaching appointment. The Graduate School states: *"The workload of a Teaching Assistant ordinarily requires [. . .] 240-254 hours per semester for a one-third (33%) academic year pay basis appointment."* As such, one is required to provide approximately 15 hours per week for a 33% appointment and maintain B or better grades in all coursework. The number of hours per week one will log as a Teaching Assistant will vary from course to course and from week to week. As with all teaching faculty, a Teaching Assistant must schedule two office hours per week.

Teaching Assistantships cannot exceed two years. If one should not complete thesis work in the two years as planned, then one is *not* eligible for further Teaching Assistantships.

Third-Year Residency Program

Graduates who wish to stay for a third year are encouraged to apply for the third-year residency. The third-year residency affords the graduate study one more year of intensive studio work with access to the Major Thesis Advisor, Graduate Review committee, equipment room, and studio space. The residency is not funded through TA ship and/or Chancellor Award,

and students wishing to enroll for a 3rd year must pay for one credit per semester (two credits total) and accompanying fees. However, if awarded the residency, graduate students are guaranteed to teach two courses in the department (or equivalent of two units), providing a source of income and healthcare eligibility.

The director of the graduate program in film will be sending you more information about 3rd-year options during your 2nd semester of study.