FILM & TELEVISION DIRECTING (MFA)

Program Requirements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Degree Requirements</th>
<th>Quarter Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>96-100</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Learning Outcomes

Students will be able to:

- Write short or feature screenplays in proper format employing standard narrative.
- Demonstrate a mastery of directing and casting actors in a fiction film.
- Express picture editing, visual effects, and sound design preferences to post-production crew members using proper terminology.
- Employ advanced functions of the producing process, including scheduling, budgeting, pitching, packaging, and distribution.
- Communicate short setup and framing preferences using proper cinematographic and visual design terminology.
- Create short filmic works in a variety of genres and processes, such as documentary, experimental, and television.
- Identify major genres, figures, and works in contemporary and historical short and feature films.

Major Requirements

No Introductory Course in any other program may be substituted for any other course at any level.

Introductory Courses

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Quarter Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>FILM 401</td>
<td>FUNDAMENTALS OF CINEMA PRODUCTION</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: Students who are required to take this course must take the course during the Fall quarter of their first year and consult their advisor about their course sequence for their first year in the program.

Introductory courses may be waived for any of the following conditions:

- The student has the appropriate course work to satisfy an Introductory Course.
- The student has appropriate and verified professional experience to satisfy an Introductory Course.
- If an exam is available, the student passes a Graduate Assessment Examination (GAE) in the Introductory Course area.

Required Courses

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Quarter Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CP 420</td>
<td>SCHEDULING &amp; BUDGETING</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CP 540</td>
<td>PRODUCING FOR DIRECTORS: PITCHING, PACKAGING, AND DISTRIBUTION (OR Major Elective)</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DOC 414</td>
<td>INTRO TO DOCUMENTARY PRODUCTION</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

or

FILM 425  EXPERIMENTAL FILMMAKING I
FILM 410  PRODUCTION WORKSHOP      4
FILM 430  FUNDAMENTALS OF SHORT FILM 4
FILM 450  CINEMATOGRAPHY         4
FILM 479  VISUAL DESIGN          4
FILM 482  DIRECTING I: SCRIPT ANALYSIS       4
FILM 483  DIRECTING II: CASTING AND REHEARSING   4
FILM 484  DIRECTING III: SCENE STUDY  4
FILM 485  DIRECTING IV: BLOCKING FOR CAMERA  4
FILM 487  DIRECTING THE SHORT MOTION PICTURE 4
FILM 501  ADVANCED PRE-PRODUCTION FOR THESIS 4
POST 400  EDITING               4
POST 420  DIRECTING SOUND DESIGN AND MUSIC 4
POST 482  PRE-PRODUCTION FOR POST FOR THESIS 4
POST 500  ADVANCED EDITING FOR THESIS  4
POST 520  ADVANCED SOUND WORKSHOP FOR THESIS 2
POST 580  ADVANCED FINISHING WORKSHOP FOR THESIS 2
SCWR 400  FOUNDATIONS OF SCREENWRITING  4
SCWR 408  WRITING THE SHORT MOTION PICTURE 4

Select 16 Credit hours of Major Electives 16

1 Students who are required to take this course must take the course during the Fall quarter of their first year and consult their advisor about their course sequence for their first year in the program.
2 Optional Los Angeles Quarter (See below).

Major Electives

Students must choose any graduate level ANI, CP, DOC, FILM, POST, SCWR, or VFX courses or MPOP 502.

Optional Los Angeles Quarter

Students may apply to participate in the Los Angeles Quarter Program for the spring of their third year; they will spend 12 weeks in Hollywood doing industry internships, living with their fellow DePaul classmates, and having twice-weekly classes on an industry lot where they will have intimate question and answer sessions with industry professionals in all aspects of the film, TV, and video game world. If selected to participate in the LA program, MFA in Film and Television Directing students would take SCWR 446 and FILM 499 in Los Angeles.

MFA in Film and Television Directing students who are not selected to participate in the LA program, would take FILM 499 in Chicago and one (1) Major Elective.

MFA Thesis

The MFA Thesis should be a significant work that demonstrates a mastery of cinematic storytelling technique to convey the filmmaker’s unique voice and vision. This project may be a short film or television/web series pilot. Feature films may be permitted with approval from the student’s thesis committee.

Thesis Committee

Students will be asked to submit five preferences for full-time faculty members to serve on their thesis committees. Two committee members and one thesis chair will be assigned to each student by the Production-MFA Committee. During the thesis phase, the thesis committee

Film & Television Directing (MFA) 1
supervises a student’s project. Approval to proceed to the thesis classes is at the sole discretion of the thesis committee. If the thesis committee denies approval, students may appeal to the Production-MFA Committee. If appeals are denied, students are dismissed from the MFA program. Students in good academic standing may choose to complete an MS in Film and Television.

Thesis Classes
There are four crucial milestones a student must pass in order to proceed with thesis classes:

1. **Script Approval**
   The thesis committee must approve a student’s thesis screenplay before admission will be granted to FILM 501. The thesis committees will notify the instructor of FILM 501 of approved students.

2. **Principal Photography**
   MFA students should complete principal photography prior to taking POST 500. Only instructor approval (not thesis committee approval) is necessary to register for this class. If the instructor deems the student not ready to register for POST 500, the student must wait until the class is offered again, and must again seek instructor approval to register.

3. **Picture Lock**
   MFA students must edit and picture lock their films prior to taking POST 520 and POST 580. Thesis committees will notify the instructors of POST 520 and POST 580 of approved students, and the instructors will grant approval to register. If the thesis committee deems the student not ready to register for POST 520 and POST 580, the student must wait until the classes are offered again, and must again seek committee approval to register.

4. **Final Thesis Delivery, Screening and Defense**
   MFA students will deliver their finished projects their thesis committees for exhibition at a culminating screening of all thesis films. After the screening, students will schedule a formal defense of their thesis films. If the film passes and upon completion of the required 96/100 credits of coursework, the student will be awarded an MFA. If the film does not pass, the student may revise it and redefend. If the film does not pass again, the student will be dismissed from the MFA program. Students in good academic standing may choose to complete an MS in Film and Television.

**FILM 701 THESIS CONTINUATION**
This zero-credit course is for students who do not continue with the thesis classes as scheduled. A student’s MFA thesis committee chair may enroll a student in FILM 701 a maximum of six times. Failure to enroll in a course for three straight quarters will lead to a student becoming inactive at the university, and will require the student to reapply to the program should they wish to finish their degree. Re-admission cannot be guaranteed, and the student will be subject to follow the curriculum in place when they return.

**Time Limit to Finish Degree**
Students must complete all required coursework and defend their finished thesis projects in no more than five years from their first enrollment in the program. If the student does not complete the above requirements in the required five years, the student will be dismissed from the MFA program. As per University policy, during their college career, students may be allowed one medical/personal approved administrative withdrawal and one college office administrative withdrawal, each for one or more courses in a single term. Such withdrawals do not count towards the time limit to finish the degree.

**Degree Requirements**
Students in this degree program must meet the following requirements:

- Complete a minimum of 96 graduate credit hours in addition to any required introductory courses of the designated degree program.
- Complete all graduate courses and requirements listed in the designated degree program.
- Earn a grade of C- or better in all graduate courses of the designated degree program.
- Maintain a cumulative GPA of 3.0 or higher.
- Satisfactorily complete the MFA thesis as determined by the student’s MFA Advisor Committee.
- Students cannot count credit earned towards a previously awarded master’s or MFA degree toward the completion of this MFA program.

For DePaul's policy on repeat graduate courses and a complete list of academic policies see the DePaul Graduate Handbook.

**Sample Schedule**
The representation of these course requirements on a year-by-year basis is just a suggestion. Students are free to take these courses in any order they choose, provided they have mastered the course-specific prerequisites.