

FILM AND VIDEO STUDIES, BA

Banner Code: AR-BA-FAVS

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George Mason University's program in Film and Video Studies (FAVS) is the first multidisciplinary undergraduate degree in Virginia focusing on production, film theory and history, and related media forms, with core courses in ethics, business, writing for the moving image, documentary and web media. The degree is housed in the College of Visual and Performing Arts (CVPA) and includes courses taught by faculty and working professionals from disciplines including Theater, Visual Arts, Communication, English, Film and Media Studies, Chinese Studies, History, and others. We offer three concentrations: Directing and Producing, Production/Post-Production, and Screenwriting. Each concentration includes a capstone experience wherein students are professionalized and mentored by faculty on original projects in their senior year.

Admissions & Policies

Admissions

All students are admitted to the Film and Video Studies (FAVS) program of study separately from their admission to the university and only by portfolio review.

Policies

For policies governing all undergraduate degrees, see AP.5 Undergraduate Policies. See College of Visual and Performing Arts for policies specific to the college.

Requirements

Degree Requirements

Total credits: 120

Students must earn a minimum grade of C in all core and required FAVS courses.

Mason Core

FAVS majors may not double-count Literature and Art courses toward both the FAVS major and Mason Core requirements. The synthesis requirement is part of the FAVS core requirements.

Foundation Requirements

Oral Communication	3
Information Technology	3
Quantitative Reasoning	3
ENGH 101 Composition (Mason Core) ¹	3

ENGH 302 Advanced Composition (Mason Core) ¹	3
Core Requirements	
Literature	3
Arts	3
Natural Science ²	7
Western Civilization/World History	3
Global Understanding	3
Social and Behavioral Sciences	3
Total Credits	37

¹ Nonnative speakers of English with limited proficiency in the language may substitute ENGH 100 Composition for Multilingual Writers (Mason Core) for ENGH 101 Composition (Mason Core). Students must attain a minimum grade of C in ENGH 100 Composition for Multilingual Writers (Mason Core) or ENGH 101 Composition (Mason Core), as well as ENGH 302 Advanced Composition (Mason Core), to fulfill degree requirements.

² including one laboratory science

Major

Film and Video Studies Core Requirements

AVT 204 Visual Thinking	3
ENGH 373 Film and Video Forms	3
FAVS 225 The History of World Cinema (Mason Core)	3
FAVS 250 Business of Film and Video	3
FAVS 255 Video Production for Film	3
FAVS 280 Writing for the Moving Image	3
FAVS 352 Ethics of Film and Video (Mason Core)	3
or COMM 454 Free Speech and Ethics (Mason Core)	
FAVS 450 Internship in Film and Video Studies	3

Analysis, History, Theory

Choose one course from the following:	3
AVT 377 Cyberpunk	
CHIN 320 Contemporary Chinese Film	
COMM 365 Gender, Race, and Class in the Media	
COMM 380 Media Criticism	
COMM 399 Special Topics in Communication ¹	
ENGH 319 Popular Culture	
ENGH 370 Introduction to Documentary (Mason Core)	
ENGH 371 Television Studies (Mason Core)	
ENGH 372 Introduction to Film (Mason Core)	
ENGH 470 RS: Topics in Film/Media History (Mason Core)	
ENGH 472 Topics in Film/Media Theory	
ENGH 474 Topics in Film/Media Studies	
FAVS 300 Global Horror Film (Mason Core)	
FAVS 399 Special Topics in Film and Video Studies ¹	
FREN 470 French and Francophone Cinema	
HIST 389 Topics in U.S. History ¹	
HIST 393 Topics in Film and History	

JAPA 320	Japanese Cinema
MUSI 301	Music in Motion Pictures (Mason Core)
INTS 347	Gender Representation in Popular Culture
RUSS 470	Topics in (Post) Soviet Film
WMST 300	Current Issues in Women and Gender Studies
Other courses as approved by Program Director	
Diversity of Perspectives	
Choose one course from the following:	3
COMM 365	Gender, Race, and Class in the Media
COMM 399	Special Topics in Communication ¹
ENGH 202	Texts and Contexts (Mason Core) ^{1,2}
ENGH 318	Introduction to Cultural Studies ¹
ENGH 319	Popular Culture
ENGH 362	Global Voices (Mason Core) ¹
ENGH 418	Cultural Constructions of Sexualities
FAVS 399	Special Topics in Film and Video Studies ¹
INTS 347	Gender Representation in Popular Culture
WMST 300	Current Issues in Women and Gender Studies ¹
WMST 308	Introduction to Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Transsexual, and Queer Studies ¹
Other courses as approved by Program Director	

Concentration

Select one of the following concentrations:	24-28
Producing and Directing	
Production and Post-Production	
Screenwriting	
Total Credits	54-58

¹ Must be approved by Program Director.² May not be used to fulfill Mason Core.**Concentration in Producing and Directing (PROD)****Courses**

FAVS 260	Video Editing for Film	3
or COMM 360	Digital Postproduction	
FAVS 331	Cinematography	3
FAVS 333	Sound Editing and Recording	3
FAVS 498	Creative Producing and Development	3
FAVS 499	Senior Project (Mason Core)	3

Fundamental Electives

Select two courses (6-7 credits) from the following:	6-7
AVT 252	Darkroom Photography I (Mason Core)
AVT 354	Digital Photography II
AVT 356	Photo Studio Techniques
AVT 374	Sound Art I
AVT 411	Motion Design
COMM 358	Multi-Camera Studio Production
COMM 364	Videography
COMM 366	Visual Communication
COMM 397	Special Topics in Production ¹

FAVS 311	Producing I
FAVS 356	Film Marketing
FAVS 357	New Media and Film Distribution
FAVS 460	Advanced Video Editing
GAME 250	Music for Film and Video
THR 230	Fundamentals of Production (Mason Core)
Other courses as approved by Program Director	

Authoring Electives

Choose two courses from the following:	6
AVT 376	Live Movies
AVT 390	Video Art
AVT 457	Documentary Photography
FAVS 365	Documentary Filmmaking
FAVS 375	Fiction Film Directing
FAVS 378	Web Series
Other courses as approved by Program Director	

Total Credits 27-28

¹ Must be approved by Program Director.**Concentration in Production and Post Production (PROP)****Courses**

FAVS 260	Video Editing for Film	3
or COMM 360	Digital Postproduction	
FAVS 331	Cinematography	3
FAVS 333	Sound Editing and Recording	3
FAVS 497	Senior Film Practicum (Mason Core)	3

Fundamental Electives

Choose two courses from the following:	6-7
AVT 252	Darkroom Photography I (Mason Core)
AVT 354	Digital Photography II
AVT 356	Photo Studio Techniques
AVT 374	Sound Art I
AVT 411	Motion Design
COMM 358	Multi-Camera Studio Production
COMM 364	Videography
COMM 366	Visual Communication
COMM 397	Special Topics in Production ¹
FAVS 311	Producing I
FAVS 356	Film Marketing
FAVS 357	New Media and Film Distribution
FAVS 460	Advanced Video Editing
GAME 250	Music for Film and Video
THR 230	Fundamentals of Production (Mason Core)

Other courses as approved by Program Director

Authoring Electives

Choose one course from the following:	3
AVT 376	Live Movies
AVT 390	Video Art
AVT 457	Documentary Photography

FAVS 365	Documentary Filmmaking	
FAVS 375	Fiction Film Directing	
FAVS 378	Web Series	
Other courses as approved by Program Director		
Advanced Skills Electives		
Choose two courses from the following:		6
AVT 382	2D Experimental Animation	
AVT 383	3D Experimental Animation	
AVT 411	Motion Design	
COMM 358	Multi-Camera Studio Production	
FAVS 460	Advanced Video Editing	
FAVS 483	Feature-Length Scriptwriting	
THR 334	Lighting Design	
THR 336	Technical Direction	
THR 434	Advanced Lighting Design	
Other courses as approved by Program Director		
Total Credits		27-28

¹ Must be approved by Program Director.

Concentration in Screenwriting (SCWR)

Courses		
ENGH 396	Introduction to Creative Writing (Mason Core)	3
ENGH 399	Creative Nonfiction Writing	3
FAVS 470	Film and Video Screenwriting	3
or THR 482	Advanced Screenplay Workshop	
FAVS 483	Feature-Length Scriptwriting	3
FAVS 496	Advanced Visual Storytelling (Mason Core)	3
GAME 332	RS: Story Design for Computer Games	3
Screenwriting Electives		
Choose two courses from the following:		6
COMM 303	Writing across the Media	
COMM 397	Special Topics in Production	
ENGH 377	Digital Creative Writing	
ENGH 386	Editing for Audience, Style, and Voice	
ENGH 398	Fiction Writing	
ENGH 492	Advanced Fiction Writing Workshop	
ENGH 497	Topics in Creative Writing	
FAVS 378	Web Series	
FAVS 399	Special Topics in Film and Video Studies ¹	
GAME 399	Special Topics ¹	
THR 380	Playwriting I	
THR 381	Playwriting II	
THR 480	Advanced Playwriting	
Or other courses as approved by Program Director		
Total Credits		24

¹ Must be approved by Program Director.

General Electives

Students must use general electives to complete a minor, a double major or double degree outside their primary major field of study (15-20 credits) or demonstrate intermediate-level proficiency in one foreign language (0-9 credits). After fulfilling one of these options, the remaining general electives may be taken inside or outside of the department.	25-29
Total Credits	25-29