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The Film & Digital Media program is an immersive experience in the practice and understanding of the art of filmmaking, digital media, and audiovisual content production. This pre-professional program emphasizes craft through the rigorous, experiential study of the creative and technical foundations of the film and digital media industry. Furthermore, we foster innovation through the exploration of emerging media technologies. With the creative spirit in mind, students of the program are engaged as critical thinkers of the world around them. Students effectively identify, develop, and learn to communicate their creative voice through impactful, engaging film and digital media productions. As students navigate their identity as global Citizen Artists, they are encouraged to pursue excellence and innovation in their craft.

## **DEPARTMENT REQUIREMENTS**

Completing the Core Areas of Study and fulfilling the appropriate Production Requirements will allow a student to earn the Film & Digital Media Arts Certificate and enable them to earn any additional certificates (including those for concentrations) offered within our department. Each student will find themselves creating their own Certificate path, one that reflects their interests and goals.

Required Core Areas of Study and Production Requirements vary according to the number of years a student

## CORE AREAS OF STUDY

- Writing for Media
- Producing for Film
- Directing for Film & Digital Media
- Cinematography
- Creative Development
- Technical Development
- Production Audio Recording
- Post-Production Audio / Sound Design
- Editing and Post-Production
- New Technology
- Film History (offered by the Humanities department)
- Physical Production
- Junior Seminar
- Senior Seminar

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## PRODUCTION REQUIREMENTS

### FOUR-YEAR STUDENTS

- Complete the Core Areas of Study for four years
- Complete a college application film
- Participate in eight IDYFILM Productions in any of the following areas (possibility to graduate with an Arts Certificate and a specific concentration):
  - o Directing
  - o Production Design / Art
  - o Cinematography
  - o Sound Design / Foley
  - o Grip and Electric
  - o Editing
  - o Makeup and Hair
  - o Costume Design
  - o Screenwriting
  - o Producing
  - o Storyboarding (i.e. as a Storyboard Artist)
- Apply to at least five film festivals
- Participate in three Idy Film PSA / Marketing campaigns
- Website with EPK and work reels

### THREE-YEAR STUDENTS

- Complete the Core Areas of Study for three years
- Complete a college application film

- Participate in six IDYFILM Productions in any of the following areas (possibility to graduate with an Arts Certificate and a specific concentration)
  - o Directing
  - o Production Design / Art
  - o Cinematography
  - o Sound Design / Foley
  - o Grip and Electric
  - o Editing
  - o Makeup and Hair
  - o Costume Design
  - o Screenwriting
  - o Producing
  - o Storyboarding (i.e. as a Storyboard Artist)
- Apply to at least five film festivals
- Participate in two Idy Film PSA / Marketing campaigns
- Website with EPK and work reels

## **TWO-YEAR STUDENTS**

- Complete the Core Areas of Study for two years
- Complete a college application film
- Participate in four IDYFILM Productions in any of the following areas (possibility to graduate with an Arts Certificate and a specific concentration):
  - o Directing
  - o Production Design / Art
  - o Cinematography
  - o Sound Design / Foley
  - o Grip and Electric
  - o Editing
  - o Makeup and Hair
  - o Costume Design
  - o Screenwriting
  - o Producing
  - o Storyboarding (i.e. as a Storyboard Artist)
- Apply to at least five film festivals
- Participate in two Idy Film PSA / Marketing campaigns
- Website with EPK and work reels

## **ONE-YEAR STUDENTS**

- Complete selected Core Areas of Study
- Complete a college application film
- Participate in one IDYFILM PRODUCTION in any of the following areas:
  - o Directing
  - o Production Design / Art

- o Cinematography
- o Sound Design / Foley
- o Grip and Electric
- o Editing
- o Makeup and Hair
- o Costume Design
- o Screenwriting
- o Producing
- o Storyboarding (i.e. as a Storyboard Artist)
- Apply to at least one film festival
- Participate in one Idy Film PSA / Marketing campaign
- Website with EPK and work reel

## PRODUCTION REQUIREMENTS BREAKDOWN\*

### FOUR-YEAR STUDENTS

- 4 years of Core Areas of Study classes
- 8+ IDYFILM Productions
- Apply to 5+ Film Festivals
- 3+ Film PSA/Marketing campaigns
- Complete a college application film
- Create a website with EPK and work reels

### THREE-YEAR STUDENTS

- 3 years of Core Areas of Study classes
- 6+ IDYFILM Productions
- Apply to 5+ Film Festivals
- 2+ Film PSA/Marketing campaigns
- Complete a college application film
- Create a website with EPK and work reels

### TWO-YEAR STUDENTS

- 2 years of Core Areas of Study classes
- 4+ IDYFILM Productions
- Apply to 5+ Film Festivals
- 2+ Film PSA/Marketing campaigns
- Complete a college application film
- Create a website with EPK and work reels

### ONE-YEAR STUDENTS

- Selected Core Areas of Study classes
- 1+ IDYFILM Production
- Apply to 1+ Film Festivals
- 1+ Film PSA/Marketing campaigns
- Complete a college application film
- Create a website with EPK and work reels

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## CONCENTRATION CERTIFICATES

12th-grade students can declare a specific concentration and earn a certification in their concentration (in addition to the Film Arts Certificate). Concentrations available include:

- Sound Design for Digital Media
- Producing for Digital Media
- Cinematography
- Production Design for Digital Media
- Editing and Post-Production
- Writing for Media

More concentrations and certifications are in development, including (but not limited to):

- Directing
- Art Direction
- Acting for the Camera (in tandem with the Dramatic Arts Department)
- Music Composition / Scoring for Film (in tandem with the Music Department)
- VFX / Virtual Filmmaking / Virtual Reality (contingent on hiring a VFX faculty member in the future)

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## COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

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### WRITING FOR MEDIA

Writing for Media is designed to teach the art of storytelling in the context of media technology and literacy. The Writing for Media curriculum will have two main areas of study: Dramatic Writing and Creative Non-fiction.

### DRAMATIC WRITING

Dramatic Writing will explore the art of crafting compelling narratives for short dramatic films, animation, television, and interactive digital media. Throughout the course, students will learn the four building blocks of story: character development, plot structure, thematic exploration, and genre. Beginning students will write a one-page screenplay, a three to five page screenplay, and a seven to ten page screenplay. Advanced dramatic writing students will explore eighteen to twenty page screenplays, television pilots, and stage plays.

### CREATIVE NONFICTION

Creative Nonfiction will introduce students to diverse and impactful ways in which non-fiction media can enlighten, educate, and entertain audiences while shedding light on real-world stories and experiences. Students will study the art of interviewing, conducting research, and fact-checking to ensure accuracy and credibility in their projects. In addition to honing their creative skills, students will also gain a deeper





## **CREATIVE DEVELOPMENT**

The Creative Development class is a space to conceptualize and develop a unique artistic voice through Digital Media. Students will recognize, explore, and practice the connection between filmmaking (as a standalone artistic medium) and other disciplines derived from both the arts and humanities. During this course:

- Students will explore and understand the terminology and roles within the hierarchy of the film world, learning how all the various departments come together. At the same time, students will recognize and explore potential fields of interest, ones they may focus on throughout their time with IA's Film & Digital Media Department.
- Students will extensively study pre-visualization and conceptualization techniques. Students will practice the role of the Production Designer and all aspects of Art Direction for film and digital media,

accumulation of these editing experiences offers an overview of the complete post-production process, including how to make informed editing choices and develop one's own aesthetic style. The course offers an introduction to the role of the editor, in respect of all aspects of post-production. Students will learn core skills and technical requirements to edit many different types of genre content, and have the opportunity to investigate key aspects of the psychology of editing, an invaluable aspect of creative thinking and one that will inevitably make for better filmmakers. Some of the many topics that will be covered include project set up, organizing media, understanding the tool bar, editing a sequence with the rule of thirds and eye trace in mind, refining sound and understanding codec, as well as creating and outputting files for viewing. Students are required to edit various assigned sequences to achieve these goals.

### **ADVANCED EDITING & POST-PRODUCTION**

The Advanced Editing & Post-Production course approaches film production from the perspective of the cutting room. It provides further study of the core skills necessary to edit narrative, experimental, and documentary film and digital media projects. Students will learn to utilize Avid Media Composer and Adobe Premiere Pro on a professional level. Advanced post-production techniques, including visual effects, will be explored.

### **NEW TECHNOLOGY**

# DEPARTMENT GUIDELINES

## CLASS LEVEL PLACEMENT

Students are assigned to specific classes for each Core Area of Study, and they are required to completely develop individualized skill sets before advancing to further class levels. Enrollment and placement are based on portfolio review and initial hands-on assessments, and at the discretion of the Film & Digital Media Chair and faculty.

## COLLABORATION

Filmmaking is a collaborative art form that requires strong leadership skills and the ability to work well with others. Reciprocal honesty, respect, generosity, flexibility, and a positive attitude are essential qualities expected and practiced in the program. Under this balance and synergy, student filmmakers are able to succeed in their artistic pursuits.

## PITCH PROCESS

Beginner students will produce self-portrait and documentary projects, presenting their idea for approval to the Creative Development faculty.

Advanced students will have the opportunity to prepare a pitch to be presented to peers, faculty members, and industry professionals. Six projects will be selected and greenlit for pre-production by a panel of faculty and industry professionals. Criteria taken into consideration for a project to be greenlit includes (but it is not limited to) the caliber of the pitch, the feasibility of the project, and the quality of the intellectual material. Projects can be (or include): short narratives, documentaries, newsreels, radio shows, new media, music videos, TV pilots, social media campaigns, PSAs, and performance media collaborations with other departments.

Through this pitching process and panel review, six major IDYFILM productions will be selected and then produced throughout the school year. Those projects can be canceled if the team of students involved is not complying with their set pre-production milestones. When and if that occurs, the Chair of the department will greenlight the next project in queue if the time left in the school year allows for such a project to be developed and produced successfully.

We will produce and film college application films at the beginning of the fall semester as needed by 12th-grade students. These films require approval from the Chair of the department and assigned faculty, but do not go through the IDYFILM productions' rigorous pitch process.

## PRODUCTION

Students are assigned crew positions on productions throughout the year and must participate when assigned. There is a participation limit of four main projects per year to guarantee the students' safety and well-being. Production schedules include Friday nights and Saturdays.

Filmmaking is a physical occupation, and students should be able to lift 30–40 lbs during production. The Department Chair will assess and set accommodations for any student health or physical restrictions.

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