

## MASTER OF FINE ARTS SUMMARY

Degree: COM11049174

School/College: College of Communication

Summary of New Master's Degree:

The MFA Program in Film currently consists of three different concentrations; each has historically been treated as a distinct degree program. These concentrations are: Film Production, Screenwriting, and Film and Television Studies. The College of Communication will transform the existing Film Production concentration within the MFA in Film program into a new one-year **MFA in Cinema and Media Production** built on the premise: “an exceptional opportunity for exceptional talent.” MFA programs typically run two to three years and students may enter the program with no prior experience or training in media production. In contrast, participants in this program will be expected to enter having already completed extensive training in, or having extensive experience with, media production allowing for a shorter and much more advanced program. Each participant will specialize in his or her chosen discipline: directing, producing, or cinematography. The new format will enable the College of Communication to recruit students from the best and brightest filmmakers seeking to advance their skills in a graduate program, with the aim of providing an opportunity to create an exceptional, groundbreaking film that will launch their professional careers.

The program consists of 48 credits across a full calendar year. Required courses include *Directing, Visual Design, Writer/Director Collaboration, Producing, Post-Production Workflow, New Trends in Promotion and Distribution, and Thesis Production*. In the course of the 12-month program, students are immersed in a collaborative environment within which they will produce a capstone production. The curriculum is built around practical workshops, intensive mentorships, and will culminate in the production of a short film of the highest caliber. Students will be assigned a mentor upon acceptance to the program, and will be mentored throughout their tenure in the program. These mentors will tailor lessons and exercises to help students develop their individual projects. In this way, the program will become a focused, conservatory experience for students capable of independent work. During the final semester students will be in production on their films under close supervision of the faculty.

Students completing the one-year graduate program will earn an MFA in Cinema and Media Production and will be qualified to enter the profession as accomplished Directors, Cinematographers and Producers, not just in entry level positions, but as full trained and accomplished professionals.