



**APPLICATION PROCEDURE AND STUDY PLAN
2026-2027**

Questions regarding the Independent Film Track may be directed to:

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Questions regarding the Digital Imaging Track may be directed to:

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Applications: <https://apply.govst.edu/apply/>

Until a student is formally admitted to the MFA program,
the attached study plan is for informational purposes only.

Study Plan for The Master of Fine Arts in Independent Film and Digital Imaging

The interdisciplinary Master of Fine Arts in Independent Film and Digital Imaging is a terminal degree in the applied arts of digital media production and imaging. The degree straddles the disciplines of Production in Media Communications and Digital Imaging in Art. Additional selective opportunities are available through English and Communications Studies.

Coursework for the Master of Fine Arts in Independent Film and Digital Imaging leads to specialized knowledge, creative development, and advanced technological skills in the applied digital arts of image making and media production. Beyond taking the required courses, students plan their specific programs in consultation with their advisors, adapting the degree path's selective sequences to their individual needs and interests. Graduates of the program will work in career areas such as higher education, filmmaking, graphic design, photography, 2D and 3D animation, motion graphics, web design, consulting, producing, media writing, TV production/direction, and training.

Recommended Preparation

While admission to the program does not require an undergraduate major in Film, Video, or Photography, an undergraduate major in these or in one of the following fields is: media, multimedia, communications, English, speech, or liberal arts. In addition, students are expected to have demonstrable competence in digital technology and in oral and written communication.

Admission Requirements

Applications for admission are accepted on a rolling basis at <https://apply.govst.edu/apply/>. Students may apply at any time and expect a program review and decision within two weeks. Due to limited space availability, this program can only accept 15 students on each track at any give time. Some applicants will be admitted on a conditional basis.

In addition to meeting university admission criteria, applicants must arrange to upload evidence of the following to the Office of Admissions:

- an undergraduate major in Film, Media, Multimedia, Communication, or related areas
- a minimum prerequisite GPA of 3.0 on a 4.0 scale.
- a current resume
- a \$50 application fee

- a digital sample of work: for students in digital filmmaking, a sample of a prior production on vimeo, youtube, or a personal website, or sample screenplay by email; for students in photography / digital imaging, a website including a range of stills
- three letters of reference from individuals who can speak to the applicant's strengths as a potential student
- a Statement of Intent / Artist's Statement with respect to your goals in taking the MFA and your artistic philosophy. This may be as short as one page.

Note: Applicants may, at the discretion of the M.F.A. admissions committee, also be requested to participate in a personal interview.

Internship and Thesis/Project

As part of this degree program, students will pursue both an internship and thesis/project. The student independently pursues a field-related internship and develops an agreement with the assistance of the internship site coordinator. Upon approval of the coordinator, the student may register for IFDI 8800 Internship with a GSU coordinator. The GSU coordinator must be a full-time faculty in IFDI.

In the thesis/project, the student selects a committee consisting of a thesis/project advisor and two additional faculty members, and then develops a proposal acceptable to the committee. Faculty advisors and readers must be drawn from full-time faculty in IFDI, ART, or MCOM. Students may register for IFDI 8990 once the committee has approved the student's proposal. The student then completes a project/production with the guidance of the thesis/project advisor. A paper must accompany all projects submitted for evaluation. Once the project is completed and approved by the committee, a grade is assigned.

Minimum Degree Requirements

Students must maintain a GPA of 3.0 or higher to complete requirements for the MFA. A grade lower than "B" taken in any course will not be counted toward graduation.

Prerequisite courses:

Note: Courses taken below the 5000-level are not counted toward the total number of required Graduate credits. *The column after the course title identifies the semester in which the course was most recently offered, and is meant to be a rough guideline for projecting your degree, not a fixed resource. Please consult the on-lines schedule in the weeks prior to the new semester for the most up-to-date list. F = Fall, SP = Spring, SU = Summer, CS = Consult Schedule*

Common Core - Required Courses: (21 minimum hours)

IFDI 8100 – Survey of the MFA in Independent Film and Digital Imaging (3)	FA		
IFDI 6702 – Digital Film Production (3)	FA SP		
IFDI 6744 - DigitalPhotographic Imaging (3)	FA SP		
IFDI 8800 – Internship (6-9)	FA SP SU		
IFDI 8990 – Applied Masters Thesis Project (6-9)	FA SP SU		
Subtotal:			

Note: not all courses are offered in all years or all semesters. Many courses are offered just once per calendar year. Students are strongly advised to arrange appointments to consult with their advisors prior to beginning the program.

Ethics, Theory and Aesthetics -

Select three or more of the following: (9 minimum hours)

IFDI 5410 – History of Photography (3)	SP		
IFDI 8400 – Film Seminar* (3) may be taken 3 times for credit	FA SP SU		
IFDI 8420 – Critical Practices in Contemporary Photography (3)	SP		
IFDI 8701 – Independent Study (1-4) (6 total in MFA)	F SP SU		
IFDI 8850– Digital Imaging Thesis Development Seminar (3) **	SP		
Subtotal:			

Applied Courses - Select five or more of the following: (15 minimum hours)

IFDI 5490 - Photography: Combined Color Process (3)	SP		
IFDI 5540 – Documentary Photography (3)	F		
IFDI 5460 – Advanced Video Editing (3)	CS		
IFDI 5769 - Acting for Independent Film (3)	F		

ART 6528 - Digital Motion Graphics (3)	SP		
IFDI 6000 - Media Workshop - Topics in IFDI (3)	SP SU FA		
IFDI 6734 – Video Production Editing (3)	SP		
IFDI 6735 – Documentary Filmmaking (3)	W		
CPSC 6569 - Intro to 3D Visual Effects (3)	CS		
ART 6605 - Digital Mixed Media Technique (3)	CS		
IFDI 6609 – Advanced Electronic Drawing /Design (3)	CS		
CPSC 6630 – Game Modeling and Animation (3)	CS		
CPSC 6631 – Game Design (3)	CS		
CPSC 6632 – Digital Sculpting (3)	CS		
CPSC 6653 - Intro to Virtual Reality (3)	CS		
IFDI 6730 – Directing Drama for Film / TV (3)	SP		
IFDI 6644 - Advanced Digital Photographic Imaging (3)	SP		
IFDI 6700 – Graduate Media Workshop (3) <i>may be taken 3 times for credit</i>	SP		
IFDI 6731– Screenwriting (3) <i>may be taken 3 times for credit</i>	SP		
IFDI 6777 – Advanced Cinematography (3)	CS		
IFDI 7725 – Advanced Producing for Film / TV (3)	CS		
ART 8830 – Graduate Photography and Digital Imaging (3)	SP		
Subtotal:			

Electives: Up to 9 (nine) credit hours taken at Governors State at the 5000 level and higher may be counted toward total credit hours allowable for graduation.

	CS		
	CS		
	CS		
Subtotal:			

Total: 60 credit hours	
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Student signature: _____

Advisor signature: _____

Date: _____

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