Graduate Studies in

Film and
Creative Media

David DeBorde
Director, Graduate Studies in
Film and Creative Media and
Fine Arts
Graduate Studies in Film and Creative Media

• Master of Arts
• Master of Fine Arts

Mike Fernandez, Dean, College of Entertainment and the Arts
Dave DeBorde, Director, Graduate Studies in Film and Creative Media and Fine Arts
Steve Taylor, Filmmaker-in-Residence

The mission of the graduate program in film and creative media is to educate the next generation of artists to be independent, entrepreneurial filmmakers who graduate ready to create uplifting content for the digital entertainment marketplace.

Both the M.A. and the M.F.A. are offered in a way that accommodates working professionals. Courses are offered online, in the evening and on Saturdays.

FCM is a total immersion program that is:
1. Experiential – students create several media projects in an array of formats and genres.
2. Entrepreneurial – students are expected to not only create media for the classroom, they are encouraged to reach out to artists and companies in Nashville to create content.
3. Professional – students will gain experience through one of several production companies in the Nashville area.

Admission Policies and Procedures

Applicants to graduate programs must submit the following:

1. Application Form. Each applicant must complete an application form. The application form is available at gradstudies.lipscomb.edu/, then click on Admissions, then “Apply Today.” The application can be completed online or downloaded in a PDF version.
2. Application Fee. Each application should be accompanied by a $50 nonrefundable application fee ($75 for international students).
3. Standardized exam score. Each applicant must submit scores from an appropriate exam. The program accepts scores from the Graduate Record Examination, or the Miller Analogies Test. Students who have already earned a master’s level degree or have been accepted into another Lipscomb graduate program may apply without submitting a standardized test score. For more information on the GRE, visit www.ets.org/ and click on GRE. Students who have already earned a master’s level degree may apply to the program without submitting a standardized test score.
4. References. Two letters of reference are required: one academic reference and one character reference.
5. Official Transcript(s). Each applicant must submit an official transcript, showing degree conferral when appropriate, from all schools attended.
6. Health Form.* Each applicant must submit a completed health form signed by a health care provider. (To print a copy of the health form, visit www.lipscomb.edu/healthcenter/forms.)
7. FERPA.* The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act affords students certain rights of access to educational records; even if you are independent of your parents, you must submit this form prior to enrollment.

*These forms must be submitted after acceptance into the program.
8. **Resume.** A resume detailing the applicant’s work and academic experience is required.

9. **TOEFL.** The Test of English as a Foreign Language is required for international students. (See section titled International Students for more information.)

10. **Video Portfolio or Personal Essay.** Each student must submit a video sample of their work. This can be in the form of a reel that shows a variety of film projects or it can be a single piece that best demonstrates your ability. If you do not have a video sample you should submit a personal essay that is no more than two pages describing why you want to enter the graduate film program.

All application items should be submitted to the graduate studies in film and creative media office no later than 15 days before the beginning of the semester or term in which the student plans to enroll. Items should be mailed to: Graduate Studies in Film and Creative Media, Lipscomb University, One University Park Drive, Nashville TN 37204-3951.

**Student Classifications**

Students are admitted to graduate courses in one of five categories:

1. **Graduate Student:** one who has satisfied all admissions requirements. (Average of 3.0 on undergraduate work, acceptable standardized exam scores.) A student with an incomplete admission file will be accepted to the program at the discretion of the program director but will be placed on an academic hold which will prevent registration for the following semester. Once the proper admissions documents have been received, the hold will be removed and the student will be allowed to register for the following semester.

2. **Conditionally Admitted Student:** one who has been admitted conditionally, at the discretion of the program director, without satisfying all admission requirements. Students admitted with the following criteria may be required to complete a minimum of nine hours of graduate work with a grade of “B” or above.
   a. From an unaccredited school or with a substandard GPA or Standardized Test score.
   b. A transfer student with a graduate GPA between 2.50 and 2.99. The transfer student must be in good standing at the previous institution attended.
   c. As a student who has not completed a bachelor’s degree program. The transfer student must be in good standing at the previous institution attended.

3. **Non-Degree Student:** one who has been admitted to graduate studies and has met all admission requirements except GPA or standardized exam score. The student may take up to nine semester hours for graduate credit. Those hours may be applied toward a master’s degree if the student makes a grade of “B” or better in the courses taken for credit and if all admission requirements (GPA and entrance test score) are met and the student is formally admitted to a graduate program as a degree seeking student.

**Transfer of Courses**

Although all graduate credit hours may be transferred from another accredited institution, a maximum of nine hours will be counted toward the M.A in film and creative media. The director or appropriate faculty member of the graduate program will evaluate the course(s) being proposed for transfer and make a determination of suitability. No course with a grade below a “B” will be considered for transfer. See “Special Consideration” in front of catalog.

**Documentation**

Students are required to provide satisfactory documentation of personal identification for off-site learning experiences required in many programs of graduate study at Lipscomb University. Failure to provide proper credentials will result in failure to complete the desired course of study. For complete policy, see section Required Documentation for Off-Site Learning Experiences in the opening section of this catalog.
4. **Visiting Student:** one who is currently enrolled as a student in good standing at the post-bachelor’s level at another graduate school, wishes to take courses at Lipscomb and desires to have transcript evidence of course work done at Lipscomb provided for the school of primary enrollment.

5. **Probationary Student:** one who has been readmitted to a graduate program following academic suspension from the program.

Admission to a program does not imply admission to candidacy for the master's degree. Only those students who meet the requirements for "graduate student" described above are eligible for candidacy.

**Academic Policies**

**Course Load**

A student enrolled for nine hours per semester is considered a full-time student. A student enrolled for six hours is considered a half-time student. No student will be permitted to enroll for more than 12 hours per semester without special approval from the director of the graduate program.

**Academic Standing**

1. **Good Academic Standing:** To remain in good academic standing, the M.A or M.F.A. in film and creative media student must maintain a cumulative 3.00 GPA and a 3.00 GPA on the most recent 12 semester hours of work.

2. **Probation:** Should the student’s cumulative graduate GPA fall below 3.00, he or she will be placed on academic probation. A student on academic probation will not be allowed to enroll for more than six hours during any term the probation applies.

   The probationary student is required to achieve a 3.00 cumulative GPA by the time the student has completed the next nine hours of course work. A course(s) may be repeated to achieve the requisite GPA. If the requisite GPA is attained, the academic probation status will be removed.

3. **Suspension:** If the requisite GPA is not attained, the student will be suspended from graduate studies at Lipscomb for the following semester, after which the student may apply for readmission. The student may be required to appear before the graduate committee.

   Failing grades will provide no credit toward the degree but will be included in figuring scholarship level, unless replaced with a higher grade by repeating the course(s). A 3.00 GPA must be maintained to be eligible for financial assistance.

4. **Appeals:** Appeals to suspension decisions should be made in writing to the vice provost for academic development and graduate studies. Appeals must be received no later than 4:30 p.m. on the Monday of the week before classes begin for the term during which the student wishes to be readmitted.

**Degree Completion Requirements**

**Residency**

No period of formal residency is required for a degree in a master’s program.

**Statute of Limitations**

All requirements for the M.A. or M.F.A. in film and creative media degree must be completed within a five-year period from the time of initial matriculation.

**Candidacy**

Admission to a program does not imply admission to candidacy for the master's degree. During the course of pursuing the M.A. or M.F.A. degree, the student must be admitted to “candidacy.” For admission to candidacy the student must satisfy the following:

1. Complete all required undergraduate deficiencies if admitted on condition.

2. Complete at least 12 hours of graduate work.

3. Maintain a 3.00 GPA on all courses taken toward the requirements for the degree with no incomplete grades.

4. File a degree plan/application for candidacy in the graduate program office which meets all requirements and is approved by the administrator of the graduate program and the dean of the college. The degree plan must be filed during the second semester of graduate work in the program.

After admission to candidacy and approval of the degree plan, any changes in the degree plan must be approved by the administrator of the graduate program and the dean of the college. The application for candidacy must be filed before the beginning of the student’s last semester in the program. No student will be allowed to graduate in the same semester in which the application for candidacy is filed.
**Minimum Credits**
The M.A. in film and creative media requires 36 semester hours. The M.F.A. in film and creative media requires 62 semester hours. All are exclusive of hours accumulated to satisfy academic deficiencies.

**Minimum GPA**
The minimum cumulative grade-point average for all programs is 3.00 for all graduate courses taken for graduate credit while pursuing the degree. No grade below a “C” is acceptable. Such grades will not apply toward degree completion.

**Graduation**
Students must register for GN 999X the semester in which all course work will be completed for graduation. Students who do not file their intent to graduate form in the registrar’s office by the end of the first week of their last semester may be delayed in graduating.

Graduate students receiving degrees are hooded during the May and December commencement exercises.

**Appeals**
Any exceptions to the above stated requirements would require approval via the appeal process established by the graduate academic leadership team.

**Financial Information**

**Tuition and Fees for 2015-16**

*Basic charges* per semester:
- Tuition per semester hour of graduate credit .......... $966
- Tuition to audit without credit..........50% of regular tuition

*Special Fees*
- Application fee ...........$50 ($75 for international students)
- Application for Graduation.........................$195
- Returned check fee ..............................$30
- TouchNet (monthly payment)............................$60
- Enrollment fee per semester
- Withdrawal fee .............................................$195

The tuition cost does not include program fees or equipment purchasing fees. While most of the gear will be provided for first year students on a loan/ check-out basis, it is a requirement that students come in with a Macbook Pro.

Also note that all students are responsible for costs of their own productions.

---

*Effective May 1, 2015*

---

**Master of Arts in Film and Creative Media (36 hours)**
The Master of Arts or M.A. (36 hours) in film and creative media is a degree that trains students to be independent, entrepreneurial filmmakers. In this program, students learn to write, produce, direct and edit various genres of content for multiple media platforms including: music videos, commercials, television sitcoms, dramas and feature films.

**Courses required for the M.A.**

**Fall I**
- FCM 5002 Story and Structure (2)
- FCM 5102 Cinematic Aesthetics (2)
- FCM 5272 Acting for Directors (2)
- FCM 5033 Film Production I (3)
- FCM 5121 Professional Practicum (1)

**Spring**
- FCM 5052 History of TV and Film (2)
- FCM 5042 Development (2)
- FCM 5082 Screenwriting (2)
- FCM 5073 Film Production II (3)
- FCM 5121 Professional Practicum (1)

**Summer**
- FCM 5172 Screenwriting II (2)
- FCM 5113 Film Production III (3)
- FCM 5121 Professional Practicum (1)

**Fall II**
- FCM 5012 Emerging Media (2)
- FCM 5062 Writing for Television (2)
- FCM 5133 Portfolio I (3)
- FCM 5143 Portfolio II (3)
Master of Fine Arts in Film and Creative Media (62 hours)

The Master of Fine Arts in film and creative media, or M.F.A., is a more intensive degree that allows students the ability to specialize in narrower areas of interest or tracks. The M.F.A. is also considered a terminal degree, meaning that a person with this type of degree is qualified to teach at the collegiate level.

M.F.A. Writer/Director Track (62 hrs)
In this track students specialize in writing and directing in the areas of TV and film.

Courses required for the M.F.A. writer/director track:

**Fall I**
- FCM 5002  Story and Structure (2)
- FCM 5102  Cinematic Aesthetics (2)
- FCM 5272  Acting for Directors (2)
- FCM 5033  Film Production I (3)
- FCM 5121  Professional Practicum (1)

**Spring I**
- FCM 5052  History of TV and Film (2)
- FCM 5042  Development (2)
- FCM 5082  Screenwriting (2)
- FCM 5073  Film Production II (3)
- FCM 5121  Professional Practicum (1)

**Summer I**
- FCM 5172  Screenwriting II (2)
- FCM 5113  Film Production III (3)
- FCM 5121  Professional Practicum (1)

**Fall II**
- FCM 5062  Writing for Television (2)
- FCM 5082  Screenwriting (2)
- FCM 5172  Screenwriting II (2)
- FCM 5183  Film Production IV (3)
- FCM 5121  Professional Practicum (1)

**Spring II**
- FCM 5202  Transmedia (2)
- FCM 5152  Writing for TV II (2)
- FCM 5092  Distribution (2)
- FCM 5223  Film Production V (3)
- FCM 5121  Professional Practicum (1)

Summer II
- FCM 5252  Writing for TV III (2)
- FCM 5243  Advanced Digital Entertainment Business & Law (3)
- FCM 5233  Cannes Film Festival (3)

Fall III
- FCM 5052  Emerging Media (2)
- FCM 5022  Media Entrepreneurship (2)
- FCM 5133  Portfolio I (3)
- FCM 5143  Portfolio II (3)

Dual Degree: MFA and MBA

Note: Graduate students participating in a dual-degree program must adhere to the admissions and academic policies of each graduate program that are consistent with policies for dual degree programs. For additional information see Dual Degree Programs section in this catalog.

M.F.A. / M.B.A. for Producers Track (75 hrs)
In this track students specialize in the financial and management side of digital entertainment. Emphasis is placed on molding the creative executive who can develop new story ideas, strategize funding models for content creation and production, and creatively market and distribute their packaged content. Students in this track will also get a degree from the College of Business. ** Each student in this track must apply for and be accepted into the College of Business.

Courses required for the M.F.A/M.B.A track:

**Fall I**
- FCM 5002  Story and Structure (2)
- FCM 5102  Cinematic Aesthetics (2)
- FCM 5272  Acting for Directors (2)
- FCM 5033  Film Production I (3)
- FCM 5121  Professional Practicum (1)

*Students in the MFA/MBA track must take the PMBA degree in the College of Business. Mandatory courses are as follows: PMBA 6533, 6062, 6103, 6023, 6633 (Cannes), 6142, 6253, 6013, 6043, 6083. Each student must be accepted into that program.*
Course Descriptions
The following courses are required:

FCM 5002  
**Story and Structure (2)**
*Full Term Online*
This course explores the basic dramatic principles of story, character and structure from multiple narrative viewpoints. The course work consists of extensive readings in theories of narratology with application to drama, film and other media.

FCM 5003  
**Story and Structure (3)**
*Fall, Full Term Online*
This course explores the basic dramatic principles of story, character and structure from multiple narrative viewpoints. While special attention is given to the storytelling philosophy of modern western culture there is considerable attention given to ancient myth narratives and eastern culture.

FCM 5012  
**Emerging Media (2)**
*Fall, Term II*
Examining new narrative forms and the unique requirements they place upon storytellers, this course covers the hows and whys of content creation for Web series, mobile and alternative viewing platforms, branded entertainment, commercials and other emerging forms of digital content.

FCM 5022  
**Media Entrepreneurship (2)**
*Fall, Term I*
This course explores how the film and media business works in today’s ever-changing marketplace, and provides students with the tools to have what it takes to compete as a professional working in the industry. Throughout the course, students will get an inside glimpse into the economic, political and power structures behind the scenes which help determine how movies and media get made, distributed and seen by the public.
FCM 5033  Film Production I (3) Fall, Full Term
This course introduces students to major aspects of visual storytelling. Students will learn concepts to help achieve maximum psychological impact by studying the director's decisions in camera placement, blocking, staging and visual image design, as well as fundamental aspects of linear (continuity) editing and sound production.

FCM 5042  Development (2) Spring, Term I
This course explores the process of creative content development, the role of the producer and pre-production planning and logistics for any type of film shoot. Students will develop many conceptual ideas during this course including their thesis.

FCM 5052  History of TV and Film (2) Spring, Online
This course is a critical and historical investigation of film and television. Different areas of scholarly study will be examined, including film and television comedy, the western, film noir and social media. Special emphasis will be given to the study of religious films and redemptive storytelling. Script breakdowns for multiple genres will be expected.

FCM 5062  Writing for Television (2) Spring, Term II
This course focuses on short-form videos for the internet as well as traditional television sitcom and dramas. It will also touch on education training videos as well as reality tv. Students will complete a script that will go in to production the following semester.

FCM 5073  Film Production II (3) Spring, Full Term
This course moves deeper into the process of film directing. Students learn the on-set dialogue necessary to run a set crew, direct two camera sets, and focus on intermediate directing and cinematography techniques. They also learn more complex editing techniques including nonlinear and experimental.

FCM 5082  Screenwriting (2) Fall, Term 1, or Summer Full Term, Online with once a week video conference
This course teaches students to write feature films in the traditional screenplay formats; it facilitates a deeper understanding of the screenwriting process; and enables students to develop character, story and linear structure. The students leave the course having written their final thesis work, which they will produce in the fall.

FCM 5092  Distribution (2) Summer, Term II and Spring, Term II
This course focuses on aspects of media production as they relate to raising financing and creating a marketing plan for a project. Examination of traditional theatrical distribution as well as new distribution avenues, including Web and mobile technologies.

FCM 5102  Cinematic Aesthetics (2) Summer, Fall Term I
This course focuses on aesthetic experience in various media. Special emphasis is placed on the visual work of the director. Relevant film theories of the 20th and 21st centuries will be examined.

FCM 5113  Film Production III (3) Summer, Full Term
This course explores the advanced process of film directing and cinematography for the narrative feature film. The students also learn more advanced editing techniques including foley, color correction and orchestration for film.

FCM 5121  Professional Practicum (1) Fall/Spring/Summer, Full Term, (two must be taken for MA, five for MFA) three hours a week
Provides opportunities for practical and hands-on experience with a professional production company, or the FCM in house production company, in all five of the areas of film production. Such as development, pre-production, production, post-production, distribution.
In this course the student is required to put together an advanced business plan and production notebook for their final film. They will meet with a thesis advisor regularly and a copy of the product will be delivered to the library.

In this course the student will produce, direct and edit their final film project. They will also be required to work on other thesis projects with their peers at various capacities. They must have a thesis advisor that guides them through the process. A copy of their fully realized film will be delivered to the library.

This course is an extension of Writing for TV I and focuses on writing a pilot script for sitcoms and dramas. Students will complete a script, and select scripts will go into production the following semester.

This course is a critical study of theories and practices behind the creation of overtly religious or redemptive films and media. Study will focus on quality connotations and audience reception as well as examining the overall impact these works have on contemporary culture.

This course will be an extension of the first screenwriting course. Designed to develop a deeper understanding of the screenwriting process, special emphasis will be placed on creating compelling plots and memorable characters. Students will write an original full-length screenplay during the course.

This course explores advanced practices of film directing and cinematography for unscripted, documentary and historical filmmaking. Special emphasis will be given to researching and developing compelling subject matter. Topics relevant to this area of post-production will include narrative construction, the use of historical and stock footage, voice-over and basic graphics.

In this class students will look at the increasing use of transmedia storytelling as part of television and film programming and marketing. Students will do a case study of a major television show and a major feature film that used transmedia techniques. They will then develop techniques for their own portfolio piece.

This course explores advanced techniques in film directing and cinematography for the narrative feature film. Special emphasis will be given to post-production sound—dialogue editing, foley, music and sound mixing—as well as post-production visuals, including digital visual effects, titles and color correction. Students will complete a short narrative film in class.

This is a travel course that meets the MBA global business requirements. Refer to BU 6633 in the MFA/MBA section.

An overview of the legal and ethical issues involved in entertainment law and business. Topics include intellectual property, copyright, options, employment agreements, distribution agreements, music licensing and negotiation strategies. Special emphasis will be placed on standards and practices (or the lack thereof) in entertainment business accounting.

This course focuses on writing for television formats including unscripted, documentary, historical and live event. Students will complete a script, and select scripts will go into production the following semester.

This course explores the advanced skills needed for producing unscripted, documentary and historical films. The students will work with directors in Film Production IV to realize a film for class.
FCM 5272  Acting for Directors (2) Fall, Term II
This course focuses on the process of directing and evaluating actors for the camera. Student directors work on camera technique, auditions, cold readings, blocking, etc., for both film and television performances. Students will learn by directing their own pieces as well as performing for other directors.

FCM 5283  Producing II (3) Fall, Full Term
This course explores the advanced process of producing for narrative films. The students will work with directors in Film Production V to realize a short film for class.

FCM 5233  MBA Global Business (3)
Maymester Cannes Film Festival
This course will give learners international/domestic business exposure and a unique cultural experience with an opportunity to encounter first-hand a global business environment including various business segments, trends, governing/advising bodies, cultural influences, political issues, marketing and service strategies, management approaches and other factors impacting the transaction of business in the chosen destination. Participation is required.

Film and Creative Media Faculty

Larry Brown, B.A., M.A. (Abilene Christian), M.A. (Harding University), Ph.D. (University of Nebraska-Lincoln), Professor of Theatre

Dave DeBorde, B.A. (Southeastern University), M.A. (University of Central Florida), MFA (Hollins University), Associate Professor of Film

Mike Fernandez, B.A. (Abilene Christian University), M.F.A. (University of Houston), Associate Professor, Dean of the College of the Entertainment Arts

Ted Parks, B.A. (Lipscomb University), M.A. (Harding Graduate School of Religion), M.A., Ph.D. (University of Texas, Austin), Associate Professor of Spanish

Stacia Watkins, B.A. (Western Kentucky University), M.A. (Middle Tennessee State University), Ph.D. (Middle Tennessee State University), Assistant Professor of English

In addition to Film and Creative Media core faculty, distinguished practitioners with expertise in the field will teach selected classes.