

Digital Cinema

Overview

For years, the Digital Media Department offered a Bachelor of Science Degree with various tracks. One of those tracks was an emphasis in Cinema Production. Beginning in the Fall of 2015, each former track became its own major.

The major in *Digital Cinema* has been constructed to prepare students for the demands of industry. It has been planned and assembled with the assistance of multiple industry partners, and will provide a deeper and more rigorous learning experience for those accepted into the program than what was in place during the emphasis years.

Program Emphasis

The Digital Cinema program prepares students for industry positions in the real world, with curriculum centered on film analysis, production, filmmaking, cinematography, screenwriting, editing, directing, producing, post-production, and Digital Cinema management.

What Is Not Emphasized

This program is based on film production. If you wish to solely study film history or theory, there is a Cinema Studies minor at UVU, which can be combined with a different major in the Integrated Studies Bachelor's degree.

Acceptance into the Program

UVU continues to be an open enrollment institution with inclusivity as one of its core pillars. The university provides *Structured Enrollment* for students that enter the school in need of academic remediation. All admitted UVU students are eligible to take the first and second-year Digital Cinema courses. Acceptance into the formal program, beyond the second year, is predicated on student performance in the first two years of courses. Students are admitted based on grades and an evaluation of a portfolio of their work, completed in the first two years.

Portfolio

Digital Cinema is a **Limited Enrollment Program**. It is expected that the application process will be competitive. A minimum grade of a B- in each course is required before a student can be considered for acceptance into the program. While completing their final second-year courses, students will submit their work through

an online portfolio (more information and instructions will be provided as the student moves through the program). All contact, including final decisions, will be communicated using the student's myUVU email address.

- **Portfolio timeline during second-year courses:**
 - Fall: Submit a letter of intent and a copy of Wolverine Track.
 - Spring: You will be contacted for an interview with faculty.
 - Late March/early April: Complete online portfolio.
- **Pro Tip - Letter of Intent:** The Digital Cinema letter of intent is a professional document demonstrating your writing abilities through meaningful content and correct grammar and spelling. The letter should be addressed to "Dear UVU Digital Cinema Faculty" and should thoughtfully reflect your career goals, the preparation you have made thus far for a career in the film business, and include any professional experience. (Please do not just write about how you like to watch movies.) You can get some help with formatting and wording by checking out this link about cover letters! <https://www.uvu.edu/cdc/docs/coverletter.pdf> It may also be helpful to write a draft and take it to the Writing Center in the Library or the Career Development Center in LC 409. They can read your letter and help guide you through the rewrite process.
- **Pro Tip - Online Portfolio:** Make sure to save all of your final work from your Cinema courses at the end of each semester. Back it up and store it safely. Additionally, we suggest writing up a short reflection of what you learned in the class, or some documentation of how you completed your final project. This documentation will make it easier to put your portfolio together toward the end of sophomore year! You can find Cinema portfolio requirements on the DGM website (these might slightly change from year to year, so stay up-to-date).

Making Progress Through the Program

Freshman year, students will work on first-year Digital Cinema courses while completing some general studies courses simultaneously. It is expected that students come to the first day of class prepared with their tech and supplies. Courses will cover analysis and production.

The Sophomore year is focused on a broad range of production experiences including: filmmaking, cinematography, screenwriting and digital media management.

In the Junior year, students are assigned to a cohort of peers and develop networks and relationships that will help them throughout their careers. They take advanced courses in media based storytelling, production, cinematography, directing, producing and post-production.

In the Senior year, students will have an opportunity to strengthen their skill set as they complete a team-based capstone project and develop a working knowledge of industry standard processes and procedures.

Frequently Asked Questions

What if I don't get in the program after completing the first and second-year courses. What options are there for me?

Students who are not selected for the program may repeat the first and second-year class or classes covering the deficiencies in their own portfolio. It is the responsibility of the student to ensure their portfolio is re-submitted for committee evaluation in late March/early April.

It is also a good idea to come up with a "Plan B" with your advisor. Discuss with them other disciplines of interest outside of Cinema, or how Cinema credits can apply to a different degree, like the AAS in Digital Cinema, Tech Management, the Certificate in Cinema, or a Digital Media minor.

Is there a limit on the number of times I can apply?

Yes, students are limited to two submissions for committee evaluation.

How many people are accepted to the program each year?

The program accepts about 35-40 students each Spring.

If I transfer to UVU and already have my Associate Degree, can I get into the program and finish in two years?

A transfer student must meet the same criteria as a student that has done all of their academic work at UVU. The first and second-year courses must be completed and the student portfolio must be reviewed. Some Digital Cinema courses will transfer from other institutions and help speed up the process.

It is highly unlikely that a transfer student could come to UVU with an Associate Degree, be accepted into the Cinema program, and complete the degree in two years. It is more typical for a transfer student to have about three years of academics remaining to complete a Bachelor's Degree.

Is there a minor that works well with this major?

Some options students have minored in are Cinema Studies, Theatre, Entrepreneurship, Marketing, and Creative Writing.

How can I get more involved in industry?

Three Facebook groups provide a great digital hub of student and industry info and opportunities. UVU Filmmakers Club and Utah Filmmakers and

Actors are open to all. The FEMME Project (UVU) is available to our female Cinema students. Request to join them! (Two of these are actual “clubs” on campus, too.)

I work a regular forty-hour a week job, is there a night program available?

Unfortunately, there is no program in place that can be completed only at night. Classes are scheduled with every attempt to consider student’s busy schedules, and are held Monday through Friday, mornings, afternoons, and evenings.

I want to purchase a laptop for school, which one should I get? And what software should I purchase?

We would advise you get the best machine you can afford. Computing power, the graphics card, RAM are all important. Specific software tools will be discussed in classes. A Mac with 16 gigs of RAM is recommended by the faculty, as the software needed for most courses runs on Macs, and the film industry primarily uses Macs.