



WESTERN MICHIGAN  
UNIVERSITY

# FILM, VIDEO AND MEDIA STUDIES MAJOR

SCHOOL OF COMMUNICATION  
COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

FOR STUDENTS WITH A CATALOG YEAR OF FALL 2019

## OVERVIEW

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The Film, Video and Media Studies major is a combination of studying media, video and film's influence on culture, the impact it has on society, as well as learning applied production skills for work in the industry. You will learn about media from cultural and hands-on perspectives by taking both theory and production classes. Careers with this degree are diverse, giving you many options to consider.

## HOW DO I BECOME A MAJOR?

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If you are currently a major in another department and would like to switch to one of the majors in the School of Communication or add one as a second major, please make an appointment with the School of Communication academic advisor to discuss your options. To contact the advisor, visit us online at [www.wmich.edu/communication](http://www.wmich.edu/communication). Click on Advising, then Undergraduate or email [com-advising@wmich.edu](mailto:com-advising@wmich.edu).

## WHAT WILL I LEARN?

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- \* Digital Non-Fiction Production
- \* Digital Fiction Production
- \* Writing for Radio and Audio
- \* Sound Production
- \* Communication Ethics
- \* Website Development
- \* Global Media Literacy
- \* Digital Media & Cultural Influence
- \* TV and Film Script Writing
- \* The Collaborative Process
- \* Tools for Creativity
- \* Interactive Media
- \* Broadcast News/Journalism
- \* Sports Media
- \* Multimedia Planning & Design
- \* Freedom of Expression
- \* Documentary Storytelling

## WHAT CAN I DO WITH MY DEGREE?

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- \* Film, Television or Music Reviewer
- \* Web Designer
- \* Digital Media Editor
- \* Media Publicity or Promotion
- \* Media Activism & Alternate Media Producer
- \* Camera Operator
- \* Communication Lobbyist
- \* Media Management
- \* Pursue a Graduate/Professional Degree (MA/MFA)
- \* Documentary Filmmaker
- \* Producer
- \* TV/Cable Station Manager
- \* Radio Music Director
- \* Sound Mixer
- \* Cinema or Media Archivist
- \* Broadcast Anchor/Reporter
- \* Multimedia Director/Producer

## Please note: For students with a catalog year of Fall 2019.

The following information is provided as a guide to your major curriculum. Students should review all requirements (major, minor, and general education) as specified in the catalog under which they enter ([catalog.wmich.edu](http://catalog.wmich.edu)).

36 Hours – Non-teaching major

<b>Film, Video, and Media Studies Foundations (9 hours)</b>		<b>Credits</b>
COM 1000:	Communication and Community Engagement	3
COM 2400:	Introduction to Media and Telecommunications	3
COM 2410:	Film Communication	3

<b>Film, Video, and Media Studies Core Requirements (9 hours)</b>		
COM 2550:	Introduction to Digital Video Production ( <i>Prerequisite: C or better in COM 1000</i> )	3
COM 2560:	Digital Media: Planning and Operations	3
COM 3400:	Global Media Literacy	3
	OR	
COM 3070:	Freedom of Expression	3
	OR	
COM 4430:	Media and Social Change	3

### **Film, Video, and Media Studies Concentration (12 hours)**

Select two (2) courses from each area below. Baccalaureate-level writing requirement must be met by taking one of the courses marked with an asterisk (\*).

#### **Studies**

*COM 3410:	Film Modes and Genres ( <i>Prerequisite: C or better in COM 2410</i> )	3
*COM 3430:	American Film History ( <i>Prerequisite: C or better in COM 2410</i> )	3
*COM 4410:	Documentary in Film and Television ( <i>Prerequisite: C or better in COM 2410</i> )	3
*COM 4450:	Media Criticism ( <i>Admitted to major, Junior or Senior status</i> )	3
*COM 4480:	Media Management & Telecommunications	3
COM 4490:	Communication Technology and Innovation	3
COM 4770:	Communication Ethics ( <i>Prerequisites: Admitted to a major, Junior or Senior standing</i> )	3

#### **Practice**

COM 2570:	Introduction to Audio Production [ <i>Prerequisites: C or better in COM 1000 and (COM 2410 or COM 2560)</i> ]	3
COM 3540:	Web Design and Digital Communication	3
COM 3550:	Digital Video Production: Nonfiction [ <i>Prerequisites: C or better in (COM 1000 or JRN 1000 or COM 2000) and (COM 2410 or COM 2550 or COM 2560)</i> ]	3
COM 3560:	Digital Video Production: Fiction [ <i>Prerequisites: C or better in COM 1000 and (COM 2410 or COM 2550 or COM 2560)</i> ]	3
COM 3570:	Introduction to TV Studio Production [ <i>Prerequisites: C or better in (COM 1000 or COM 2000) and (COM 2410 or COM 2560)</i> ]	3
*COM 3580:	Scriptwriting	3
COM 4570:	Advanced Video Production [ <i>Prerequisites: C or better in two of the following: COM 3550, COM 3560, or COM 3570</i> ]	3

### **Communication/Journalism Electives (6 hours)**

A minimum of six (6) hours of electives in Communication and/or Journalism, three (3) of which will be selected from upper-level (3000 or higher) courses in the School of Communication, and three (3) from any level.

#### **Additional program information:**

- All course prerequisites must be met to enroll in upper-level courses. **A course and its prerequisite cannot be taken at the same time.**
- Grade requirement: A minimum grade of C is required in all courses to be applied toward the major. The school prohibits students from taking a class more than twice for credit.
- \* Baccalaureate-level writing requirement must be met by taking one of the courses marked with an asterisk.
- Students may take up to six (6) hours of COM 3050/COM 4800 provided the topics are different.
- Up to six (6) hours of COM 3980/4990 may be used as electives in the major.
- Courses outside the school may be used with written prior permission of the School of Communication faculty advisor.