

Film and Television, M.F.A.

[Media Arts](#)

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The Master of Fine Arts (M.F.A.) in Film and Television is a fully on-ground, 60 credit-hour graduate degree program—the first and only M.F.A. of its kind at a public university in Tennessee. Launching in Fall 2026, the M.F.A. is housed in the Department of Media Arts in the Scott Borchetta College of Media and Entertainment.

Over the course of six semesters, this program offers preparation for students to be leaders of the next generation of film and television professionals, producing original film and television productions in a creative, collaborative, and workshop-oriented environment.

The M.F.A. in Film and Television is intended for students who wish to continue their undergraduate education in film and television through graduate study, post-graduates looking to shift to film and television-oriented careers, as well as working film and television professionals who seek to shift their careers into further expansion of creative capacity. As a terminal degree in the field, the M.F.A. additionally offers graduates opportunities to obtain employment as a faculty member at the college or university level.

Prospective applicants are encouraged to contact the program director to schedule a phone, virtual, or in-person meeting. The program director also serves as the academic advisor and welcomes prospective applicants to learn more about the program's structure and how it may align with applicants' academic and professional goals.

NOTE: If you live in the state of Alabama, you may be able to attend MTSU at in-state rates under the [Academic Common Market](#) program.

Admission Requirements

Admission to the Master of Fine Arts in Film and Television program requires

1. a portfolio of three creative work samples on which the applicant is a primary author and/or creator. These can include audiovisual works (films, videos, podcasts, photographs, recorded and/or composed music), scripts/screenplays, written essays, or other forms of creative output related to the field of film and television. **NOTE: Portfolios should be submitted as a pdf with working hyperlinks to the creative work samples for the M.F.A. admission committee to review.** Applicants should not send original materials as they will not be returned.
2. a letter of intent (minimum of two pages), addressing the applicant's interest in the program, the applicant's artistic and career goals, and why the applicant feels they will be successful in this program.
3. two letters of recommendation for graduate study. Letters of recommendation should indicate strong support from mentors and advisors familiar with the applicant's academic and/or creative achievements and potential.

Appropriate recommenders include former instructors, media production colleagues, or established practitioners who can assess the applicant's creative and professional promise. Letters must be signed and on letterhead.

Application Procedures

Initial application materials are submitted to the College of Graduate Studies.

Applications for admission are accepted year-round; however, the program enrolls 15 students per year for Fall semester start only. Completed applications must be submitted by the priority admission deadline of May 31 to receive priority admission consideration. Applications will be accepted after the priority date, but admission consideration is not guaranteed.

1. Applicants must submit an application with the appropriate application fee (online at www.mtsu.edu/graduate/apply) and submit official transcripts from all collegiate institutions attended. Once this initial application has been accepted, the applicant will receive instructions on how to access the graduate portal to submit official transcripts and additional materials.
 2. Upon admission to MTSU, the following materials must be sent directly to the M.F.A. Film and Television program director for program admission consideration (contact program director for details and specifics):
 - a portfolio of three creative work samples on which the applicant is a primary author and/or creator;
 - a letter of intent addressing the applicant's artistic/career goals, undergraduate preparation, and/or professional work experience relevant to the program, and how this degree will help the applicant attain their stated goals
 - two letters of recommendation for graduate study.
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Degree Requirements

The M.F.A. in Film and Television requires completion of 60 semester credit hours consisting of required production core courses, required courses in history/theory, and elective courses. Elective courses are offered on a rotating basis and provide an opportunity for students to take additional coursework in their specific areas of interest.

In addition to the required courses and electives, each student must

1. participate in a public screening of M.F.A. first-year films.
2. successfully pass a second year thesis proposal review.
3. complete an acceptable final project, supervised by a primary faculty advisor and at least one secondary faculty advisor.
4. participate in a public screening of completed M.F.A. thesis films.

In addition to the courses listed below, students must complete the comprehensive exam and the portfolio jury. The elective credits may come from the list below or other areas with advanced approval from the program director. Up to four 5000-level courses may be applied to the degree.

Curriculum: Film and Television

The following outlines coursework requirements.

Production Core (39 hours)

- [FTV 6100 - Production I - The Creative Process](#) **3 credit hours**
- [FTV 6150 - Screenwriting](#) **3 credit hours**
- [FTV 6200 - Sound Design for Film and Television](#) **3 credit hours**
- [FTV 6300 - Production II - Directing Fiction](#) **3 credit hours**
- [FTV 6350 - Editing for Film and Television](#) **3 credit hours**
- [FTV 6400 - Cinematography and Lighting](#) **3 credit hours**
- [FTV 6450 - Multi-Camera Television Production](#) **3 credit hours**
- [FTV 6550 - Producing and Production Management](#) **3 credit hours**
- [FTV 6600 - Documentary Filmmaking](#) **3 credit hours**
- [FTV 6700 - Final Project I - Development](#) **3 credit hours**
- [FTV 6800 - Final Project II - Production](#) **3 credit hours**
- [FTV 6900 - Final Project III - Post-Production](#) **3 credit hours**
- [FTV 6950 - Professional Practices and Distribution](#) **3 credit hours**

History and Theory Courses (9 hours)

- [FTV 5500 - International Cinema](#) **3 credit hours**
- [FTV 6250 - Film and Television History](#) **3 credit hours**
- [FTV 6500 - Film Theory and Aesthetics](#) **3 credit hours**

Electives (12 hours)

- [FTV 5250 - Representation in Film and Television](#) **3 credit hours**
- [FTV 5360 - Unreal Engine for Virtual Production](#) **3 credit hours**
- [FTV 5370 - Virtual Filmmaking and Production Design](#) **3 credit hours**
- [FTV 5400 - Screenwriting II](#) **3 credit hours**
- [FTV 5700 - Producing the Narrative Film](#) **3 credit hours**
- [FTV 5800 - Web Series Production](#) **3 credit hours**
- [MRAT 6150 - Legal Rights of the Creative Individual](#) **3 credit hours**
- Additional 5000/6000-level courses offered in the Scott Borchetta College of Media and Entertainment as approved by the M.F.A. program director

NOTE: Course numbers 5000-5999 are combined undergraduate/graduate instruction with graduate students completing assignments appropriate for the graduate level. Students may take no more than 30% of their coursework (18 credits) at the 5000-level while earning a master's degree. Courses numbered 6000-6999 are at the master's level.