

Program Overview

The Department of Cinematic Arts and the Department of Journalism and Media Management offer a 54-credit, two-year, MFA degree in Documentary. This interdisciplinary degree provides students with advanced skills in non-fiction creative storytelling and knowledge in documentary production and distribution delivered across a range of platforms.

By building on the School of Communication's strengths in both cinematic and journalistic documentary, the Documentary in MFA program distinguishes itself by converging disciplines and promoting experimentation with the goal of producing forms that best serve story content. Documentaries do not merely convey facts or information, but they tell stories that have the ability to produce positive social change.

Students will be exposed to a variety of documentary styles, including observational, expository, reflexive, performative, participatory, and poetic (e.g., impressionistic, associative, or affective modes). While immersed in a wide range of approaches, the program emphasizes the social responsibility of the storyteller and explores the standards and ethics of journalism.

Documentary has the power to define and convey reality and to bring audiences into contact with cultures and perspectives far different from their own. Graduates from this program will gain knowledge in how to cast a light on under-represented issues or topics of social relevance in ways that are visceral and impactful.

The curriculum is designed to balance documentary film with journalism, and encourages students to focus on one of an array of academic disciplines found at UM in order to better understand and communicate through documentary. It provides a coherent structure along with the flexibility to achieve personal freedom of expression.

Students must complete a minimum of 54 credit hours with the approval of the faculty advisor. A minimum of 9 credit hours must be at or above the 700-level. MFA students must maintain an overall minimum GPA of 3.0 for all courses.

Admission Requirements

The following is a list of the required conditions as well as the required documents/fees for your application for admission to the Master of Fine Arts degree program in Documentary in the School of Communication.

- A baccalaureate degree from an accredited institution
- The School's official application
- An \$85.00 non-refundable application fee
- Three letters of recommendation
- 500-word typed statement of academic and professional goals
- Official transcripts of all college work, both undergraduate and graduate.
 - Note: In addition, international applicants must send an official copy of their diploma for all degrees earned, and all documentation that confers their degree, with English translation for all degrees earned.
 - Note: All transcripts must be the original document, forwarded directly from the university: Xerox copies, true copies, notarized copies and other types of copies are not acceptable.
- Official TOEFL or IELTS scores
 - Note: Only for international applicants.
- Copy of current passport
 - Note: Only for international applicants. The name entered on the graduate application must exactly match your name as it appears on your passport.
- Portfolio (optional)

Contact the Office of Graduate Studies, call 305-284-5236 or email (socgrad@miami.edu), for information.

Curriculum Requirements

Course List

Code	Title	Credit Hours
Required Coursework		
<u>JMM 628</u>	Seminar in Visual Storytelling	3
<u>JMM 641</u>	Advanced Audio Video Narratives	3
	NEW JMM COURSE: Documentary Photography (Still Photo/Multi-Picture Package)	3
	NEW JMM COURSE: Public Affairs Research and Reporting	3
<u>JMM 614</u>	Law and Ethics in Journalism and Media Management	3
<u>CCA 658</u>	Documentary Production (Cinematic Documentary Production)	3
<u>CCA 602</u>	Global Issues and Filmmaking	3
<u>CCA 629</u>	Nonfiction Film (Studies in Documentary)	3
	NEW CCA COURSE: Writing for the Screen through Editing	3
<u>CCA 670</u>	The Independent Producer	3
	Select one course from:	3
<u>CCA 620</u>	Cinematography	
<u>CCA 630</u>	Introduction to Editing	
	NEW CCA COURSE: Sound Production and Location Sound	
Electives (9 credits) ¹		
	Choose at least 3 credits from CIM, JMM, or IM departments from the list below. ²	3-6
CCA		
<u>CCA 619</u>	Seminar in Documentary Production	
<u>CCA 620</u>	Cinematography	
<u>CCA 630</u>	Introduction to Editing	
<u>CCA 655</u>	Science Documentary: Autism	
<u>CCA 651</u>	Motion Graphics and Compositing	
<u>CCA 752</u>	Advanced Cinematography	
<u>CCA 730</u>	Advanced Editing	
<u>CCA 740</u>	Sound Design	
	NEW CCA COURSE: Sound Production and Location Sound	
JMM		
<u>JMM 617</u>	Television News Reporting	
<u>JMM 620</u>	Reporting and the Internet	
<u>JMM 619</u>	Interactive Storytelling	
<u>JMM 646</u>	Travel Writing	

Course List

Code	Title	Credit Hours
	NEW JMM COURSE: Documentary Photography (Still Photo/Multi-picture Package)	
	CIM	
<u>CIM 623</u>	Building Virtual Worlds	
<u>CIM 633</u>	Augmented Reality	
<u>CIM 658</u>	360° Immersive Filmmaking and Storytelling	
<u>CIM 602</u>	Designing Innovation	
<u>CIM 618</u>	Internet and Media Activism	
<u>CIM 601</u>	Prototyping Techniques	
	Choose three to six credits elective from outside of SoC (course by approval) ²	3-6
	(Examples include Africana Studies, Anthropology, Education, Latin American Studies, Marine Science, Nursing and Health Sciences, Psychology, Sociology, History, Gender and Sexuality Studies.)	
	Practicum	6
	Choose one of the combinations below:	
<u>CCA 794</u>	Motion Picture Internship	
& <u>JMM 609</u>	and Internship in Journalism and Media Management	
<u>CCA 799</u>	Advanced Projects and Directed Research	
& <u>JMM 699</u>	and Advanced Projects and Directed Research	
	Non-ETD Thesis or Project	6
<u>CCA 815</u>	MFA Thesis	
<u>JMM 815</u>	Multimedia Project	
	Total Credit Hours	54

¹No elective from above list may be repeated.

²Though encouraged to take these electives outside the School of Communication, a student has the option to fulfill one or more of these electives within the the SoC, pending approval of advisor and program director.

Plan of Study

Year One		Credit Hours
Fall		
<u>CCA 658</u>	Documentary Production (Cinematic Documentary Production I)	3
<u>CCA 629</u>	Nonfiction Film (Studies in Documentary)	3
JMM 6##	Documentary Photography (Still Photo and Multi-Picture Package)	3
<u>JMM 628</u>	Seminar in Visual Storytelling	3
	Credit Hours	12
Spring		
<u>JMM 641</u>	Advanced Audio Video Narratives	3
JMM 6##	Public Affairs Research and Reporting (NEW)	3
CCA 6##	Writing for the Screen through Editing (NEW)	3
CCA Elective ((e.g., <u>CCA 620</u> Cinematography; <u>CCA 630</u> Introduction to Editing; CCA 6XX Sound Production and Location Sound)		3
	Credit Hours	12
Summer		
<u>CCA 794</u> & <u>CCA 609</u>	Motion Picture Internship and Legal Aspects of Motion Pictures (Or <u>CCA 799</u> & <u>JMM 699</u>)	6
	Credit Hours	6
Year Two		
Fall		
<u>CCA 602</u>	Global Issues and Filmmaking	3
<u>CCA 670</u>	The Independent Producer	3
SoC Elective		3
SoC Elective or outside SoC Elective		3
	Credit Hours	12
Spring		
<u>JMM 614</u>	Law and Ethics in Journalism and Media Management	3
3rd Elective (Outside SoC) ¹		3
<u>CCA 815</u> or <u>JMM 815</u>	MFA Thesis or Multimedia Project	6
	Credit Hours	12
	Total Credit Hours	54

Student Learning Outcomes

- Students will demonstrate a depth of knowledge in the legal, historical, theoretical, ethical, and aesthetic dimensions of documentary.
- Students will understand and display mastery of advanced research skills and video production techniques.
- Students will demonstrate an understanding of the marketplace for documentary distribution.
- Students will be able to apply skills, strategies and processes critical to both traditional and independent production: self-distribution, creative packaging and promotion, and incorporating an entrepreneurial orientation.