

Film and Media Studies

The Film and Media Studies (FMS) Program at ASU distinguishes itself with three major curricular objectives:

- 1. Convergence:** The media arts of radio, television, recorded music, film, digital media, the Internet, and video games are commonly studied as independent disciplines. Our program provides a more comprehensive approach to learning. While it is important to understand the history of film as an art form, for instance, it is also important to understand it in relation to television and digital media. We are committed to integrating the study of such media convergence, both as units within courses and through the design of several new courses entirely devoted to that phenomenon.
- 2. Integration:** Film and Media Studies integrates the theory and practice of media study in the digital era. Visual literacy in the media arts involves a working knowledge of digital media and software. Scholars and artists now use many of the same tools. Critics, theorists, historians and all media scholars must be fluent with state-of-the-art computer software programs. To this end, some of our courses integrate media labs with lectures and discussions, some offer students the opportunity to do digital projects rather than traditional written research papers, and some are entirely distance learning.
- 3. Professionalism:** The program's student and faculty actively engage in mutually beneficial dialogue with the film, media and entertainment industries. We believe that highly successful industry professionals have much to contribute toward helping us to best prepare our students for successful careers. Our teaching and research has much to offer the industry in terms of understanding the significant social and cultural impact of the media arts.

Any student in Barrett, The Honors College who is considering a major in Film and Media Studies should make an appointment as soon as possible with the Honors Faculty Advisor, Dr. Aaron Baker at Aaron.Baker@asu.edu.

For information about Honors enrichment contracts, go to <http://barretthonors.asu.edu/academics/honors-courses-and-contracts/honors-enrichment-contracts/>.

Guidelines for Honors Theses in Film and Media Studies (FMS)

These guidelines are intended for both faculty and students, to facilitate the process of planning and completing honors theses. They should be used in conjunction with Barrett, the Honors College requirements for theses; a student must meet both FMS requirements and Honors College requirements to successfully complete the thesis.

For further information on honors theses, please contact FMS Honors Advisor, Dr. Aaron Baker (Aaron.Baker@asu.edu).

Students wishing to write a thesis with FMS faculty must be FMS majors or minors. The thesis must be in the area of concentration. The thesis committee must have at least two members. The director must be full-time ASU faculty. Teaching assistants and graduate students may not serve on committees.

1. It is the student's responsibility to formulate the thesis topic, to ask faculty to serve on her or his committee, to submit the necessary forms and to ascertain and inform the chair of the committee of all Honors College requirements and deadlines.
2. An Honors thesis prospectus should be submitted to the FMS Honors advisor, Dr. Aaron Baker, by Nov. 15 for a defense in the following spring semester, or by March 15 for a defense the following fall. The prospectus must also be submitted to the Honors College by the deadline, which may differ. The prospectus may be submitted earlier than these dates, and we encourage students to do so.
3. The prospectus should give contact information for the student, the topic and a working title for the thesis, list the committee chair and second reader, and indicate a tentative date (month is sufficient) for the defense. It should be signed by the student, the committee chair and the second reader. This may be a copy of the prospectus which the student is required to submit to the Honors College, as long as it conforms to the above requirements.
4. In the case of a multidisciplinary thesis where FMS is one of the disciplines involved, these same guidelines will apply.
5. All students who plan to do an Honors Thesis in FMS must first take the Thesis Workshop Session offered by Barrett. For more information on this session, go to <http://barretthonors.asu.edu/academics/thesis-and-creative-project/>.