

Film Studies MA Timeline

Following are schematic timelines of typical two-year Film Studies MA programs (one for a terminal MA program, the other for an MA student applying to the PhD program in year 2).

STANDARD TWO-YEAR

First Year Semester 1 (Fall)

- Mid-August: All incoming graduate students are assigned a faculty advisor. Plan to meet with that advisor during the latter part of the week preceding the start of classes. The advisor can inform you of program rules and practices, discuss your first-semester course selection and long-term aspirations, and field your questions.
- Thursday or Friday before the first day of classes of the fall semester: Combined Film Studies and Film & Video Production orientation meetings. (Students with a teaching assistantship should also expect to meet with their course supervisor on one of these days and to attend basic training sessions.)
- October/November: Prior to early registration, make an appointment with your advisor to discuss course selection for the spring, along with tentative decisions regarding your examination areas.
- January: Meet with your advisor to prepare for the spring review of graduate students.
- March/April: Prior to early registration, make an appointment with your advisor to discuss course selection for the fall, coverage of MA requirements, and your choice of examination areas (along with appropriate faculty to consult regarding the development of your exam reading lists). Work with your advisor to set an appropriate deadline for approved reading list to be sent to the ACGP.
- May: Submit a draft of your exam reading/viewing lists to faculty members knowledgeable in each area.
- Summer: Consider taking Film Studies or language courses, and/or working on the exam list.

YEAR 2

- By September 30: Submit to the MA Examination Coordinator/your advisor (and a copy to the ACGP) a list of the equivalent of 15-20 books (1 book = 3 or 4 articles), and 20-30 films for each of your chosen examination areas. These lists will be examined and commented on by the faculty, then returned to you in October.
- October/November: Meet with your advisor (and other faculty) to discuss your choice of spring courses, and possible application to PhD or other academic programs (whose deadlines typically fall in December or early January). Note that if you apply for and are accepted into the UI Film Studies PhD program, you are subject to a special timeline in the spring of your second year (detailed at the end of this section).
- By October 31: Submit to the MA Exam Coordinator/your advisor (and a copy to the ACGP) the final version of your exam lists. Students who fail to submit acceptable exam lists within the prescribed time frame will not be allowed to take the exam.
- Thursday and Friday immediately preceding the start of the spring semester: The four-hour written exam in Film Theory is administered on Thursday and the four-

hour written exam in Film History is administered on Friday.

- January: Meet with your advisor to prepare for the spring review of graduate students.
- Mid-February: One-hour oral examinations with MA examination committee.
- By the announced [Graduate College deadlines](#): Signify your intention to graduate (i.e., receive your MA degree) in May by filing the appropriate papers with the departmental office (meet with the ACGP) and with the Registrar.
- May: Graduate!

SPECIAL TIMELINE FOR UI MA FILM STUDIES STUDENTS APPLYING TO THE UI PHD PROGRAM IN FILM STUDIES

- November of Year 2: Consult the ACGP about which elements of your MA original application may be used as part of your PhD application. If necessary, provide updated materials or request additional letters of recommendation prior to the due date.
- December of Year 2: Submit PhD application.
- Late February of Year 2: The PhD admission decision is reported. If you are not admitted, you continue on the normal MA timeline.