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# Television, Film and New Media Production

In the School of Theatre, Television, and Film  
In the College of Professional Studies and Fine Arts

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## Faculty

W. Nick Reid, M.F.A., Professor of Theatre, Television, and Film  
Director of the School  
Carroll Parrott Blue, M.F.A., Professor of Theatre, Television, and Film  
Gregory C. Durbin, M.F.A., Professor of Theatre, Television, and Film  
(Graduate Adviser)  
Jack Ofield, Professor of Theatre, Television, and Film, Filmmaker in Residence  
Mark W. Freeman, M.F.A., Assistant Professor of Theatre, Television, and Film  
Timothy A. Powell, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Theatre, Television, and Film

## Associateships and Assistantships

Graduate teaching associateships and graduate assistantships are available to a limited number of qualified students. Application forms and further information may be obtained from the school.

## General Information

The School of Theatre, Television, and Film offers graduate study leading to the Master of Arts degree in television, film and media production. The degree prepares students for careers in creative areas of media design and production.

The School of Theatre, Television, and Film houses the Production Center for Documentary and Drama. Established in 1990, the Center has produced over 200 national and regional television programs and non profit social, cultural, and institutional documentaries. These productions offer seniors and graduates opportunities to work in key roles (writer, director, line producer, crew, editor, composer, graphic design, etc.). The Center exists to serve the School, University and community, to mentor senior and graduate film/video projects, and develop forums for their exhibition. An example is the Emmy Award-winning, "The Short List," the long-running public TV showcase for U.S. and international short film, produced in the Production Center since 1992.

## Filmmaker in Residence

The position of Filmmaker in Residence is unique in the CSU system. It was established to provide a professional link between the Television and Film program and the media industry in a rapidly evolving technological environment. The Filmmaker in Residence is the film and television producer, Jack Ofield.

## Master of Arts Degree in Television, Film and New Media Production

The School of Theatre, Television, and Film, in the College of Professional Studies and Fine Arts, offers graduate study leading to the Master of Arts degree in television, film and new media production. This degree is especially useful for those pursuing careers in film, television, radio, new media, or related production activities where sophisticated and disciplined ability to conceive, initiate and complete

original media messages is required. Graduates of this program occupy leadership positions in the media industries. This degree offers advanced study in the history and criticism of broadcasting and film; scriptwriting; financing, preproduction, and postproduction; advanced audio, video, and film production; broadcast and film performance; international broadcasting and cinema; educational and instructional media; and development of production expertise in a wide range of emerging communication technologies. The Master of Arts degree in television, film and new media production emphasizes advanced media design and production. Admission to this degree program requires undergraduate preparation, documented through submission of a portfolio of previous creative activity or other evidence of creativity. Postbaccalaureate students who are without previous media production education or experience and who wish to learn television and film production should consider pursuing a second bachelor's degree in media production or completing basic production courses elsewhere before enrolling in graduate study at San Diego State University.

Teaching facilities in the School of Theatre, Television, and Film include a large color television studio, digital editing suites, Foley room, animation suite, scene shop and an equipment checkout center stocked with film and digital cameras and recording equipment, lighting, and grip equipment. Major public broadcasting stations, KPBS-TV and KPBS-FM, are located on campus and offer internship opportunities. The University operates a campuswide, closed-circuit, instructional television service and Multimedia Center, and is also home to the International Center for Communications and a student-operated radio station. San Diego offers abundant internship opportunities in production companies and television and radio stations, such as the leading cable carrier, Cox Communications.

## Admission to Graduate Study

Students will be admitted for the fall and spring semester. For fall admission, application packages must be received and complete by the previous March 1. For spring admission, application packages must be received and complete by October 1 (or August 31 for international students).

In addition to meeting the general requirements for admission to the University with classified graduate standing, as outlined in Part Two of this bulletin, students applying for admission to the Master of Arts degree in television, film and new media production are evaluated according to the following criteria:

1. Undergraduate major or minor in television, film, or a related communication discipline. Those lacking adequate undergraduate preparation or equivalent professional experience for the program will be required to complete one or more lower division and upper division proficiency courses as determined by the graduate adviser. Proficiency courses do not count toward the 30 units of a student's graduate program.

2. Minimum grade point average of 2.85 (when A equals 4.0) in the last 60 semester (90 quarter) units attempted (this calculation may not include lower division courses taken after award of a baccalaureate degree).
3. All applicants must post a Graduate Record Examination (GRE) verbal score of 450 or higher; a GRE quantitative score of 450 or higher; a combined GRE verbal and quantitative score of 950 or higher; and a GRE writing assessment (GRE-W) of level 4 or higher. For applicants deficient in the GRE quantitative, a score of 450 or higher on the GRE analytic may be substituted.
4. For international applicants for whom English is not their first language, TOEFL paper scores of 550 (or 213 online) or higher and a Certificate in Advanced English (CAE), indicating successful passage of the reading, writing, listening, and English usage test offered by the Cambridge English for Life (EFL) testing program.
5. Three letters of recommendation. At least one letter from an academic reference and at least one letter from a professor or professional acquainted with the applicant's creative activities.
6. A resume that includes any film and/or video production experience you have had. (Note: Candidates with no previous production experience will be required to take an intensive undergraduate film production course that does not count toward the graduate degree.)
7. The best evidence applicant can provide of creativity, technical skill level, and command of the medium. Generally, a sample reel is the most useful. The sample reel should be a film, videocassette (VHS) or DVD of work in which applicant held a key creative role (writer/director, cinematographer, editor, sound designer, production designer). Credits must be clearly indicated. Even though long work may be submitted, no more than 10 minutes of the work provided will be viewed, so cue, or specify appropriate cueing, of sample. In lieu of a sample reel, other examples might include a sample of original textual work (play, story, or screenplay for writers/directors) or visual material (drawings, storyboards, designs, or studio photography that may reflect lighting, framing, or composition skills).
8. A list, by author and title, of six books (novels, plays, essays) that have influenced applicant artistically.
9. A list of three films (narratives, documentaries, experimental), plays or television programs that applicant admires, devoting one paragraph to each work.
10. A list and description (in a sentence) of applicant's hobbies and interests outside of film, video, and theatre.
11. Personal Statement: A short essay describing your creative and career goals and how you think this program will benefit you. (Maximum two pages.)

Admission to the program is competitive, and satisfying these requirements does not guarantee admission. The decision to admit is based on consideration of the entire application file; promising applicants in unusual circumstances are encouraged to apply.

Students accepted for graduate study in the Master of Arts degree in television, film and new media production are initially admitted with conditional graduate standing (classified). Full classified standing is awarded only after the student has completed Television, Film and New Media 600 with a grade of B or better.

## Advancement to Candidacy

In addition to meeting the general requirements for advancement to candidacy described in Part Two of this bulletin, students seeking the Master of Arts in television, film, and new media production must complete Television, Film and New Media 600 with a grade of B or better prior to advancement.

## Specific Requirements for the Master of Arts Degree

(Major Code: 06031)

Candidates for the Master of Arts degree in television, film and new media production must complete 30 units of coursework and to include the following:

1. Television, Film and New Media 799A (Plan A, the thesis option, is required of all students in the program) and Television, Film and New Media 600 (required for classified graduate standing).
2. With approval of the graduate adviser, 21 additional graduate units in Television, Film and New Media, Communication, Theatre, and other departments, of which nine units must be at the 600-700 level.
3. No more than nine units of electives outside the School of Theatre, Television, and Film.

## Courses Acceptable on Master's Degree Program in Television, Film and New Media Production (TFM)

### UPPER DIVISION COURSES

#### TFM 510. Script Writing for Television and Film (3)

Prerequisites: Television, Film and New Media 110, 260 or 261; and satisfaction of the English Placement Test and Writing Competency requirements.

Scripting of dramatic original and adaptation forms, and the documentary. (Formerly numbered Television, Film and New Media 410.)

#### TFM 522. Film and Television Cinematography (3) I

Two lectures and three hours of laboratory.

Prerequisites: Television, Film and New Media 110, 122, and 123.

**Proof of completion of prerequisites required:** Copy of transcript.

Advanced theory and practice of cinematography for film and television production. Practicum in cinematography problems related to control of light and image for television and film, including use of specialized equipment, film and videotape stock, location and studio shooting, and complex blocking problems.

#### TFM 550. Art Direction for Television and Film (3) II

One lecture and four hours of activity.

Prerequisites: Television, Film and New Media 350, 260 or 261, and consent of instructor. **Proof of completion of prerequisites required:** Copy of transcript.

Aesthetic, technical, and administrative aspects of design for television and film. Experience in scenic design, construction, decoration, lighting, and special effects.

#### TFM 551. Production Design for Television and Film (3)

Prerequisites: Television, Film and New Media 350 and credit or concurrent registration in Television, Film and New Media 401.

Theory and analysis of production design concepts for television and film. Determination of stylistic and technical requirements for fictional and nonfictional productions.

#### TFM 555. New Media Production (3)

Two lectures and three hours of activity.

Prerequisite: Television, Film and New Media 365. Limited to television, film, and new media majors.

Development of audio visual products in new media formats. Multi-media laboratory to be arranged. (Formerly numbered Communication 555.)

## Television, Film and New Media Production

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### **TFM 560. Advanced Film (3)**

Two lectures and more than three hours of activity.

Prerequisites: Television, Film and New Media 260, 261, and 510 with grade of B (3.0) or better in each and consent of instructor. **Proof of completion of prerequisites required:** Copy of transcript.

Practicum in direction and production of dramatic and non-dramatic film. Cameras, lighting, design, sound techniques, experience in University sponsored productions. Completion of a short film.

### **TFM 561. Advanced Television (3)**

Two lectures and more than three hours of activity.

Prerequisites: Television, Film and New Media 260, 261, and 510 with grade of B (3.0) or better in each and consent of instructor.

Critical analysis of relationship of form and content in nonfiction production.

### **TFM 562. Documentary and Propaganda Film/Television (3)**

Prerequisite: Television, Film and New Media 160.

Analysis through viewing of persuasive concepts, techniques, and forms in international, documentary film and television programs, and special effects.

### **TFM 565. Animated Film and New Media Techniques (3) II**

Two lectures and more than three hours of activity.

Animation production and practical experience in digital technologies.

### **TFM 569. Advanced Projects in Film and Video (3)**

Two lectures and more than three hours of activity.

Prerequisites: Television, Film and New Media 510, and 560 or 561.

Original and creative work demonstrating significant achievement in film and video production. Maximum credit six units. (Formerly numbered Television, Film and New Media 469.)

### **TFM 596. Selected Topics in Television, Film and New Media (3)**

Prerequisite: Twelve units in television, film and new media.

Specialized study of selected topics from the areas of television, film and new media. May be repeated with new content. See Class Schedule for specific content. Limit of nine units of any combination of 296, 496, 596 courses applicable to a bachelor's degree. Maximum credit of six units of 596 applicable to a bachelor's degree. Maximum combined credit of six units of 596 and 696 applicable to a 30-unit master's degree.

## GRADUATE COURSES

### **TFM 600. Seminar: Research and Bibliography in Media Production (3)**

Methods of research, telecommunications policy, critical analysis, and writing in relation to creative work.

### **TFM 610. Seminar in Writing for Television and Film (3)**

Prerequisite: Admission to creative specialization.

Non-dramatic and dramatic structures as they apply to non-fiction and fiction television programs and films. Writing full length script or scenario. Maximum credit six units applicable to a master's degree.

### **TFM 615. Seminar in Criticism of Electronic Media and Cinema (3)**

Prerequisite: The equivalent of an undergraduate major in television, film, and new media production.

Standards for objective appraisal of the ethical and artistic aspects of radio, television and film programs.

### **TFM 660. Seminar in Dramatic and Documentary Forms in Television and Film (3)**

Prerequisite: Admission to creative specialization.

Techniques and stylistic contributions of major directors as seen in their television and film productions. Maximum credit nine units applicable to a master's degree.

### **TFM 665. Seminar in Documentary Filmmaking (3)**

Prerequisites: Television, Film and New Media 560, 562, and admission to creative specialization.

Documentary production, emphasizing conceptual and technical understanding, intellectual, artistic and emotional aspects of screen authorship, historical, and contemporary uses and practical experience in production of documentaries. Maximum credit six units applicable to a master's degree.

### **TFM 700. Seminar: Television and Film Production Management (3)**

Prerequisites: Television, Film and New Media 600.

Planning, organizing, and staffing television and motion picture production. Managing creative processes in media production. (Formerly numbered Communication 700.)

### **TFM 761. Seminar: Selected Topics in Television, Film and New Media (3)**

Prerequisite: Television, Film and New Media 600.

Intensive study in television, film and new media issues and trends. See Class Schedule for specific content. May be repeated with new content. Maximum credit nine units applicable to a master's degree in television, film and new media. (Formerly numbered Communication 761.)

### **TFM 798. Special Study (1-3) Cr/NC/RP**

Individual study. Contract required. Arranged with graduate coordinator in area of study. Maximum credit six units applicable to a master's degree.

### **TFM 799A. Thesis or Project (3) Cr/NC/RP**

Prerequisites: An officially appointed thesis committee and advancement to candidacy.

Preparation of a project or thesis for the master's degree.

### **TFM 799B. Thesis or Project Extension (0) Cr/NC**

Prerequisite: Prior registration in Thesis or Project 799A with an assigned grade symbol of RP.

Following assignment of RP in Course 799A, registration in this course is required in any semester in which the student expects to use the facilities and resources of the University; also student must be registered in this course when the completed thesis or project is granted final approval.

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