



Cinema Major Advising Fact Sheet

SCHOOL OF CINEMA
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ABOUT THE SCHOOL OF CINEMA

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Founded amid the political activism and artistic experimentation of the 1960s, the School of Cinema continues to celebrate cinematic expressions that challenge social and artistic norms. The three values of the School of Cinema are: **Creative Expression, Critical Thinking, and Social Engagement.**

The B.A. in Cinema's learning objectives strive to enable students to:

- Acquire basic skills in the critical analysis of films, focused by the analysis of representative film texts from a range of periods and cultures
- Relate cinema to the production, distribution and exhibition industries, to other arts, and to society
- Identify contemporary technological, artistic, and industrial trends in the cinematic arts
- Acquire basic technical skills necessary for cinematic expression (animation, filmmaking, screenwriting)
- Locate personal voice in the creation of cinematic arts
- Produce competent and sustained research papers that evidence knowledge of major topics, theories and methods

ABOUT THIS FACT SHEET

This document provides an overview of the requirements to complete the Bachelor of Arts degree in the School of Cinema. It will also help students pick classes that meet their needs and interests within the major. Some of this information can also be found on the Cinema Major Blue Sheet This document covers:

- Cinema Major Overview: Year by year breakdown
- Transfer Students
- Picking your classes
- Graduation Application
- Cinema and Animation Minors

Additional information can be found on the Undergraduate FAQ on the School of Cinema website:
<https://cinema.sfsu.edu/content/undergraduate-faqs>

THE "BLUE SHEET"

The Blue Sheet serves as a roadmap for students pursuing the Cinema Major. The document itself is not required to graduate unless it has accrued faculty signatures. Faculty signatures may be required either for transfer students to receive credit for courses that don't immediately articulate with the university, or for out-of-department coursework that counts toward the major

If a student's Blue Sheet has faculty signatures, then it's a good idea to regularly scan it so that the student has both a hard copy and a digital copy of the most recent iteration.

The specific requirements laid out for the majors can and do change. Students do not have to adjust their path to accommodate changes that occur after they matriculate. They have the choice to follow the guidelines of the year they enter the major, or can choose to adhere to new requirements as they occur.

FACULTY ADVISORS

Students are encouraged to consistently check-in with faculty advisors to ensure they are successfully meeting requirements for the major. Students do not have a specific or assigned advisor – they are able to meet with any full-time professor for feedback and guidance. The list of faculty, along with the days/times of their office hours, who can provide advising assistance can be found posted on the bulletin board outside Fine Arts 245, or at <http://cinema.sfsu.edu/content/advisors>.

GENERAL EDUCATION ADVISING

Cinema faculty are responsible major advising only. Students with questions about GE requirements should go to the Advising Resource Center: Humanities Bldg 112; Open 9am-5pm, including over the summer.
<https://advisinglca.sfsu.edu/>

DECLARING THE MAJOR

Students should declare the Cinema Major in their first year. This can be done by acquiring a Declaration of Undergraduate Major form from the Registrar (<https://www.sfsu.edu/~admisrec/reg/changemajor.html>) and filling it out. Majors can be changed by filling out the form again (it doubles as a Change of Major form).

CINEMA MAJOR OVERVIEW FOR 4-YEAR STUDENTS

The Cinema Major is a three-year program that starts Sophomore year (Note: This means the student must have acquired at least 30+ units, not simply be in the 2nd year of his/her college education). The Major requires a minimum of 45 units, including:

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|----------------------|----------|-------------------------------|
| • Core: | 13 units | CINE 200, 202/204, 211, 212 |
| • Foundation: | 7 units | CINE 340/341, GVAR |
| • Studies: | 9 units | 300 or 500 level CINE classes |
| • Electives: | 16 units | 300+ CINE classes |

COURSE NUMBERS

200 – Introductory / Core (Sophomore level)

300 – Intermediate Studies / Foundation / GVAR (Junior level)

400 – Intermediate Production and Screenwriting (Junior level)

500 – Advanced Studies (Senior level)

600 – Advanced Production and Screenwriting / Capstone (Senior level)

FIRST YEAR (0-29 units)

Students may not take Cinema courses that count toward the major until they have completed 30 units.

Students may take CINE 102 and CINE 280, which are both General Education classes available to students who want to take film courses (these do not count toward the required 45 units for the major)

Students who wish to familiarize themselves with the major are encouraged to participate in student organizations like the Animation society, the Cinema Collective, and Delta Kappa Alpha (a co-ed student filmmaking organization). All students may also attend all public film screenings, panels and the annual MA Cinema conference.

SOPHOMORE YEAR (30-59 units)

The necessary prerequisites to take Core classes in the Cinema major are: declaring as a Cinema major, and official sophomore standing (30+ units). Students are also required to meet with a full-time faculty member at some point while enrolled in CINE 200 to discuss both the major and the courses available after the Core is completed. The **Core classes** for the Cinema major are: CINE 200, CINE 202/204 (taken concurrently), CINE 211,

and CINE 212. Students must receive a C grade or better in all Core classes in order to take additional classes in the major.

Students are encouraged to divide their Core class responsibilities in half each semester of the Sophomore year (ex: CINE 202/204 and 211 in the Fall; CINE 200 and 212 in the Spring). Core classes are occasionally offered during the summer semester.

JUNIOR YEAR (60 - 89 units)

Students will start taking upper division elective courses in the major during the junior year.

Junior year is also when students should take the two required **Foundation courses**. These are CINE 340/341 (they are taken concurrently) and one of the Cinema Graduation Writing Assessment Requirement (GWAR) classes: CINE 302GW, 303GW, 318GW, 343GW, and/or 350GW. Students should take a GWAR within the Cinema major. If a student took a GWAR class when they had a different major, then a Faculty Advisor must sign off on it. Students must receive a C grade or better in all Foundation classes in order for them to count toward the major.

Studies Classes: All students who declared as Cinema majors in Fall 2017 or later must take three 300 or 500 level Cinema studies classes in order to achieve the Cinema major. These three courses cannot articulate from another university, and CINE 340/341 does not count towards the requirement.

400-level Production Classes: Students who have 60+ units and have also completed the core may begin to take 400-level production classes, which emphasize skill development and group work. Students with Senior standing may also take 400-level classes, but Juniors will be prioritized.

NOTE: Advanced production classes are time- and labor-intensive, and always in high demand among Cinema majors. The Cinema department **strongly** encourages students to take no more than two advanced production classes in any given semester.

SENIOR YEAR (90+ units)

Senior Cinema majors will continue to take advanced electives to reach the required 45 units for the major.

600-level Production Classes: Students who have 90+ units and have completed 9 units of 400-level production classes (with a C or better) may take 600-level production classes, which emphasize individual projects and advanced/capstone experiences. Students may not take more than two 600-level production classes in any semester.

Up to 12 approved units relevant to cinema may be taken outside the major. An advisor needs to sign off on all of these units. Seniors should apply to graduate during their last semester – a faculty advisor will sign off on graduation form (see below for more information about the Graduation Application).

SELECTING CLASSES / AREAS OF STUDY

The strength of the School of Cinema is in the breadth of educational opportunities and its emphasis on how critical theory informs filmmaking practice. Students are encouraged to develop a course plan with a faculty advisor, and to take classes that demonstrate an investment in a broad range of production skills, as well as critical perspectives and film history. Even if a student knows which field he/she wants to pursue a career in, he/she is encouraged to take classes in a variety of fields to have a broader foundation of craft.

Review the Course Bulletin to see the full list of courses that the School of Cinema offers. Reviewing class schedules from previous semesters is a good way to see how often classes are offered.

TRANSFER STUDENTS

Core Classes: All core classes may articulate with courses offered at California junior colleges which offer equivalencies within their curriculum. The articulated classes should be reflected in the student's Degree Progress Report, and can be researched specifically at assist.org. If a transferred course would seem to serve as an equivalency for a Cinema Core class, the student may ask an advisor to review the course syllabi and then articulate the course manually. Only certain faculty can provide this assessment - inquire at the Cinema Department office. If students have any classes manually articulated by faculty, they will also need assistance to enroll in a specific registration pool that allows access to Foundation classes.

Core classes that weren't taken at a Junior Community College should be taken during a transfer student's first semester at SFSU, or through Open University if offered the summer before their fall official admission.

Transfer students that receive manual articulation of courses will need to get signatures on their Blue Sheets, and will need to save the document – it will be formally reviewed when it is time to graduate.

JCC Quarter System: Students from JCC schools that operate on the quarter system will not have their units articulate on a 1-to-1 basis, thus they may need to take additional classes to reach the minimum units. This will be reflected in the Degree Project Report, but students transferring quarter system credits should talk with a faculty advisor to ensure they are counting course credit accurately.

Upper Division Courses: CINE 340/341 can't be articulated from another college. Up to 13 units can transfer from a JCC toward the Cinema major. These are usually the Core, but up to six units may be upper division courses in video production or screenwriting.

GRADUATION APPLICATION

In order for a Graduate Application to be signed by a faculty advisor, it needs to demonstrate the following:

- A total of 45 units in major
- Completion of all Core and Foundation courses with grades must be a C or better.
- Completion of the "Complementary Studies" requirement: 12 units from another department that relate to Cinema in some way (ex: photography, theater, dance, writing, cultural studies, etc).
- 12 upper division units may be from another department as long as they complement cinema and are approved by a Cinema advisor
- Up to 4 one-unit courses from the following may be counted toward major: CINE 324, 325, 650
- A maximum of 12 units from the following may count toward the major: CINE 376, 690, 692, 699
- Up to 9 CR/NC units may count toward the major
- Faculty signatures on a Blue Sheet for courses taken in other departments that count toward the major, as well as classes from other schools that don't articulate on the Degree Progress Report.

CINEMA MINOR

A Cinema Minor requires 20 units in Cinema. There are three required classes for Cinema Minor: CINE 200, 211, and 212. Cinema minors do not receive priority consideration in production classes.

ANIMATION MINOR

Students may minor in Animation by completing these five courses (15 units) in the following sequence: CINE 365, 444, 445, 664, 665.

- CINE 444 is only offered in the Fall semester, and students must submit a portfolio to be accepted into the class. Consult the Cinema website for information on submitting a portfolio.
- Classes completed for the Minor also count toward Electives.
- The Animation Minor is available to students outside the Cinema major.