Advice for Film Studies students

Seek out mentors. Experienced teachers, scholars, and artists can provide invaluable advice and support during and after college. Mentors can be faculty and area professionals who specialize in your area of interest.

Do what it takes to get an appropriate internship. Invest time and effort finding, developing, and securing an internship that serves your creative, scholarly, and career goals. Meet with the internship director at least a semester before you plan on taking an internship.

Exploit your Liberal Arts education. Remember that every class, even (and often especially) those outside your area of interest, can help you develop skills you'll need in every job: persuasive and expressive writing, research, analysis, and creative problem solving. Students who apply themselves in every situation succeed in the competitive marketplace. Students who do the minimum to get the grade stagnate after graduation.

Get a Minor or a Double Major. A minor or another major can expand your knowledge and experience beyond and within your primary major and interests.

College isn’t about the diploma you get at the end. It’s about the experience, perspective, work-ethic, network, knowledge, and skills you develop on the way toward getting that piece of paper. A diploma is not a ticket to a career. No one will care about your degree if you don’t can’t back it up with performance.

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Advice for students pursuing motion picture career paths

All Film Studies students must take courses that will expose them to multiple stages of the filmmaking process and a diversity of filmmaking modes (narrative, documentary, experimental), provide a general knowledge of world cinema and film form, history and theory, and provide a context in which to learn skills that will serve them in any vocation, such as research, analysis, expressive and persuasive writing, analysis, and creative problem solving.

The courses, minors, and internships suggested below are to be taken in addition to the core requirements of the Film Studies major.

Keep in mind – these are just suggestions. Other classes, minors/majors, internships and mentors may serve your interests and talents.
ANIMATION / GAMING

Courses:
- FST 220 (Art/CSC 220) 3D Computer Graphics
- FST 318 (CRW 318) Screenwriting I: Introduction to Screenwriting
- FST 320 (CSC 320) Computer Animation
- FST 331 Introduction to Editing
- FST 333 Modes of Animation Production 3
- FST 334 6x1 – Variations on the 1 Minute film
- FST 430 Digital Visual Effects
- FST 491: DIS in Animation
- FST 495 Senior Seminar in Film Production: Documentary/Experimental/Animation
- FST 498 Internship: Animation i.e. Hank and Jed Movie Pictures

Minors and Double Majors: Digital Arts minor; Studio Art with emphasis on painting and drawing

Internships:
- Animation: an animation company like Hank and Jed Movie Pictures, or a production company that produces animated elements, or a Los Angeles animation company/division.
- Gaming: Epic Games or Ubisof Games in Raleigh NC

Faculty Mentors: Andre Silva, Eric Patterson

Advice: Take advantage of the filmmaking going on around FST and UNCW and work on as many other projects as possible as an animator; do credit sequences, website gifs, anything you can do to gain animation experience and work samples.

CINEMATOGRAPHY/VIDEOGRAPHY

Courses:
- FST 301 Film Tools and Techniques
- FST 302: Intermediate Film Production (be cinematographer, gaffer, camera operator, assistant camera)
- FST 331: Introduction to Editing (know how to shoot footage that works in an edit)
- Use FST Critical Studies courses to learn cinematography techniques in film history and other modes and national cinemas
- FST 391 Art of the Camera
- FST 392 Lighting
- FST 397 Cinematography
- FST 495 Senior Production Seminar (be cinematographer, gaffer, camera operator, assistant camera)
- FST 497
- FST 491 Directed Independent Study (in cinematography, color correction, etc.)
- FST 493 Directed Production Seminar (be cinematographer, gaffer, camera operator, assistant camera)

Double Majors: Communication Studies, Studio Arts with emphasis on photography
Internships: Screen Gems, Wilmington Camera, Cinepartners are good local internships. You’d be best served by doing the advanced legwork necessary to secure a cinematography-related internship in Los Angeles or New York.

Faculty Mentors: Glenn Pack, Chip Hackler, Andre Silva

Advice: Take advantage of the filmmaking going on around FST and UNCW and work on as many other projects as possible as a gaffer, cinematographer, or camera operator. Do anything you can to gain cinematography experience and work samples. Join Flicker and gain cinematography experience you can use to build your skills and resume toward being chosen as the cinematographer on 302 and 493, and 495 projects.

CRITICISM, COMMENTARY, OR SCHOLARSHIP

Courses:
- FST 317 Writing About Film
- FST 363 Producing the Undergraduate Film Magazine
- FST 369: Special Topics in Film Studies – Undergraduate Magazine Design
- FST 451 Film Festival & Conference Management
- FST 496 Senior Seminar in Film Study
- FST 499 Honors
- FST 491 Directed Independent Study

Internship: Intellect Press (internships available in Wilmington and United Kingdom).

Minors/Double Major: Creative Writing (get involved in the CRW Publishing Lab), English

Faculty Mentors: Todd Berliner, Nandana Bose, Mariana Johnson, Carlos Kase, Ana Olenina, Tim Palmer, Sue Richardson

Advice: All Critical Studies courses offer opportunities to improve your writing and editing skills, and to expand your knowledge of the medium. Take a variety of courses exploring a range of cinematic styles, movements, and approaches. Develop mentor relationships with critical studies faculty. A working knowledge of how films are made will inform your research and writing. Take advantage of production credit requirements to learn the creative and technical process.

DIRECTING (Narrative)

Courses:
- FST 204 The Business of Film
- FST 318 Introduction to Screenwriting
- FST 302: Intermediate Film Production (be a director; if you can’t, use the class as an opportunity to learn the production process from the perspective of the position you’re assigned)
- FST 331: Introduction to Editing
- FST 335 Acting for the Camera
- FST 391 Art of the Camera and/or FST 392 Lighting
• FST 399 Film Directing
• FST 495 Senior Production Seminar (be a director; if you can’t, use the class as an opportunity to learn the production process from the perspective of the position you’re assigned)
• Also: Select and Exploit critical studies courses to expand knowledge of film history, analysis, style, and narrative.

Faculty Mentors: Glenn Pack, Terry Linehan, Chip Hackler, Dave Monahan

Minor/Double Major: Theatre (with a concentration in performance and/or directing). The Theater major teaches you script analysis, performance techniques, communicating with actors, blocking, design concepts, and other critical directing-related skills.

Internships: The best internships will acquaint you with the development or production process, and allow for you to develop mentors in those fields. These internships are competitive and require research, initiative, and sometimes require travel to Los Angeles or New York. Start preparing for this internship a full year before you plan to intern.

Advice: A director has to know every aspect of cinematic storytelling; he or she collaborates with and guides the screenwriter, the actors, the cinematographer, the production designer, and the editor.

DOCUMENTARY FILMMAKING

Courses:
• FST 301 Film Tools and Techniques
• FST 302 Intermediate Film Production: Documentary
• FST 330 Producing: Documentary*
• FST 331 Introduction to Editing
• FST 371 History of Documentary Film
• FST 393 Sound Recording
• FST 394 Sound Design
• FST 491 Directed Independent Study: Documentary
• FST 499 Honors: Documentary project or paper
• FST 495 Senior Seminar in Film Production: Documentary

Faculty Mentors: Shannon Silva, Dave Monahan, Lou Buttino

Internships: Working Films; Common Sense Films (Rob Hill); Southern Documentary Fund

Double Majors/Minors: Anthropology; Communication Studies

EXHIBITION AND DISTRIBUTION

Courses:
• FST 204 The Business of Film
• FST 451 Film Festival & Conference Management
• FST 330 Producing
• FST 304 Legal Issues in Film & Entertainment Law*
• FST 495 (Be a producer, line producer, assistant director, or script supervisor).
• FST 499 Honors (Distribution/Exhibition related project or paper)
• FST 491 Directed Independent Study (Distribution/Exhibition related project or paper)

**Internships:** Cucalorus Film Festival, Cape Fear Independent Film Festival

**Minors and Double Majors:** Entrepreneurship and Innovation minor; Cameron School of Business: Marketing

**Advice:** Get involved as a programmer and distributor: Join and/or work for ACE; Join Flicker and curate, promote and produce Reel Teal. Many student and independent productions desperately need help getting their movie in film festivals and other venues. If you’re willing to get involved outside of class, you’ll find many opportunities to develop skills and experience as an exhibitor and distributor.

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**POST PRODUCTION**

• FST 220 (Art/CSC 220) 3D Computer Graphics
• FST 318 (CRW 318) Screenwriting I: Introduction to Screenwriting
• FST 302 Documentary or Narrative (edit your project)
• FST 331 Introduction to Editing
• FST 333 Modes of Animation Production
• FST 394 Sound Design
• FST 430 Digital Visual Effects
• FST 491 DIS in Editing
• FST 497 Applied Post Production (edit your FST495 Senior Seminar project)

**Faculty Mentors:** Dave Monahan, Andre Silva, Nate Daniel Eric Patterson, Shannon Silva

**Minor/Double Major:** Digital Arts minor

**Internships:** The best internships will acquaint you with the post production process, and allow for you to develop mentors in those fields. These internships are competitive and require research, initiative, and sometimes require travel to Los Angeles or New York. Start preparing for this internship a full year before you plan to intern. Wilmington internships include Post 1200 and Arc Light Pictures.

**Advice:** An editor has to know every aspect of cinematic storytelling; he or she interprets the screenplay, performance, and cinematography, and tells the story. Take classes in those areas whenever possible. Learn as much post-production software as you can: Final Cut Pro, Premiere, AfterEffects, Photoshop, AVID, ProTools, etc. Learn how to color grade and color correct.

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**PRODUCING**

**Courses:**

• FST204 Business of Film
• FST 302 Intermediate Film Production: Narrative (Be a producer, line producer, assistant director, or script supervisor).
• FST 330 Producing
• FST 451 Film Festival & Conference Management (Visions provides many opportunities to develop experience and skill as a producer).
• FST 304 Legal Issues in Film & Entertainment Law*
• FST 495 (Be a producer, line producer, assistant director, or script supervisor).
• FST 499 Honors (Producing related project or paper)
• FST 491 Directed Independent Study (Producing related project or paper)
• Also: Use critical studies courses to expand knowledge of film history and film style. Know your medium.

Faculty Mentors: Shannon Silva, Terry Linehan, Heath Franklin.

Minors and Double Majors: Entrepreneurship and Innovation minor; Cameron School of Business: Finance, Entrepreneurship and Business Development majors

Advice: Get involved as a producer: many student and independent productions desperately need producers. If you’re willing to get involved outside of class, you'll find many opportunities to develop skills and experience as a producer.

PUBLISHING
All Critical Studies courses offer opportunities to improve your writing and editing skills, and to expand your knowledge of the medium.

Courses:
• FST 317 Writing About Film
• FST 363 Producing the Undergraduate Film Magazine
• FST 369: Special Topics in Film Studies – Undergraduate Magazine Design
• FST 496 Senior Seminar in Film Study
• FST 499 Honors
• FST 491 Directed Independent Study

Internship: Intellect Press (internships available in Wilmington and United Kingdom).

Minors/Double Major: Creative Writing (get involved in the CRW Publishing Lab), Communication Studies (focusing in journalism and publishing)

Faculty Mentors: Liza Palmer, Tim Palmer, Amy Damutz

SCREENWRITING

Courses:
• FST 204 The Business of Film
• FST 318 Introduction to Screenwriting
• FST 418 Screenwriting 2: Writing the Feature Film
• FST 419 Screenwriting 3: Adaptation*
• FST 335 Acting for the Camera
• FST 331 Introduction to Editing
• FST 399 Directing
• Also: Select and Exploit critical studies courses to improve writing and expand knowledge of film history, analysis, and narrative.

Faculty Mentors: Terry Linehan, Chip Hackler, Dave Monahan, Todd Berliner

Minors/Double Majors: Creative Writing; English
**Internships:** The best internship will be assisting a working professional screenwriter, or being a writing intern for a writers room on a television series. These internships are competitive and require research, initiative, and travel to Los Angeles or New York. Start preparing for this internship a full year before you plan to intern.

**Advice:** Screenwriters are writers -- exploit every chance to improve your ability with the written language. Screenwriters must think like actors to get inside character’s heads. Screenwriters must incorporate editing, blocking, and cinematic language into scripts.

**SOUND RECORDING AND DESIGN**
- FST 302 Documentary or Narrative (record sound or operate boom)
- FST 331 Introduction to Editing
- FST 393 Sound Recording
- FST 394 Sound Design
- FST 491 DIS in Sound
- FST 495 (serve as as recordist/mixer)
- FST 497 Applied Post Production (sound edit your FST495 Senior Seminar project)

**Minor/Double Major:** Music, Communication Studies

**Faculty Mentors:** Alex Markowski

**Internships:** The best internships will acquaint you with the sound production, design, and mixing processes, and allow for you to develop mentors in those fields. These internships are competitive and require research, initiative, and sometimes require travel to Los Angeles or New York. Start preparing for this internship a full year before you plan to intern. Wilmington internships include North Star Sound and Audio Kitchen Post.

**Advice:** Take advantage of the filmmaking going on around FST and UNCW and work on as many other projects as possible as a recordist, mixer, or boom. Do anything you can to gain sound experience and work samples. Join Flicker and gain sound experience you can use to build your skills and resume toward being chosen as the recordist/mixer on 302 and 493, and 495 projects. Volunteer to sound design and mix student film projects. Sound is the Achilles heal of student films – you can change that – and gain valuable experience and credits in the process!