Become a storyteller

Chatham’s accelerated, one-year MFA in Film & Digital Technology program is focused on advanced project work in a range of media production areas, principally film/video, interactivity, and the Web. It is designed to extend and develop students’ experiences and knowledge in the field of media production and their understanding of creative and critical practice within the media industries.

Chatham’s program is one of the few accelerated MFAFDT programs in the United States that includes both film and digital technology. Students will focus on developing their understanding of how emerging concepts such as interactivity, connectivity and convergence are creating new creative possibilities, production processes, and delivery systems.

chatham.edu/mfafilm
Master of Fine Arts in Film & Digital Technology

The MFA in Film & Digital Technology is a program within Chatham University’s SCHOOL OF ARTS, SCIENCE, AND BUSINESS. Programs in the School of Arts, Science, and Business leverage Chatham’s strengths in the liberal arts, business, communications, and the arts, and complement them with professional preparation that helps students prepare for their futures and the next steps in their professional and academic careers.

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

• Immerse yourself in project-based work as you collaborate on a range of productions with fellow students and with a faculty of nationally and internationally recognized filmmakers.
• A hands-on, industry-ready approach, combined with small, intimate classes, allows you to customize your activities according to your interests and areas of specialization.
• Media project courses will comprise more than half your course load in order to maximize your choices of projects. You’ll have the option of working in specialized roles on a range of productions or focusing on one major project.
• You’ll have opportunities to engage with Pittsburgh’s vibrant film, literary, and arts scene as you learn about the media production industry and expand your network of professional contacts.

SAMPLE COURSES

FDT641: The Craft of Screenwriting
Provides a focus on the art and craft of screenwriting. Students will read and study contemporary screenwriting, and will be expected to generate creative work that illustrates a deep understanding of the literary tools available to filmmakers in this genre.

FDT663: Media Contexts II: Theory
Analyzes the aesthetic conventions, narrative, and formats of new media, as well as the impact digital technologies have had on existing media.

FDT671: Emerging Media II: Advanced Web Design
Focuses on the technical through advanced study. Students will produce DVD, CD-Rom, and other interactive projects.

chatham.edu/film/curriculum.cfm

“My work at Chatham has had a direct impact on what I currently do and in many ways led me to my current work in TV program development and commercial projects. All in all, Chatham’s MFAFDT program pushed me to into worlds that separate me from my contemporaries.”

— JESSE COLAIZZI, MFAFDT ’12
“As a professor in film and digital technology, I share what I know not only about the tools of my art but also about the purposes to which those tools can be used. In a world where ubiquitous commercial messages must vie for everyone’s attention, the capacity to see and hear critically, in order to respond with questions and counter-messages, serves the communities by keeping public dialogue dynamic, and serves the student by allowing them to develop to their highest potential.”

— PRAJNA PARASHER, PH.D., program director
APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS
• Baccalaureate degree from an accredited college or university
• Overall undergraduate grade point average (GPA) of 3.0 or above on a 4.0 scale. Probationary admission may be granted for applicants with a GPA of less than a 3.0 who show promise through their other achievements
• Official transcripts from all colleges and universities attended
• Resume and/or additional supporting information on professional or volunteer activities
• 3-5 page statement of previous experience and current goals in the field
• Two letters of recommendation
• Portfolio of work in video or other digital media

APPLICATION DEADLINES
• Fall Deadline: July 1
• Spring Deadline: November 1

Apply online at chatham.edu/apply