why you belong here

Are you passionate about exploring and conversing in the language of visual culture? Do you dream of pursuing a career that will allow you to impact social change? If so, then you belong at Chatham University.

Our media arts program will prepare you for leadership roles in photography, film and digital technology, graphic design, and their related industries and graduate programs. We will challenge you to become an agent of change within your discipline, asking critical questions about the impact of media in an increasingly global arena.

At Chatham, you will develop your ability to not only work with technical media applications but also to integrate those skills with concepts informed by critical theory, history, and self-exploration, while keeping in mind your role in a greater social sphere.

what you can expect

By majoring in media arts, you will enjoy learning and working in small, intimate classes with a dynamic faculty that is well recognized in the local, national, and international community. As part of our liberal arts focus, we embrace innovation and a student-centered approach, resulting in a flexible, interdisciplinary program that integrates new technology and practical experience with history, theory, and self-exploration.

In addition to courses and internships, you will complete and capstone seminar. This seminar does two things: It integrates the knowledge that you’ve accumulated, and it allows you to channel that knowledge into a discipline-specific project under close faculty guidance. Chatham is one of the few universities across the country that offers such an independent and student-driven program.
what you will learn

Within the media arts program, you may choose one or more concentrations in photography, film and digital technology, or graphic design. For photography, you will pursue a broad range of approaches to photography in a fine art context – exploring ideas and developing skills applicable to contexts such as advertising, communication, documentary, fashion, contemporary art, and travel.

The film and digital technology concentration will provide you with the opportunity to develop creative, conceptual, and technical skills across coursework in film, art, communication, and cultural studies, fostering a critical awareness of media practices and a thorough knowledge base in digital video and audio production and emerging media technologies. If you choose graphic design, you will concentrate on developing design foundations, knowledge of communication, design praxis, and problem solving techniques – modifying and adapting these systems to varying forms of media.

where it will take you

Upon graduation, you will be prepared to not only pursue career goals or graduate programs, but to apply what you learn in ways that raise awareness of sustainability, global initiatives, and issues related to gender and identity. While still at Chatham, we encourage you to pursue your passion for film and digital technology, photography, and graphic design through internships at such diverse organizations as the Carnegie Museum of Art, Silkscreen Film Festival, Pittsburgh Center for the Arts, Women in Film and Media, The Andy Warhol Museum, Pittsburgh Film Office, and Phipps Conservatory.

learn more

Read faculty bios, view a full list of facilities and equipment, and browse curricula by concentration at chatham.edu/mediaarts.

— Heidi McDonald, Class of 2012