

# **PROGRAM ANNOUNCEMENT**

Bachelor of Fine Arts (BFA) in Digital Filmmaking

Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey, New  
Brunswick, NJ

Mason Gross School of the Arts

May 2014

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## I. TITLE PAGE

<u>Institution</u>	Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey
<u>New Program Title</u>	Digital Filmmaking
<u>Degree Destination</u>	Bachelor of Fine Arts
<u>Degree Abbreviation:</u>	BFA
<u>CIP Code &amp; Nomenclature:</u>	50.0602 Cinematography and Film/Video Production
<u>Campus(es) where the program will be offered:</u>	New Brunswick
<u>Date when program will begin (month &amp; Year):</u>	Fall 2015

Will the institution seek accreditation for this program? ☒ Yes ☐ No

- If yes, list the accrediting organization:

National Association of Schools of Arts and Design (NASAD)

## II. OBJECTIVES

Mason Gross School of the Arts is the arts conservatory of Rutgers University. The school offers undergraduate and graduate programs in Dance, Music, Theater, and Visual Arts. In addition to the four departments, the school has four divisions: the Extension Division, Arts Online, the Brodsky Center for Innovative Editions, and the Rutgers Center for Digital Filmmaking. This wide array of arts programs and offerings, coupled with a highly regarded professional faculty and a diverse student body, fosters a rich collaborative arts environment within the school and beyond to rest of the university.

The Rutgers Center for Digital Filmmaking was established in 2011 and is an outgrowth of courses first held in Writers House, an undergraduate English department learning community at Rutgers University New Brunswick. From its beginnings, the program was collaborative in nature, bringing together faculty and students from many disciplines.

The digital filmmaking division consists of two components that complement one another: the Rutgers Center for Digital Filmmaking is the academic component, training students in all aspects of digital filmmaking and offering a 22-credit Minor (known internally to Rutgers University as a Certificate Program); the Rutgers Film Bureau is a professional documentary production office that provides students taking the academic program with opportunities for professional credits while they pursue their undergraduate education.

The productions of the Rutgers Film Bureau involve prominent artists, scientists and community leaders, within and outside the university, engaged in critical research. Students working on these projects are taught how to be active research collaborators rather than passive technical support. In turn, those partnering with the film students learn to more clearly communicate their ideas to a broader public. From the very first course, students learn to work in a fully professional film production environment.

The Rutgers Center for Digital Filmmaking course offerings and professional documentary office have attracted so much attention, both within and outside the university, that a demand has been created for a full-fledged BFA in Digital Filmmaking. This program announcement provides the rationale for considering and approving a multi-disciplinary BFA program in digital filmmaking.

The proposed program will train students in all aspects of film production, from research and treatments to cinematography, lighting, field production, directing, script writing and story boarding, editing, and post production. The pedagogy interweaves documentary and fiction with emerging film technologies and platforms, while also providing students with a wide array of professional, marketable skills in the emerging field of digital communication. These skills are put to the test in professional production opportunities afforded through the Rutgers Film Bureau.

The fact that Mason Gross is an arts conservatory located within a comprehensive research university provides our students with an array of opportunities not usually available in other filmmaking programs. For example, the program is specifically designed to align with the long-standing strength in the School of Arts and Sciences' Cinema Studies, a program pulling together faculty from several disciplines. In this way, production students gain an enhanced and complementary understanding of cinematic expression, theory, rules and organization of visual language, and a full understanding of dramatic storytelling structure and character development. In addition, students will pursue a wide array of liberal arts electives that will help to round out

their education as technically astute filmmakers and intellectually informed artists. Furthermore, filmmaking students will have ample opportunity to draw upon the talents of their fellow arts students in acting, music, dance, and visual arts.

Our program has developed a particular strength in the use of digital film to communicate scientific concepts and research, so much so that discussions are currently underway with programs in the sciences to create a minor in filmmaking for science majors at some point in the future.

### **III. NEED**

The need for the BFA in Digital Filmmaking can be clearly demonstrated in the following ways: overwhelming student interest and demand for the program; academic interest in a filmmaking program to complement and complete existing strength in Cinema Studies; the interest of faculty researchers in many disciplines across the university for the support of film professionals to clearly communicate their research to the larger lay public; and broad-based industry need for well-trained filmmaking professionals.

#### **Student Demand**

Since its establishment in 2011, demand for filmmaking courses has grown exponentially to the point where the Rutgers Center for Digital Filmmaking has more 200 students currently enrolled in its courses with more than 90 of the students fully committed to the 22-credit minor (to be phased out upon approval of the BFA). From the very beginning, students and parents have expressed strong interest in a full-fledged BFA program, with the director and her staff receiving multiple requests each week. This interest is further confirmed by Rutgers Undergraduate Admissions, which has expressed that the lack of a Rutgers film degree program often leads to many highly qualified students choosing another university. We are confident that student demand will be significant making this a highly competitive and desired academic program.

#### **Academic Importance**

Digital Filmmaking is an academic area that is ecumenical in nature and whose importance to the university goes well beyond the narrower confines of its own divisional walls, benefitting faculty, administration, and students in a wide range of disciplines and programs across the university.

Rutgers' strength in Cinema Studies can be traced back at least to early 1980s, when film-focused faculty in such disciplines as History, English, French, German, Italian, Slavic Studies, and Comparative Literature came together, initially as an interest group, and later as a full-fledged program. From the very start, the desire for a filmmaking program was expressed in order to complement existing strengths in film history, theory, criticism, and exhibition (through the Rutgers Film Coop and the recently-commissioned Rutgers Cinema). The academic need for filmmaking is recognized, long-standing, and all of the components are already in place to make Rutgers an exemplary center for film study and filmmaking.

A further demonstration of need is seen in the widespread interest of faculty in the arts, sciences, and humanities who regularly collaborate with the Rutgers Film Bureau and students

from the Center for Digital Filmmaking to communicate their research to the larger public. University administrators also collaborate with the Film Bureau and filmmaking students to present and explore critical societal issues such as global climate change, the plight of returning veterans and the national epidemic of obesity.

The list of academic collaborators is a who's who of Rutgers University and includes:

Scott Glenn and Oscar Schofield, **Marine and Coastal Sciences Department**  
Peter Gilles, Director, **NJ Institute for Food, Nutrition, and Health**  
Carolyn Williams, **English Department**  
Robert Goodman, Executive Dean, **School of Environmental and Biological Sciences**  
Rick Ludescher, Academic Dean, **School of Environmental and Biological Sciences**  
Tom Farris, Executive Dean, **School of Engineering**  
Steve Abel, Director, **Rutgers Veterans Affairs**  
Julia Ritter, Chair, **Mason Gross Dance Department**  
Matt Matsuda, Dean of Honors College and College Ave Campus Dean  
Ann Marie Carlton, **Atmospheric Chemistry**  
Mary Hartman and Lisa Hetfield, **Institute for Women's Leadership**  
Corey Brennan, **Classics Department**  
Conrad Herwig, **Mason Gross Music Department**  
Thomas Papathomas, Busch Campus Dean, **Biomedical Engineering**  
Asa Rennermalm, **Geography Department**  
Erin Vogel and Rob Scott, **Anthropology Department**  
Dan Hoffman, **Nutrition Sciences Department**  
Kathe Newman, **Edward J. Bloustein School of Planning and Public Policy**  
Gerry Beegan and Atif Akin, **Mason Gross Visual Arts Department**  
Tony Broccoli and Marjorie Kaplan, **The Climate Institute**

This list is nowhere near exhaustive. (*Addendum 6, additional detail about collaborations*)

### **Relationship of Program to University Strategic Plan**

The Rutgers Center for Digital Filmmaking has created a film production program unlike any other in the nation that intentionally connects our renowned arts conservatory to a variety of academic units within the sciences, humanities and social sciences across the New Brunswick campus. RCDF is the only undergraduate film program in the nation to have a professional documentary office, the Rutgers Film Bureau, which involves undergraduate students in every stage of production.

Program pedagogy has already proven its ability to address a number of elements of the University's strategic plan by:

- Transforming the undergraduate experience
- Integrating the creative arts into the social and intellectual life of the academic community
- Preparing our students to be thoughtful and engaged citizens through exposure to real-world issues
- Giving agency to students from diverse background thus educating effective leaders for a technology-based future.

As mentioned above, student exposure to work alongside Rutgers scholars on ground-breaking, real-world research has been transformative not only because of the meaningful impact on their understanding of complex subject matter, but also because of the impact that these opportunities have had on their development as engaged global citizens. Through the medium of filmmaking, students form narratives around research theories and hypothesis testing in order to convey these stories to a general public. It is through participating in this process of investigation and then interpretation that students form deeper and richer learning outcomes. In addition, the intersection of the creative arts with other University research units has had the added benefit of bringing Rutgers cutting edge research to the attention of a much broader community.

Practically speaking, the Center for Digital Filmmaking and the Rutgers Film Bureau share classroom and studio space with the Mason Gross Visual Arts Department. The program and its students regularly engage and interact with Dance, Theater, Music, and Visual Arts students and faculty. Additionally, the program continues to have a close relationship and share space with the English Department and the Writers House, in particular, where the program began. Going forward, our BFA course trajectory is built upon cooperative arrangements with additional Rutgers programs including, Cinema Studies, School of Environmental Sciences, Anthropology, and the School of Communication and Information.

### **Marketability of Digital Filmmaking Skills**

The use of visual media to communicate ideas is ubiquitous and takes an infinite number of forms. Each media requires, but does always obtain, the well-trained and well-educated professionals necessary to fully realize each form's potential and to communicate the ideas being expressed in the clearest and most visually appropriate manner. In the short period of time since its establishment, the Center for Digital Filmmaking has demonstrated that the students it has trained are highly competitive in today's market for filmmaking talent.

The clearest indication of this is found in the agencies supporting the program as employers of our recent graduates, funders of our projects, and distributors of those products. They include Public Broadcasting Service, National Science Foundation, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, New Jersey Council for the Humanities, Liberty Science Center, PBS Learning Media, Pangolin Pictures, Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, The New Jersey Motion Picture Association, Passport to Knowledge, and the New England Aquarium. Indeed, agency requests to commission the Rutgers Film Bureau are currently well beyond our current capacity to fulfill. Beyond our documentary achievements, three original student fiction films have been invited to screen at the prestigious Cannes Film Festival.

Upon successful completion of this BFA degree program students will become qualified candidates for the following professions:

Director	Documentary Filmmaker	Science Filmmaker
Assistant Director	Editor	Assistant Editor

Visual Science Educator	Screenwriter	Documentary Researcher
Producer	Cinematographer	Field Producer
Associate Producer	Documentary Grant Writer	Assistant Camera
Line Producer	Multi-media specialist	Visual Effect Developer
Music Supervisor	Media Marketing and Distribution	Film Colorist
Online Media Developer	Script Editor	Audio Editor
Sound Recorder	Location Scout	Audio Mixer
Unit Production Manager	Post-production Manager	Casting Director

*(Addendum 4, Further Information on the Potential Student Internships and Employment with Outside Agencies)*

#### IV. OTHER UNIVERSITY AND STATE-WIDE PROGRAMS

At the present, the following universities in New Jersey offer **film production** programs:

1. **Fairleigh Dickinson University** – **BA in Film Production** with concentrations in Fiction Directing, Cinematography and Editing.
2. **Kean University** – offers a **BA in Media and Film**. The 51-credit B.A. requires 18 credits of film production which includes one documentary filmmaking class.
3. **Montclair State University** – **BFA in Film Production** that focuses on fiction filmmaking, offering only one course in documentary production.
4. **Rowan University** offers a **BA in Radio, Television and Film** that trains students in studio and television production, cinema history, and fiction directing, screening writing and fiction filmmaking.
5. **Rutgers Newark Media Studies: Video Production** - offers a **BA** in video production. The 53-credit B.A. requires 20 credits of video production with one course providing the option for documentary expression. **Rutgers Camden** offers a minor in Film Studies.

Montclair State is the only other institution in the state offering a BFA in filmmaking. The Montclair program focuses almost exclusively on fiction filmmaking, whereas the Mason Gross



Digital Filmmaking BFA program will focus on both fiction and documentary filmmaking, with particular emphasis on documentary filmmaking.

As noted above, the proposed new BFA program will be located in Mason Gross School of the Arts, which provides filmmaking students with a collaborative arts environment in which to work. The Digital Filmmaking program will complement the offerings of the Mason Gross BFA program in Visual Arts in that the Digital Filmmaking curriculum offers students the opportunity to develop commercially-based, industry specific skills sets. Digital filmmaking students learn to develop narrative stories using time-based media. At the conclusion of their studies, BFA Digital filmmakers will be prepared to pursue any of the careers referenced above. Students in the Mason Gross Visual Arts BFA program, particularly those who concentrate in media studies, focus on creative, predominantly non-narrative outcomes. These students are motivated to pursue careers as professional artists, with representation in major international galleries, museums and art fairs. There is no overlap or conflict with the Newark-based BA in Visual Arts.

As a complement to the offerings of the Newark Video Production BA program, the Mason Gross Digital Filmmaking program will offer more specialized focus and training within an arts conservatory setting. The BFA in Digital Filmmaking brings in world class fiction and documentary filmmakers with the intention of offering students opportunities to advance within the filmmaking industry. Graduating students will be expected to understand all of the fundamental requirements of fiction and documentary filmmaking, with a firm underpinning of applicable theory. Whereas, students in the 53-credit Newark BA program are primarily engaging in media training for the news and broadcast industries. There is particular emphasis on production for television.

In addition, Rutgers University is a comprehensive research university and the state's flagship higher education institution, which affords our students an incredible array of arts, science, and research opportunities to complement their filmmaking courses.

Perhaps the most unique aspect of our film production program is the **Rutgers Film Bureau**, a fully professional documentary film production company that allows our students to gain professional filmmaking experience (and credits) while studying. While only 2 years old, the credits achieved by the Filmmaking Bureau are impressive. Our students have the opportunity to collaborate with scientists, scholars, and artists at the highest level. (*Addendum 2 - list of filmmaking credits to date*)

### **Unique Science Filmmaking Track**

Our BFA program, while including both documentary and fiction film production, offers a unique track for students specifically interested in science filmmaking. Our demonstrated success at involving students in the making of dramatic science narratives for a large audience (*Atlantic Crossing, Thailand Untapped, Antarctica: Beyond the Ice*) has positioned us to be the first film production program in the nation to provide undergraduate students with training in science filmmaking.

The only other university in the nation to offer training in science filmmaking is Montana State with an MFA in Science and Natural History Filmmaking. Montana State's 45-credit graduate program includes four science filmmaking courses. Through curricular partnerships across

Rutgers, Mason Gross Digital Filmmaking BFA students can take up to 6 courses in science filmmaking and science communication.

The courses available to choose from include:

- \*Research in Action for the Screen – Mason Gross
- \*Environmental Documentation in Photography, Film and Video 11:554:346 – Interdisciplinary Studies
- \*Visual Anthropology 01:070:309 – Anthropology
- \*Science and Health Journalism 04:567:340 – SCI
- \*Writing as a Naturalist 01:355:352- English
- \*Environmental Communications 11:374:325 – Human Ecology
- \*Science Writing 01:355:342 – English
- \*Scientific and Technical Writing 01:355:302 - English
- \*Writing for Biology 01:355:312 - English
- \*Informal Science Education 11:300:335 – Environmental Education
- \* History of Science and Society 01:506:251 - History

In addition to this array of science filmmaking and communication classes, our BFA students interested in honing their science filmmaking skills will participate in the production of professional documentaries in the Rutgers Film Bureau through the Research in Action for the Screen class and their Senior Thesis.

## V. LEARNING OUTCOMES

Upon completion of the BFA in Digital Filmmaking, students will be able to demonstrate mastery of the following skills:

**Technical Proficiency:** BFA students will demonstrate a comprehensive understanding of the basic concepts, tools, techniques, and procedures necessary to produce quality digital film work from concept to finished product. This includes competence in film or video production processes and fundamental knowledge of cinematography equipment, digital technologies and animation software's. Throughout our BFA program, all students will be required to assume the role of director, producer, camera operator, sound recordist and video editor, assuring graduates a clear understanding of the work of those with whom they will collaborate in their professional careers.

**Understanding Film Narrative Form:** Building on their proficiencies in the filmmaking process, our graduates will demonstrate the ability to convey story elements of character, setting, plot, cause and effect, and structuring of time in a verity of documentary and fiction genres.

**Film Theory/Film Language:** Graduates will demonstrate a firm grasp of the conceptual frameworks necessary to understand film's relationship to reality, other arts, individual viewers, and society at large, as well as an understanding of the origins and history of film structure, form, and film analysis/criticism. They will also acquire a firm understanding of the aesthetic elements of film language, production terminology, and the complexities and subtleties of cinematic grammar and presentation in the rapidly evolving digital environment. This training takes place in the applied filmmaking courses, the actual film/video projects, and the Cinema Studies course requirements of the program.

**Film Production as Educational Research/Team Collaborative Skills:** The program requires students to develop a collaborative relationship with the sponsors/producers, researchers, artists, scholars, and individuals with whom they are working. This direct engagement with research content goes both ways, so that researcher and filmmaker form a team exploring the subtleties of the research and the best uses of digital processes to clearly convey meaning and content. This approach allows the filmmaking process to become a more direct part of the discovery process. It also requires students to work with diverse teams and to learn the processes and compromises necessary to accomplish a common goal. As a result of this training, graduates will demonstrate a solid understanding of the skills required to work in an interdisciplinary film production environment.

**Creative Expression through Production Oriented Classes:** From the first classes, students work on active projects, some of which are through the professional Rutgers Film Bureau. These many creative opportunities for expression and collaboration teach students the conventions of filmmaking and then allow them to develop new cinematic language and arguments. As a result of this training, students will demonstrate facility with both traditional and non-traditional cinematic filmmaking techniques.

**Managing Complex Projects:** Students will demonstrate an ability to coordinate complex and multiple project elements and communicate with involved personnel at all stages of production process. This ranges from the business and practical aspects of production to the art of filmmaking.

**A Grounding in the Arts and Sciences:** The core curriculum at currently offered at the RU School of Arts and Sciences requires students to have a broad grounding in the liberal arts. This training enhances the technical and more specific academic courses in Cinema Studies and helps to make for more informed artists/professionals. As a result, students will be able to demonstrate a broad understanding of multiple areas of academic discourse and engagement.

## **VI. STUDENT ADVISEMENT**

### **Advisement:**

- Academic Advising is a critical component of the BFA's educational experience and students should meet with their academic advisors at least twice a semester. Through collaborative relationships with academic advisors, students are able to map out educational plans that are aligned with their values, goals and career plans.
  - Assist in developing academic plans consistent with goals
  - Refer students to additional university student support services when necessary
  - Provide information on policies, procedures and requirements
- Faculty Advising is also a critical component of this BFA program. Through regular meetings with faculty, students will be guided and supported in pursuit of their artistic and career goals.

## **VII. ASSESSMENT**

The process for assessing student art is often more rigorous than assessment processes found in more traditional academic programs. The advantage is that students in our conservatory

programs are, from the very start, judged and assessed by the professionals in the fields in which they will seek their careers.

There will be formative assessments regarding comprehension and command of various aspects of digital filmmaking which include in-class critiques during the year of students' work by the faculty to see if the students are able to communicate complex ideas effectively & formulate innovative imaginative solutions to creative challenges, and to see if the students can respond effectively to editorial feed back from the instructor and peers through successive exercises.

There will also be summative assessments that include: midterms; final exams; final projects; written screenplays and/or documentary treatments, and a year-end juried film festival. There will also be faculty selection of students for Film Bureau-commissioned productions, and client assessment of student contributions to those professional films.

Internally we will welcome annual external reviews by visiting industry professionals and critics. Besides reviewing our National ranking standing, we will monitor and evaluate the senior thesis films; the distribution and visibility of our graduate's professional work; our graduate's professional production credits and awards; and our graduate's internships and full-time job placement.

## **VIII: APPLICATION PROCESS**

### University Process

All undergraduate applicants to Mason Gross School of the Arts must submit a formal application and fee through Rutgers University Undergraduate Admissions. Applications and instructions for first-year undergraduate applicants, transfer applicants, international students, and current Rutgers students are available online through Rutgers Undergraduate Admissions.

The admissions process has two steps: application to the University and review and application to the school of choice, where a second review occurs. Rutgers University allows students to apply to three schools within the university with one application form and fee. Admissions decisions are made independently for each school.

Undergraduate applicants to the University must provide: non-refundable application fee; self-reported academic record (the high school submits the official transcript); GED results, if applicable; English Proficiency Examination, if a non-English speaker; SAT/ACT scores; Personal statement; portfolio for Mason Gross review.

### BFA Admission Requirements

#### **1. Portfolio Submission**

##### *Personal Essay*

Applicants must submit a personal statement in which they discuss their reasons for applying to the program, their artistic goals, and the issues and concerns that inform their choices as an artist. Essay applicants should include any artists and particular films, books, television shows or plays that have influenced them. (Maximum 3 pages)

*Creative Writing Sample*

Applicants must submit a creative writing sample consisting of a short story, film script, or play to demonstrate their potential as a storyteller. (Maximum 5 pages)

*Digital Narrative Sample*

Applicants must submit evidence of their filmmaking potential. This can be done by submitting short films or a photographed narrative sequence provided in storyboard or digital form. Submissions should demonstrate ability to develop themes in a narrative sequence as well as critical thinking and creativity of expression.

**3. Resume/Letters of Recommendation**

In addition to documentation required by Rutgers Undergraduate admissions, applicants for admission to the program must provide a one-page resume and two letters of recommendation.

**4. Applicant Interviews**

Qualified applicants will be invited to interview with faculty in person or electronically.

## IX. GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS & TYPICAL COURSE OF STUDY

Total number of credits in the degree program = **121**

- Required credits in 4 year BFA Digital Filmmaking course sequence = **88**
- Additional required General Education credits = **18**
- Elective credits: **15**

### Sample Course Sequence Over 4 Years

COURSES	COURSE #	CREDITS
<b>Year 1</b>		
Intro to Fiction/Digital Storytelling	01:351:309	3
Intro to Documentary	07:632:307	3
Script to Screen	07:632:325	3
Video Editing Lab	07:632:200	1
Cinematography	07:632:300	3
Cinema Studies: Intro to Film 1 (Arts/Hum)	01:354:201	3
Cinema Studies: Intro to Film 2 (Arts/Hum)	01:354:202	3
Film Narrative: Bridging Fact and Fiction	TBD	3
Gender, Race, Class and Media	(04:567:334)	3
<b>Year 2</b>		
Directing for the Screen (Fiction)	07:632:320	3
Intermediate Documentary Filmmaking	TBD	3
Digital Field Production	07:632:340	3
Animation 2D	07:632:280	3
Digital Post Production	TBD	3
Advanced Cinematography	07:632:400	3
Cinema Studies: Elective	See list	3
Critical Thinking and Society	See list	3
<b>Year 3</b>		
Advanced Directing: Short Film	07:632:420	3
Documentary Directing	07:632:310	3
Animation 3D	07:632:281	3
Web Series	07:632:330	3
Research in Action for the Screen	TBD	3
Visual Arts Media Elective	See list	3
Critical Thinking and Society	See list	3
Advanced Script to Screen	TBD	3
<b>Year 4</b>		
Senior Thesis (2 semesters)	TBD	6
Filmmaking for New Media	TBD	3
Cinema Studies Elective	TBD	3
Producing Digital Media (business, distribution, copyright)	TBD	3
<b>Additional General Education Courses</b>		
	See list below	18
<b>Electives</b>		15
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>		<b>121</b>

### General Education Courses (27 credits)

COURSE	COURSE #	CREDITS
Natural Sciences	<a href="#">Click here for list</a>	6
Quantitative Reasoning	Finance and the Arts TBD	3
	Music Technology TBD	3
Literature/Writing	<a href="#">Click here for list</a>	3
Expository Writing	01:355:101	3

### Critical Thinking and Society: sample list includes:

COURSE	COURSE#	CREDITS
Film and History	(01:506:241)	3
Narrative History	(01:506:401)	3
Patterns in Civilization: Love	(01:506:112)	3
Patterns in Civilization: Death	(01:506:113)	3
Intro to Sociology	(01:920:101)	3
Minority Groups in American Society	(01:920:108)	3
Mass Communication & Modern Society	(01:920:205)	3
Individual and Society	(01:920:283)	3
Theory of Women & Film	(01:354:385)	3
Mass Communication and the American Image	(04:567:335)	3
Media and Social Change	(04:567:380)	3
General Psychology	(01:830:101)	3
Personality Psychology	(01:830:338)	3
Social Psychology	(01:830:321)	3
Motivation and Emotion	(01:830:364)	3
General Psychology	(01:830:101)	3
Visual Anthropology	(01:070:309)	3
Anthropology Goes to the Movies	(01:070:367)	3
Anthropology and Mass Media	(01:070:368)	3

### Elective Courses (15 credits)

BFA in Film Production majors will have the opportunity to choose **five** 3 credit elective courses from across the university to fulfill their 121 credits for graduation. (*Addendum 3 – list of current RCDF Minor courses.*)

With these five 3 credit free electives students can pursue a minor in [Sociology](#), [History](#), [Psychology](#), [Anthropology](#), and [Cinema Studies](#) building upon Critical Thinking and Society and Cinema Studies classes they take within their BFA major.

### Transfer From Other Universities

Transfer credits will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis to insure that the course material and level of instruction are compatible with Mason Gross pedagogy and equivalent to Mason Gross BFA course requirements.

## **X. PROGRAM FACULTY**

The BFA program is interdisciplinary in nature and collaborative by design and practice. The composition of the faculty associated with program reflects this and consists of three tiers: the core production faculty, currently two full-time film professionals and PTLs drawn largely from the New York City film community (one current PTL is an Academy Award winning director, reflecting the quality of the production faculty associated with the program); affiliated faculty drawn from Mason Gross and those academic departments whose course work figures directly into the BFA program; and collaborating faculty drawn from those research areas that regularly commission the Rutgers Film Bureau and our students for productions. Additionally, the program will have a faculty advisory committee to the BFA Program in Digital Filmmaking, which is headed by the Division Director, who in turn reports to the Associate Dean of the Mason Gross School.

### **Digital Filmmaking Faculty, Full-time**

Dena Seidel, Director

Patrick Stettner, Assistant Director

### **Digital Filmmaking Faculty, Part-time**

Alan McIntyre Smith - Cinematography

Ross Kauffman – Documentary

Alana McNair – Fiction and Editing

Rebecca Haimowitz – Documentary

Shane Whilden – Animation

Neal Bennett – Digital Film Production

### **Affiliated-Instructional Faculty**

Fatima Naqvi – Cinema Studies Program – German Studies Department

Susan Martina Marquez – Cinema Studies Program – Spanish Department

Ulla Berg – Anthropology Department

Louisa Schein – Anthropology Department

Ardele Lister – Visual Arts Department, Mason Gross School of the Arts

Rebecca Jordan – Human Ecology, School of Environmental and Biological Sciences

Mary Nucci – Human Ecology, School of Environmental and Biological Sciences

Isra Ali – School of Communication and Information

Jack Bratich – School of Communication and Information

### **Faculty Advisory Committee**

Carolyn Williams – Chair, Department of English

Rick Ludescher – Academic Dean, School of Environmental and Biological Sciences

Susan Martina Marquez – Professor, Department of Spanish and Portuguese, and Cinema Studies Program

Gerry Beegan – Associate Professor, Visual Arts Department, Mason Gross School of the Arts

Kevin Kittle – Clinical Assistant Professor, Theater Department, Mason Gross School of the Arts



Steven Kemper – Assistant Professor, Music Department, Mason Gross School of the Arts  
Jack Bratich – Chair, Department of Journalism and Media Studies

## **XI. PROGRAM ADMINISTRATION AND REVIEW**

The Rutgers Center for Digital Filmmaking is a Division of the Mason Gross Dean's office. The Director of the Center reports to the Associate Dean who also oversees the four divisions of Mason Gross. The divisions meet regularly as group to discuss common administrative matters and the future development of their programs

The Mason Gross BFA in Digital Filmmaking will be offered through the Rutgers Center for Digital Filmmaking Division. The program is directed by Dena Seidel who also supervises the Rutgers Film Bureau and teaches Advanced Documentary classes. Full-time Clinical Professor Patrick Stettner is the Assistant Director and teaches and supervises fiction courses. Karina Daves is the senior administrative assistant. Additional faculty and staff will be hired as the program grows.

### **Faculty Advisory Committee:**

The Dean and Associate Dean meet regularly with the Director of the Digital Filmmaking Center to monitor the division's progress and to chart its future direction. Each year, at a Planning Meeting, the Dean and Associate Dean meet with the Director to review the budget, to discuss faculty hires and other personnel matters, and to assess proposed plans and changes for the coming year.

The Faculty Advisory Committee will convene periodically to vet courses, to discuss the curriculum, and to consider academic and creative partnerships that can best enhance and expand students' training and university experience.

Upon approval of the proposed BFA degree, the Center for Digital Filmmaking will pursue formal accreditation through National Association of Schools of Art and Design (NASAD). The Mason Gross Dance department is currently accredited by National Association of Schools of Dance (NASD) and the Music department by National Association of Schools of Music (NASM).