

WRITING FOR FILM AND TELEVISION, B.A.

Mission

The mission of Biola University is biblically centered education, scholarship and service – equipping men and women in mind and character to impact the world for the Lord Jesus Christ. While the whole of Biola's mission is pursued in this major, special emphasis is on "impacting the world for the Lord Jesus Christ." The Writing for Film and Television major prepares students to create compelling and redemptive stories for the media, as they're educated by practicing writers within the entertainment industry who share a common faith.

Students are trained to be parabolic storytellers in the tradition of the greatest parabolic storyteller, our savior Jesus Christ, pursuing excellence in craft and in character.

Degree Program

Whether in the faith-based or mainstream arena, when developing a story, worldview is expressed through what is emphasized as important in the thoughts, words and deeds of the characters inhabiting stories. In turn, stories are metaphors for life, they help us to make meaning and have the power to illuminate larger truths. One cannot engage in story creation and not interact with a worldview. Thus, as Christians writers, we begin each story from the basis of our identity in Christ.

The journey of the writing student, from freshman year to graduation, emphasizes the discovery of their own identity and worldview. They look at the historical impact, audience trends, the auteur movement and vision in media, all as a part of one's creative identity. Students are called to make a connection between their calling as Christians and the content that they create, focusing on the integration of faith, storytelling and effective communication through the page. Students will develop the necessary skills for analysis of the culture of Hollywood, as well as the expertise required for a writing career within the media industry.

Learning Outcomes

Program Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of the Bachelor of Arts in Writing for Film and Television, students will be able to:

1. Demonstrate knowledge of the fundamental components in writing visually for film, television and media to create compelling original stories (ULO 1).
2. Evaluate the telling of a compelling story with comprehension of how biblical principles are integrated into words, decisions and characters and how the page influences culture through film, television and media (ULO 2).
3. Assess professional competency and best practices of all writing formats with demonstrated mastery in a thesis project and the professional competency expected for entry level professionals (ULO 3).

Each Program Learning Outcome (PLO) listed above references at least one of the University Learning Outcomes (ULO 1, 2, 3), which may be found in the General Information (<http://catalog.biola.edu/general-information/>) section of this catalog.

Requirements

Admission Requirements

The entertainment industry is a highly competitive, creative and demanding business. Admission to Cinema and Media Arts (CMA) is separate from and contingent upon your admission to Biola University. Admission to Biola University does not guarantee admission into the Writing for Film and Television major. Applications to the Writing for Film and Television major will not be considered until after the applicant has been admitted to Biola University. Notifications concerning your acceptance to the Writing for Film and Television major will be processed by groups as listed on the application schedule page available from the Admissions Department.

After you have completed your application to Biola University, complete your application online (<https://www.biola.edu/film/admissions/>) by the appropriate deadline indicated on the website.

Prior media experience is not a prerequisite for admission into the School of Cinema and Media Arts. As we'll provide the education once a student, during the application process we're more interested in discovering your potential, leadership ability, creative thinking, problem solving and Christian character. Department faculty prayerfully review all applications. Notification letters will be sent out by the deadlines listed in the schedule. You will be notified of your acceptance, if more information is required, placement on a waiting list, or non-acceptance, if applicable.

If you have any questions about the status of your application, please call the CMA Academic Coordinator at (562) 777-4052 or write to:

Acceptance Committee
School of Cinema and Media Arts
Biola University
13800 Biola Avenue
La Mirada, CA 90639

CMA students may be required to purchase computer equipment and software as may be applicable for their respective degrees. While we understand the financial strains of such equipment expenditures, we also recognize that these technologically driven majors involve costs well beyond the textbooks that serve as the essential tools for many other undergraduate departments. Contact the department for specific equipment recommendations.

General Requirements

All Writing for Film and Television majors must achieve a minimum grade of C in all major courses taken at Biola. Anyone receiving a lower grade must repeat the course and receive a C or better.

The total number of credits for major area credit from practicum, internship and directed research courses may not exceed 9 credits.

Writing for Film and Television

Stories matter. You matter. You and your stories matter to us. The Writing for Film and Television, B.A. covers the fundamental elements of storytelling—from conception (the pitch and the outline), to execution (the script), to the all-important rewriting and polishing process.

The Writing for Film and Television, B.A. teaches you how to find your unique voice and learn the craft to write scripts that will attract attention in the entertainment industry. In this comprehensive program, you will learn every element of the screenwriting process from story idea to

script. Through our lectures and workshops, your work will be further refined so that you will develop your own storytelling voice while receiving constructive feedback from your peers and instructors who are working, professional screenwriters.

Curriculum Requirements

Code	Title	Credits
Program Courses		
CNMA 101	Introduction to Visual Storytelling	3
CNMA 103	Introduction to Digital Media Production	3
CNMA 104	History of Cinema	3
CNMA 203	Screenwriting I	3
CNMA 204	The Entertainment Business	3
CNMA 312	Screenwriting II	3
CNMA 323	Writing the One-Hour Drama Pilot	3
CNMA 331	Motion Picture Script Analysis	3
CNMA 352	Character Development and Dialogue	3
CNMA 353	Media Literacy	3
CNMA 354	The TV Writer's Room - One-Hour Spec	3
CNMA 360	The TV Writer's Room - Writing the Half Hour Spec	3
or CNMA 368	Film and Television Adaptation	
or ENGL 344	Creative Writing: Fiction	
CNMA 420	Coverage and Development for Film and TV	3
CNMA 440	Cinema and Media Arts Internship	3
CNMA 462	Senior Portfolio: Writing	3
or CNMA 456	Senior Portfolio	
Total Credits		45

Course Sequence

NOTE: The course sequence table is designed by the major department and is one way that the classes will work out properly in sequence for your major. However, there are alternative or flexible ways to rotate some of the classes within the same year/level and sometimes between year levels. Please contact your major department advisor to discuss flexible alternatives in scheduling the sequence of your classes.

Taking coursework during the summer session may also be an option to accelerate your degree path.

See Core Curriculum Program section (<http://catalog.biola.edu/general-information/undergraduate-requirements-policies/#text>) for a list of approved Core Curriculum courses.

Writing for Film and Television, B.A.

First Year			
Fall	Credits	Spring	Credits
BBST 103 or 165		3 BBST 103 or 165	3
CNMA 101		3 BBST 209 or 210	3
CNMA 103		3 CNMA 104	3
ENGL 100 or 112		3 CNMA 203	3
KNES 107		1 Foreign Language (see Core Curriculum)	4

GNST 102	1	
		14

Total Credits 30

Second Year

Fall	Credits	Spring	Credits
BBST 251		3 BBST 209 or 210	3
CNMA 312		3 CNMA 204	3
CNMA 352		3 Behavioral Science (see Core Curriculum)	3
Foreign Language (see Core Curriculum)		4 MATH 122	1
Science (see Core Curriculum)		3 HIST 200, 201, or POSC 225	3
MATH 121		1	
		17	13

Total Credits 30

Third Year

Fall	Credits	Spring	Credits
BBST 300/400 Bible Elective		3 BBST 354	3
CNMA 323		3 CNMA 420	3
CNMA 353		3 ENGL 313	3
CNMA 354		3 MATH 123	1
Fine Arts (see Core Curriculum)		3 Communications (see Core Curriculum)	3
KNES Activity (see Core Curriculum)		1 HIST 100 or 101	3
Writing Competency Requirement		0 Graduation Petition due in Registrar's Office	
		16	16

Total Credits 32

Fourth Year

Fall	Credits	Spring	Credits
BBST 365		3 BBST 465	3
CNMA 331		3 BBST 306, 316, 326, or 336	3
CNMA 462 or 456		3 CNMA 360, 368, or ENGL 344	3
Literature (see Core Curriculum)		3 CNMA 440	3
General Elective		1 Philosophy (see Core Curriculum)	3
		13	15

Total Credits 28

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First Year			
Fall	Credits	Spring	Credits
HNRS 101		4 HNRS 105	4
HNRS 102		4 HNRS 106	4
CNMA 101		3 CNMA 104	3
CNMA 103		3 CNMA 203	3
GNST 102		1 MATH 121	1
		15	15
Second Year			
Fall	Credits	Spring	Credits
HNRS 210		4 HNRS 230	4
HNRS 215		4 HNRS 231	4
CNMA 312		3 CNMA 204	3
CNMA 352		3 MATH 122	1
Foreign Language (see Core Curriculum)		4 Foreign Language (see Core Curriculum)	4
		18	16
Third Year			
Fall	Credits	Spring	Credits
HNRS 324		4 HNRS 338	4
HNRS 327		4 CNMA 354	3
CNMA 353		3 CNMA 420	3
CNMA 360, 368, or ENGL 344		3 Science (see Core Curriculum)	3
KNES 107		1 ENGL 313	3
MATH 123		1	
		16	16
Fourth Year			
Fall	Credits	Spring	Credits
HNRS 440		4 HNRS 450	4
BBST 465		3 HNRS 460	2
CNMA 331		3 CNMA 323	3
CNMA 456 or 462		3 CNMA 440	3
KNES Activity (see Core Curriculum)		1	
		14	12
Total Credits 122			

Note: Certain CMA classes are not offered every semester. Please check with the School of Cinema and Media Arts for the most up-to-date schedule of required courses.