

NJCU IMAP (Integrated Media Arts Production) Handbook

Program Purpose:

IMAP grants a Master's of Fine Arts Degree, which is the terminal degree in Media Arts Production.

The goal of the program is to cultivate thinking creative artists who may also want to become educators (an MFA is required for some secondary-level and most higher education positions).

Credits and Enrollment:

IMAP is a 60-credit program and classes are 3 credits each.

Full time: 5 classes per semester = 15 credits per semester x 4 semesters over two consecutive years = 60 credits total

Part-time: 2 or 3 classes per semester (alternating semesters, i.e. 2 classes Fall and 3 classes Spring, or vice-versa) = 15 credits per year x 4 years = 60 credits total. Part time students must enroll in Graduate Projects Production each semester (see course descriptions below). Part time students must take one Graduate Production class and one Graduate Seminar class per academic year.

All students are required to attend end of year critiques.

If a student takes leave of the program for more than two consecutive semesters she/he may be asked to withdraw.

Course Meeting Schedule:

Each class meets once a week with meetings at most 3 days of the week. We never schedule 4 classes on 4 separate days, and when possible we schedule 2 classes one day and 2 classes another day so that students only need to be on campus 2 days of the week. There are no class meetings on Fridays.

For the four core classes, currently two meet from 11:20am-2pm; one meets at 4pm; and one meets 7-9:45pm. We are currently considering pushing more of the classes into the late afternoon or evening to better accommodate working students.

Meeting times and days of Electives are more variable; see more about this below.

Courses:

1) **Visiting Artist Studio** MEDI 606 is an IMAP graduate course structured around presentations, one-on-one studio critiques, reading and class discussion led by a visiting artists, theoreticians or art world practitioners along with a coordinating faculty member, this course exposes students to an array of various media practices as it relates to contemporary culture.

2) **Graduate Projects Production** MEDI 602 is the course in which students develop their own body of work, eventually leading to their thesis project.

3) **Graduate Seminar** MEDI 607 is a required Graduate-level course for the IMAP students to provide a historical/social context and progression of theoretical practice of media production. Focusing on investigations of representation and image-making including postmodern critique, feminism and post-structuralism, the Graduate Seminar will combine readings and discussions in conjunction with short form projects within the students' disciplines to formulate a synthesis that is an ongoing dialogue of theory and practice. Seminar topics include: Synchronism in the Avant-Garde; Non-Fiction in Media; Images, Meaning, and Technology; etc.

4) **Intermedia Research** MEDI 601 is a graduate-level course that is part of the Media Arts M.F.A. program. Taking advantage of NJCU's proximity to one of the world's foremost cities for art, this course is based on field visits to contemporary media exhibitions at museums, galleries, media arts centers, and alternative spaces. Students will gain exposure to prominent works of both historical importance and representative of the most recent trends. M.F.A. students are required take this course each of their four semesters in residence. The visits are not topically arranged; the variation of the content from semester to semester is a result of variation of sites. On weeks when there is not a field visit the class will focus on digestion and critique of the past visit and preparation for the upcoming one through assigned readings, viewing of relevant and related work, and discussion.

5) **Elective Course.** Students takes either **a)** a graduate course (stacked with an upper-level undergraduate course) in a technical production area. For example a student has a strong background in digital animation but a less experience in audio it might take Sound Post-Production; **b)** an Art Department course that has a graduate-level course number, or **c)** an appropriate internship, which are evaluated on a case-by-case basis.

Currently approved courses in the Media Arts Department include:

MEDI 610 – Advanced Video Field Production

MEDI 611 – Advanced Video

MEDI 615 – Advanced film/Computer Animation

MEDI 617 – Advanced Film Practicum: Advanced Cinematography

MEDI 624 – Advanced Post Production Techniques in Video

MEDI 623 - Advanced Sound Post-Production

MEDI 616 – Advanced Film and TV Lighting

MEDI 619 – Advanced Digital Media II

Available courses in the Art Department include:

ART 612 – Aesthetic and Critical Perspectives

ART 606 – History of Modern Art

ART 514 – Intercultural Art

ART 701 - Master Critique

As additional courses become available we will share them with students.

Course Structure:

Full-time students take the same four core classes each semester plus one upper-level elective. Visiting Artist Studio, for example, is taken each semester with successive course numbers MEDI 606; MEDI 1606; MEDI 2606; and MEDI 3606. The course is taught by a different professor each semester, however, and the **content** varies each semester. With Visiting Artist Studio, for example, there are different guests each semester. Full time students must take 15 credits per semester if they want to earn their degree in two years.

Part-time students must take one Graduate Projects Production class and one Graduate Seminar class per academic year. If after completing the full cycle of MEDI 602, 1602, 2602, 3602 (Graduate Projects, in this example) students want to take Graduate Production again the additional times they complete this course will count as a Production Elective.

Finances:

NEW JERSEY CITY UNIVERSITY GRADUATE TUITION & FEES 2018-19 Academic Year
(per semester)

Tuition and Fees	In-State	Out-of-State
Tuition (Per Credit)	\$ 708.75	\$ 1,135.55
Student Activity Fee	\$ 2.65	\$ 2.65
TOTAL PER-CREDIT	\$ 711.40	\$ 1,138.20

For full-time students this totals **\$10,665/semester** for State residents and **\$17,070/semester** for others. You become a resident of NJ after one year of living in the state.

Financial Aid:

All NJCU graduate students may be eligible for scholarships and loans. In addition, each year, NJCU offers highly-qualified students a limited number of graduate assistantships covering tuition and fees for full-time graduate study. General Financial Aid information for NJCU graduate students can be found at <https://www.njcu.edu/admissions/financial-aid/graduate-aid>

We have been fortunate thus far in our program to able to offer two **Graduate Assistanceships** per semester for full-time students, awarded to first-year students only on a competitive basis. Graduate Assistants will work for the Department in Central Distribution for approximately 20 hrs/week and receive a 12 credit tuition waiver (no stipend).

NJCU Stimulus Scholarship

The Stimulus Scholarship provides up to \$400 in graduate aid for new graduate students who are admitted for a degree or certification program. Qualified students can receive a \$200 discount or credit for their first graduate class and another \$200 discount or credit for their second class. The graduate scholarships may only be used during the student's first term. Students whose tuition is paid through tuition waivers or grants are not eligible for this scholarship. Once registered online through GothicNet for their first classes, eligible students may apply online for this Scholarship.

Alumni Scholarship Program

Created for NJCU undergraduate degree program alumni, the Alumni Scholarship provides a \$100 graduate tuition discount for each of the student's first two classes. Students whose tuition is paid through waiver or grants are not eligible for this Scholarship. Once registered online through GothicNet for their first classes, eligible students may request the Alumni Scholarship by sending an email to grad_dept@njcu.edu, that includes their GothicNet ID. Alumni may not receive both the Alumni Scholarship and the Stimulus Scholarship awards.

Veterans' Benefits

A veteran whose entitlements have not expired may qualify for graduate educational benefits through the Veterans Administration. Any veteran who believes that he or she is eligible may contact the Coordinator of Veterans Affairs at New Jersey City University or the local VA office for instructions and application forms. Benefits may be awarded to both part-time and full-time students. For additional information call Elaine Gargiulo, Coordinator of Veterans Benefits, at (201) 200-2157. Veteran students can find more information at the NJCU Veterans Benefits website.

EOF Graduate Benefits

The Educational Opportunity Fund (EOF) Graduate Program provides graduate aid to full-time graduate students who meet eligibility requirements, providing students with grants totaling up to \$2,300 per year. Those interested in applying to the EOF Graduate Program should contact the EOF Director at 201.200.3355. Before applying, students must be full-time matriculated students or have an intention to matriculate. In addition, they must submit either a Graduate and Professional Financial Aid Service Form (GAPSFAS) or a Financial Aid Form (FAF) and appropriate documentation to the Financial Aid Office. Qualified students must be registered.

Presentation of Work:

While technical craft and skill are certainly an important part of graduate-level Media Arts Production, this is not the main goal of the program – it is not a vocational or technical school training.

Works presented by students towards their degree must be created under the conceptual control of the student. Typically this means you are the writer or director (in addition to whatever other roles you may perform). Works for which you were a technician or a producer but not a key conceptual contributor will not count towards the degree.

Some students do for-hire work while they are part of the IMAP program. There is no injunction against this but such work is not meant for in-class presentation or critique. Students are free to seek informal guidance from classmates or faculty for such work.

Attendance and Work

Students missing more than three classes in any given semester and/or failing to turn in course work risk failure of the course.

First Year Review:

Once a student has earned 30 credits she/he must participate in a First Year Review. In First Year Review students must show a substantial group of related works that show a conceptual thread.

If a student doesn't pass First Year Review she/he must submit updated work before the start of the following semester.

Thesis Advisors

After passing First Year Review but before reaching 45 credits students must select a Thesis Advisor who they will work with to guide and mentor them through their Thesis Production Project and Paper.

Thesis Requirements:

Production

Specific requirements for Thesis Projects will be worked out on a case-by-case basis with the Thesis Advisor. The Thesis work must be a significant work or body of work that stands separated from first year production projects.

Thesis Essay

The Final Thesis will be an in-depth exploration of your concepts, process, references, discoveries, reflections and final analysis.

Required length is 8-10 pages. Papers must follow one of the standard academic formats and include references and footnotes. A sample thesis paper is provided at the end of this document.

Your final thesis is an official archival record of what you have completed, explored and accomplished during the duration of your MFA program. Not only is your thesis written for yourself, but it will prove and back up your convictions, theories, assessments and statements for other people.

The format for an MFA thesis in Fine Art (applied arts & digital) will in almost all cases coincide with a final thesis exhibition of completed works. This format fits accordingly with the thesis exhibition in mind.

Thesis Statement - The Artist Statement & Manifesto—In one single page generate your artist statement. Who are you? What is your work about? What are you communicating with your current work, projects and why? Who is your audience? How is your work affecting your audience, community and culture?

This is a breakdown of the structure of the paper:

1. A detailed description of the concept and body of work that you will be discussing. Be clear and objective, you need not tell your whole life story here. Your current artist statement may be used as a central element in your thesis statement.
2. *Process, Materials and Methods:* Here you will discuss your working processes, techniques learned and applied, and the materials & techniques used to generate the art (film-video-installation-web series) that you create. Why have you selected these specific materials and techniques to communicate your ideas? How may these choices effect how the viewer will receive your work? Have you personalized a technique in a new way? How so? What are some limitations and discoveries?
3. *Resources and References:* Historical and cultural referencing, filmmakers, video artists, media history, artists, art movements, cultural and political moveents, databases, and any other form of related influence. How has your research influenced your work, ideas, and decision-making process? What contrasts and contradictions have you discovered about your work and ideas? How has regular research and exposure during your program inspired you (fieldtrips, art exhibitions, visiting artists, screenings)? Have you made direct and specific connections to an art movement or a series of artists? Explain your discoveries and how you came to those conclusions.
4. *Final Reflection – Conclusion:* What have you learned over the course of your graduate program? How has the program influenced your work and how you communicate as an artist? What were your greatest successes? What areas do you need to work on? What skills will you apply directly into your continued professional practice? Do you plan to teach after you graduate? If so, what philosophies and theories will you apply into your teaching practice? Where do you see yourself professionally as an artist in 3-5 years? Your conclusion could reemphasize elements of your thesis statement in order to underline what you feel is most important about your work.

Equipment and Space Use:

Upon arrival in the program students will be assigned a desk and work space that includes a secure locker.

Media Arts Labs:

- Students may request access to edit rooms and studios appropriate for your current classes.

- Reserve time in advance.
- During periods of high demand, if you are 30 minutes late and do not make arrangements with Central, your booking may be canceled.

Hours:

Media Arts Labs Monday-Thursday 10am-8pm

After-hours, Friday, & Weekends by Advance Request only, requested no later than 1pm same day (though ideally sooner).

Equipment Requests:

- Request Form at Central & outside Admin Assistant Office Mon-Thurs. request before 1pm that day Weekend (Fri-Sun.) submit before 7pm Thurs.
- You can request ahead of the deadline - don't wait until the last minute.
- You may request the use of film/audio/video equipment to Up to 3 day borrowing period
- No weekend or after-hours pickup/dropoff.
- You do not need to be the person dropping off, but pick someone you trust. You will still be held responsible.
- Book in advance we need time to prepare yours as well as Can book same day for in house use, return before closing

Online reservations:

Go to <https://mediacentral.siso.co/> and register an account. (Note: .co not .com)

Professionalism and Conduct

Students are expected to attend and participate in all scheduled classes and activities.

Professionalism and respect towards fellow students, faculty and professional staff is expected at all times. Equipment and facilities will be handled with care.

NJCU is committed to providing a campus environment free from discrimination based on sex. Compliance with Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, 20 U.S.C. Section 1681 et seq. ("Title IX") is an important part of this commitment. More information at

<https://www.njcu.edu/about/title-ix>

Independent Study and Internships

Requests will be handled on a case-by-case basis.