

NORTHERN ARIZONA UNIVERSITY

Accelerated Master of Arts in Communication

School of Communication

ACCELERATED PROGRAM: BS (Creative Media & Film, Documentary emphasis) – MA (Communication, Documentary Studies emphasis). **Reflects catalog changes for AY 2023-24**

Application and Eligibility Requirements

Current undergraduate students majoring in Creative Media & Film with a Documentary emphasis may apply for conditional admission to the accelerated program for the MA in Communication with an emphasis in Documentary Studies after completing 60 units of undergraduate coursework with a minimum NAU cumulative grade point average of 3.5 and after completing a minimum of 12 undergraduate units in their Creative Media & Film major at NAU with a minimum grade point average of 3.5 in those courses. Receiving an Incomplete or completing a class graded as Pass/Fail or Audit will not count towards this 12-unit requirement. In addition, students must maintain a cumulative grade point average of 3.5 in all NAU courses and in courses within their major until they complete their bachelor's degree and formally become a graduate student in the MA in Communication.

Overview

The Accelerated Program for the BS in Creative Media & Film (Documentary emphasis) to the MA in Communication with an emphasis in Documentary Studies allows a maximum of 9 units that are used to complete both the undergraduate and the graduate requirements. Only one of the three courses for dual credit may be completed at the 400-level. Students must receive a grade of "B" or higher in this coursework used towards both degrees.

Students may not begin taking graduate courses other than the 9 units designated for dual credit until they have been awarded their bachelor's degree.

With careful planning, appropriate advising, and exceptional discipline, this accelerated program can reduce the total time for both degrees from the typical six years to as little as five years. However, completing both degrees in five years will require that students take more than the typical 30 credit hours per year in the second and subsequent years of their undergraduate program. More typically, and without such overloads or other additional units, the accelerated program allows for the possibility of completing both degrees in five- and one-half years.

Undergraduate requirements for students in the accelerated program

Take the following 48 units:

Core Requirements with grades of "C" or better (24 units):

CMF 106, CMF 121, CMF 122, CMF 129, CMF 135 (15 units)

Select one from: CMF 426C or CMF 470C (3 units)

Select two from: CMF 321, CMF 322, CMF 382, CMF 482 (6 units)

Documentary Storytelling Emphasis Requirements (24 units):

CMF 235, CMF 275, CMF 328W, CMF 336, CMF 438, CMF 446, CMF 450 (21 units)

Accelerated students substitute COM 535 for CMF 438, 446, or 450

Select one from (3 units):

CMF 340, CMF 435

Accelerated students substitute COM 550 for CMF 435

Graduate requirements for students in the accelerated program

Take the following **36 units** while remaining in [good academic standing](#):

Core requirements (12 units):

COM 600 and COM 601 (6 units)

COM 698 (3 units)

Select one from: COM 602, COM 603, or COM 604 (3 units)

Note: Documentary Studies students should select COM 603 unless otherwise approved by their advisor

Documentary Studies Emphasis (9 units)

COM 535 (3 units)

COM 550 (3 units)

COM 605 (3 units)

Additional graduate-level coursework chosen in consultation with a graduate faculty advisor. Select elective courses from any graduate program that will help provide you with the research tools, specialization, knowledge, and intercultural understanding needed for documentary work. (9-12 units)
For accelerated students, 3 of these elective credits will be either CMF 426C or CMF 470C.

All students will select either the Thesis or Project Option (3-6 units)

Thesis Option

COM 699 (6 units). Be aware that students may end up taking more than the 6 units that count toward the degree, as enrollment in COM 699 is required each fall and spring semester once a student begins the thesis until the student graduates. Additionally, students must enroll for at least 1 unit of COM 699 the semester in which they plan to defend and graduate, including summer, regardless of the number of units already taken. (6 units)

Project Option

COM 690 (3 or 6 units). Be aware that students may end up taking more than the 3 or 6 units that count toward the degree, as enrollment for at least one credit of COM 690 may be required each semester in which a student works on a project.

Please see the next page for a sample progression plan.

Suggested Progression Plan

^ Denotes undergraduate course applied towards the undergraduate degree

% Denotes a course that applies towards both degrees

***** Denotes graduate course applied towards the graduate degree (must be taken after completion of bachelor's degree)

Fall Year 1 (Term 1: 16 units)	Spring Year 1 (Term 2: 15 units)
^ CMF 121	^ CMF 106 (also meets AHI Liberal Studies requirement)
^ CMF 122	^ CMF 135
^ CMF 129	^ Liberal Studies
^ Liberal Studies and/or Diversity	^ Liberal Studies and/or Diversity
^ Foundation English or Math	^ Foundation Math or English

Fall Year 2 (Term 3: 15 units)	Spring Year 2 (Term 4: 15 units)
^ CMF 235	^CMF 321, 322, or 382
^ CMF 275	^ Liberal Studies and/or Diversity
^ Liberal Studies and/or Diversity	^ Liberal Studies and/or Diversity
^ Liberal Studies and/or Diversity	^ Liberal Studies and/or Diversity
^ General Elective Course	^ General Elective Course

Fall Year 3 (Term 5: 16 units)	Spring Year 3 (Term 6: 15 units)
^ CMF 328W	^ CMF 321, 322, 382, or 482
^ CMF 336	^ CMF 438, 446 or 450
^ Liberal Studies Lab Science Lecture	^ Liberal Studies and/or Diversity
^ Liberal Studies Lab Science Lab	^ Liberal Studies and/or Diversity
^ Liberal Studies and/or Diversity	^ General Elective Course

Fall Year 4 (Term 7: 15 units)	Spring Year 4 (Term 8: 15 units; graduate with BS)
% COM 535 (substitute for CMF 438, 446 or 450)	% CMF 426C or 470C
^ CMF 438, 446 or 450	% COM 550 (substitute for CMF 435)
^ General Elective Course	^ General Elective Course
^ General Elective Course	^ General Elective Course
^ General Elective Course	^ General Elective Course

Fall Year 5 (Term 9: 9 units)	Spring Year 5 (Term 10: 9 units)
* COM 600	* COM 603
* COM 601	* COM 698 or Graduate-level elective
* COM 605	* Graduate-level elective

Fall Year 6 (Term 11: 9 units; graduate with MA)	
* COM 690 or 699 (3-6 units)	
* COM 698 or Graduate-level elective	
* Graduate level elective (if only 3 cr. COM 690)	

This sample progression plan reduces the time to complete both the BS and MA degrees by one semester, from six years to five and a half. If students begin taking more than 30 credits per year early enough in their undergraduate career, they may be able to reduce the time to their bachelor's degree by one semester, potentially reducing the time to complete both the BS and MA degrees by a full year.