



THE UNIVERSITY  
OF TAMPA

**BFA, B.A. and Minor in Film and Media Arts**

**BFA and Minor in Animation**

**BFA and Minor in New Media**

**Minor in Digital Media**

**Minor in Interactive Media**

The Department of Film, Animation and New Media fosters creative expression and professional technique among student filmmakers and visual producers. The department's majors offer a comprehensive and rigorous approach to some of today's most popular and compelling art forms, which are a chief source of modern entertainment and information. Above, professor Dana Plays, an internationally recognized filmmaker and digital media artist, teaches cinematography techniques to a senior seminar class.

## What Will You Learn?

UT's programs in film and media arts provide a balanced blend of theory and technique. The **BFA in film and media arts** is a professional program that specializes in hands-on film production and post-production, preparing students for careers in filmmaking and for MFA programs.

The **B.A. in film and media arts** is a liberal arts program that blends film theory and criticism with film production.

The **minor in film and media arts** is a useful complement to a variety of degree programs, including those in communication, art, music, advertising and public relations, English, journalism, theater and more.

The **BFA in animation** is a professional program focusing on traditional and computer animation (CGI), 3-D animation, motion effects and visual and advanced software applications. Students are equipped to seek roles as creative artists within the animation industry at companies such as Pixar and Disney, or in the gaming

industry. A **minor in animation** is also offered.

The **BFA in new media** is an interdisciplinary professional program including coursework in film, animation, art, communication, information and technology management, music and writing. Courses focus on designing and creating applications for interactive media, mobile platforms and the internet. Students may also choose to **minor in new media**.

The department also offers a **minor in digital media**, which emphasizes the creative uses of computing technology for professional and experimental purposes, as well as a **minor in interactive media**, which brings together students from different backgrounds to learn about application development, web design, mobile design, creative coding and other emerging technologies.

## Sample Courses

Narrative Production

Documentary Production

Experimental Filmmaking

Screenwriting I and II

Producing

Cinematography

Advanced Post-Production

Sound in Media

Webisode Production

Digital Imaging

Animation

3-D Animation

Experimental Computing

Digital Illustration

Creative Coding

Art and Technology

Physical Computing

## FACULTY highlights



**Gregg Perkins, MFA**  
associate professor

Gregg Perkins is an artist and writer whose work has been exhibited nationally and internationally and has appeared in *Coterie*, *New Art Examiner*, *ArtUS* and [Artforum.com](http://Artforum.com). His film *Cannon Falls* was included in the Dallas, Sarasota, SoundUnseen and Wisconsin film festivals. His current research addresses the production of fictional narratives within contemporary film and visual art.



**Aaron Walker, MFA**  
associate professor

Aaron Walker specializes in narrative filmmaking and screenwriting. He previously worked as an assistant producer for Just Media, an Emmy award-winning documentary production company. Throughout his career, Walker has produced and made numerous short films. Courses he teaches at UT include Narrative Production, Documentary Production and World Cinema.

## Practical Experience

A degree is only part of what it takes to be employable as a film, animation or new media graduate. Other helpful experiences include internships, work experience and involvement in campus activities. UT students work on film and media projects locally and around the country. They also participate in internships at small production companies and large movie studios alike. Sample internship opportunities include:

- Lionsgate Films
- MGM-Disney Studios
- Spectrum Video Productions
- Universal Studios
- Chapman Leonard Studios
- City of Tampa Film Commission
- First Unit Studios
- Bay News 9
- Local TV stations: NBC, CBS, FOX, ABC and the CW

Students also gain valuable experience producing and promoting their own projects. UT provides multiple forums for students to showcase their work through popular events such as the annual Blackbox Film Festival.

Each year there are also opportunities to attend lectures and screenings by talented visiting artists, directors or television producers. Film-industry notables who have visited campus recently include:

- John McLaughlin, co-writer of the film *Black Swan*
- Boris Malden, producer of *Factory Girl*, *Premonition* and *Mr. Brooks*
- Christine Vachon, producer of *Boys*



The University of Tampa's downtown riverfront campus provides a picturesque setting for filming. Students also benefit from the University's close proximity to production companies, media outlets and other internship sites.

- Robert J. Emery, director of MSNBC documentary *For God & Country*
- Ted Hope, executive producer of *21 Grams*
- Martha Coolidge, director of *Real Genius* and *Valley Girl*
- Alix Lambert, producer/director of *The Mark of Cain*
- Michael Tully, head writer/editor of [HammerToNail.com](http://HammerToNail.com) and director of *Ping Pong Summer*

## Did You Know?

Film, animation and new media majors are instructed by prominent faculty whose films have been screened at the Cannes, Sundance and Toronto film festivals.

## What Can You Do With These Degrees?

The burgeoning fields of film, animation and new media is highly competitive and dynamic. Your studies may lead to many different career paths, including:

- Animator
- Cinematographer
- Director
- Film or TV critic
- Film editor
- Independent filmmaker
- Manuscript reader
- Multimedia artist
- Producer
- Production assistant
- Screenwriter
- Script reader
- Set designer
- Sound engineer
- Station manager
- Teacher
- Trailer editor
- Video game designer
- Web designer

Students may also apply their skills more generally in fields such as **dramatic television, business, education, social media** and the **gaming industry**. Through their studies, students develop the kind of technical, intellectual and communication abilities that many employers seek. Examples of organizations employing film, animation and new media graduates include:

- Advertising/marketing companies
- Arts organizations
- Museums and commercial galleries

**Brad Schiff '93**  
**Animation Supervisor**  
**LAIKA**  
**Portland, OR**

Brad Schiff, animation supervisor at LAIKA, a stop-motion animation studio, has worked on a string of Academy Award-nominated films, including *Coraline*, *Fantastic Mr. Fox*, *ParaNorman* and *Kubo and the Two Strings*. After graduating from The University of Tampa, Brad went on to earn a master's degree in film/animation from New York University and got his first big break working on MTV's *Celebrity Death Match*.

- Corporations and nonprofits with in-house media production units

- Universities, colleges and schools

Many graduates also choose to continue their studies in **graduate school**, with the goal of advancing their technical and artistic proficiencies, developing professional expertise, conducting research or teaching. Some earn a master of fine arts (MFA) in filmmaking, animation, creative writing, acting, new media or technical production. Others pursue a master's degree in entertainment technology or arts management, or a Ph.D. in cinema studies, digital media or communication.



### alumni profiles

**Spencer Haberman '17**  
Assistant Camera, Big Fish Entertainment, Los Angeles

**Vanda Orosz '17**  
Animation Production Assistant, The Divine Saga Studios, Tampa

**Morgan Rudd '16**  
Creative Marketing Manager, Atlantic Health Solutions, Tampa

**Matthew Goldberg '12**  
Social Media Marketer/Community Manager, Apple Vacations, Chicago

**Alan Mehanna '10**  
Director of Digital and Social Media, The Language Company; MFA graduate, University of Central Florida, Orlando

**Kelsey Stroop '10**  
Coordinator at Sandra Marsh & Associates, Los Angeles

**David Andrade '07**  
Co-Founder and Director, Theory Studios, Orlando

# Film, Animation and New Media



**Dennisha Besecker '18**  
**Major: film and media arts**  
**Hometown: Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei**  
**Activity: UT Film Society, president**

"I enjoy the department's small class sizes, which allow me to work closely with my peers," said Dennisha Besecker, whose work has been shown at the Silver Screening for Short Films in Tampa and the Tampa Bay Underground Film Festival in 2017. "Many of the students in my major know one another and are able to help with each other's projects. Plus, the professors will help you in any way you need, from obtaining film permits, to posting casting calls for actors, to serving as mentors."

## Facilities

Film, animation and new media students learn their craft using the latest technologies, including state-of-the-art digital cameras and lighting equipment, production and post-production facilities, and computer labs with industry-standard editing software. Students have access to two surround-sound screening rooms, a black box studio and control room for three-camera TV production, an audio edit suite and Foley room, video and film production labs and a 3-D animation media lab.

## Student Organizations

Students can join the **UT Film Society**, a campus organization dedicated to promoting collaboration between students, alumni, professionals and the community at large. Students may also join **Delta Kappa Alpha**, a co-ed cinema fraternity that focuses on professional development.

## Local Opportunities

The Tampa Bay area is rich in film opportunities and festivals. Students can attend and participate in festivals sponsored by the Florida Film Network, Tampa Bay Film Commission, Clearwater Film and Music Festival, Florida Independent Film Festival and more. The Gasparilla Film Festival, held in Tampa, was recently named one of the top 25 film festivals by *MovieMaker* magazine.

## Honors Program

Eligible students are invited to participate in UT's Honors Program, which fosters a close-knit atmosphere among the most inquisitive, intellectually spirited and enterprising students. Innovative courses promote learning that goes beyond the classroom. The program also sponsors community service projects and travel-study courses.



## About UT

The University of Tampa is a medium-sized, private university offering more than 200 undergraduate and graduate programs of study. Richly diverse, UT is the school of choice for approximately 9,600 students from all 50 states and 132 countries.

Visit [www.ut.edu/filmanimationandnewmedia](http://www.ut.edu/filmanimationandnewmedia) for more information about UT's Department of Film, Animation and New Media.

