

INTERMEDIA

The MFA in Intermedia is an interdisciplinary creative studio-centered program committed to hybrid creative research, experimental technological production, as well as development and production in hybrid forms of art such as time-based media, digital and video art, installation, performance art, artists' books and multiples, community-based social art practices, conceptual art, net art, and other new forms that the students may generate from their own Intermedial explorations. These new forms are however, not without grounding in, or connections to, traditional art forms in music, writing, performance studies, media studies, and the visual arts.

The MFA focuses on the intersection of new technologies and creative production. The name of the program Intermedia reflects our aim and intent - that is to work with, and study creative processes which fall conceptually and physically between known/used media, as well as between traditional disciplines such as photography and computer science, biology and sculpture, or music and sociology. Students will develop diverse skills grounded in methodologies from many disciplines that foster innovative, analytic, and speculative thinking necessary for innovative production and creative thinking in Intermedia.

Program Requirements

The three-year MFA degree in Intermedia at the University of Maine provides graduate students with the opportunity to engage in innovative, creative and theoretical work in a flexible program that encourages individual development within an interdisciplinary context. The 60 credit curriculum is designed for 18 credits per year with 6 credits in summer of the third year for Thesis Exhibition preparation and presentation, but it may also be completed on a part time basis over a longer time period

Financial Aid

In addition to University fellowships and scholarships listed elsewhere in this Catalog, the Intermedia Program and the New Media Department offer graduate assistantships to qualified students. Graduate assistants can take the form of either an RA or a TA position. RA's will be involved in a variety of research and program support roles in working with the faculty in the multiple affiliated departments dependant on the student's background and skills. TA positions are offered in conjunction with undergraduate New Media classes and thus require specific media and/or programming knowledge. Teaching assistants are carefully supervised and develop instructional skills that prove useful in later professional careers. Assistantships are nine-month appointments that include tuition waiver and monthly stipends. Applicants interested in an assistantship should so indicate in their initial application for admission and contact the Intermedia Program for specific available assistantships.

Course of Study

Given the nature of Intermedia as a non-disciplinary bound, research-based activity it is central that the program be simultaneously structured but flexible to allow for varieties of student choices and areas of study. The standard conceptual and structural elements of the program consist of the following areas or categories:

- Basic creative approaches, history and theory
- Ongoing individualized research and creative production
- Praxis production and research studio work
- Individualized technical and theoretical areas
- Field experience/study abroad experience

Area One - Basic creative approaches, history and theory; consists of two foundational classes, IMD 500 Creative Concept Development and IMD 501 Histories and Theories of Intermedia. These two classes will be required of all first year MFA students and will give them strong foundations in diverse approaches to creative and research work as well as historical and theoretical foundations in Intermedia.

Area Two - Ongoing individualized research and creative production; will be facilitated through Intermedia Studio Critique classes (IMD 570, IMD 571 and IMD 572). In these classes students will gain practical experience in conceptualization of work, design implementation, physical production, and presentation of research/creative work.

Area Three - Praxis production and research studio work; consist of three primary areas taken in three different classes (one taken each year). IMD 560 Research Studio I Critical Research Methods for Arts Production , IMD 561 Research Studio II Projects in Collaborative production, and IMD 562 Research Studio III Research and Development for large-scale projects.

Area Four - Individualized, technical and theoretical areas; will give students the opportunity to select classes that will allow them to develop specific technical and production skills based in traditional disciplinary areas as well as in new or hybrid areas in order to develop skills and knowledge specific to their individualized directions in Intermedia research and production.

Area Five - Field experience/study abroad experience; is intended to broaden and deepen the interdisciplinary nature of the program. This component is aimed to offer flexible possibilities to the students allowing them to choose either continuing study at a collaborating institution or other institutions as arranged by the student, or to spend a semester doing in-depth study in an appropriate outside discipline related to their primary interdisciplinary pursuits.

Applications

Applications are accepted once a year; the deadline is January 15th of the year in which you wish to start your graduate studies. Applicants must complete an application to the Graduate School as well as send a CV, Portfolio and letters of reference to the Intermedia Program.

Correspondence

The Graduate School
5755 Stodder Hall Room 42
University of Maine
Orono, ME 04469-5755
207-581-3291
graduate@maine.edu

Intermedia Program
426 Chadbourne Hall
University of Maine
Orono, ME 04469-5713
207-581-4389
ofsmith@maine.edu