Studies in Cinema and Media Culture (SCMC) examines cinema by emphasizing its location within the intricate social, historical, and cultural matrix of audiovisual forms and practices. Students explore the sounds and images of cinema as they have changed throughout the 19th and 20th centuries. Students develop the ability to "read" the production and circulation of meaning in cinema, especially within the institutions of mass culture; examine the history of cinema cultures; engage the cross-cultural and global dynamics of cinema production and reception; and explore the theoretical models that have shaped thinking about the cinema and its relations to other media. Although the major includes a production component, its principal focus is on cultural contexts, history, and theory.

The College of Liberal Arts Advantage: More Than a Major

When you study Studies in Cinema and Media Culture at the University of Minnesota, you gain the added advantage of a College of Liberal Arts education. At CLA, the liberal arts mean you get more than just a degree in one major or another; it means you will be exposed to different areas of study, to different ways of thinking and learning. In fact, the liberal arts teach you how to learn—how to ask the right questions, how to problem solve, and how to innovate. The liberal arts prepare students for the complexities of our world, because here at CLA you will study not just, say, politics or art but also where politics and art intersect, where science and ethics intersect, where economics and the environment intersect.
Student Experiences

Internships: Gain Valuable Experience in the Twin Cities and Beyond
Did you know? CLA Career Services has its very own internship reflection course! Students taking an internship can use this course to reflect on ways that their work experience is preparing them for successful careers - and receive credit for the work.

Learning Abroad: Prepare to Lead in a Global Economy
Learn more about study abroad for Studies in Cinema and Media Culture majors.

Undergraduate Research: Shape Your Curiosity into New Knowledge
The University has funding opportunities available for undergraduates who wish to gain research experience. Programs such as the Undergraduate Research Opportunities Program (UROP) gives undergraduate students the chance to work closely with faculty members on research projects. Full information about this can be found in Undergraduate Research Opportunities.

Student Organizations: Find Friends and Grow as a Leader
- CSCL Student Association
- Music and Sound Studies Interdisciplinary Student Group

Meet Our Alumni

Marianna Mattes has a passion for film and a love for making sense of the world around us. Now under the guidance of award-winning filmmaker Melody Gilbert,
Mattes credits CLA with giving her the skills to pursue a career in film.

Read more about Marianna's story.

CLA Graduates: Successful Careers and Purposeful Lives

CLA graduates succeed in many different careers — law, health care, medicine, business, government, teaching, advertising, arts and entertainment, international relations, and more — precisely because they understand how to navigate a complex and interconnected world. As our alumni explain below, “Being a good employee means being curious, and continuing to evolve, and learn, and educate yourself, and I can think of no stronger foundation for doing that than a liberal arts education.

“An education in the liberal arts is a springboard to lifelong career success”

-- Dean John Coleman

You might also explore

Cultural Studies and Comparative Literature
Global Studies
Theatre Arts

Associated Careers

Advertisers, Cinematographers, Film Critics, Market Researchers, Screen Writers,
Digital Artists, Producers, Talent Agents, Video Game Developers, Video Producers, Webmasters

Admission Information

FRESHMAN: Admission information

TRANSFER STUDENTS: Requirements for the College of Liberal Arts

Beyond admission, if you have questions about transferring, the College of Liberal Arts (CLA) has transfer advisors to help. Please feel free to contact them about any of the topics below:

- Course plans before transferring
- Estimated time to graduation
- Career preparation in CLA
- Getting ready for orientation, if admitted
- Connecting with major/minor departments