

**INSTRUCTIONS FOR APPLYING FOR ADMISSION TO THE UNCW FILM STUDIES MAJOR**  
(Revised 2/4/20)

**Academic Gateway Requirements for the Film Studies Major**

While taking or upon completing FST 200 Introduction to Film Study, a student may apply to become a film studies (FST) major. The Film Studies Department accepts a limited number of students each semester. Admission to the major is based solely upon a student's grade in FST 200. For purposes of admission to the FST major, the department only credits students' first or second grade in FST 200 (i.e., students may repeat the course once, including graded audits).

**Instructions for Declaring a PFST Major**

Students seeking to major in film studies before completing FST 200 may declare a pre-film studies (PFST) major through the "Major Declaration" page in Seaport.

**Instructions for Applying to the FST Major**

While enrolled in FST 200 or anytime after completing the course, students seeking to major in film studies must sign a "Film Studies Major Application Form," which may be found in the Film Studies Department office. No other action is necessary.

**Admissions Timeframe**

The department makes admissions decisions in the week following the December and May Commencement ceremonies, after grades in FST 200 have posted.

**FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS**

**Should I declare a PFST major before declaring an FST major?**

Typically, yes. Students intending to major in Film Studies should declare a PFST major once they have completed 24 credit hours. Declaring a PFST major enables students to obtain advising through the Film Studies Department and to enroll in certain courses restricted to PFST and FST majors, such as FST 201 Introduction to Film Production. PFST majors are also included in the Film Studies email listserv. If a student's application to the FST major is approved, the Film Studies department will arrange to move a PFST major into the FST major.

Some students may move directly from University College into the FST major, if they have taken FST 200 and are admitted to the major as freshmen.

**Should I take FST 110 Concepts in Film before taking FST 200 Introduction to Film Study?**

No. FST 110 is designed for non-majors and serves no major requirement.

**When is a good time to take FST 200 Introduction to Film Study?**

We recommend students take FST 200 in their sophomore year. Since the course is difficult and determines admission to the major, freshmen should not take it in their first semester at college. Freshmen who feel themselves ready for the course might take it in their second semester, however.

**Can I take FST 200 and FST 201 Introduction to Film Production at the same time?**

Maybe. FST 201 is restricted to PFST and FST majors; freshmen cannot take it. However, students who have declared a PFST major may take FST 201 while taking FST 200.

We recommend that prospective majors take FST 201 either during or immediately after taking FST 200 because FST 201 is required for almost every other production course in the major.

**I am currently taking FST 200. Should I enroll in FST 205 Introduction to World Cinema during pre-registration, before I have been admitted to the FST major?**

Yes. FST 205 is required for almost every other critical studies course in the major, so we recommend that students take it immediately after taking FST 200. Students will be allowed to pre-register for FST 205 while they are taking FST 200; however, those students who are not admitted to the major will be removed from FST 205 since it is restricted to FST majors.

**What are my chances of being admitted to the FST major?**

The department determines how many student majors it can accommodate and admits as many as possible, depending on department resources (faculty, space, and equipment). Currently, the department admits approximately 120 students to the major each year.

Admission decisions are based solely on students' grades in FST 200 (e.g. students who earned a B in FST 200 will be admitted before students who earned a B-). Hence, the chance of being admitted to the major varies semester by semester, depending on the median grade in FST 200. The cut-off grade for a given semester is determined after grades in FST 200 have been posted and reviewed.

**When should I apply to the FST major?**

You may sign the "Film Studies Major Application Form," available in the Film Studies Department office, while you are taking FST 200 or anytime afterward. In order to ensure that your application is considered before the upcoming semester, you must sign the form at least 10 days before Commencement.

**When does the department determine admission to the FST major?**

The department admits majors twice each year, shortly after December and May Commencement.

**What happens after students apply for admission to the FST major?**

After the department determines the FST 200 grade cut-off point, it notifies applicants and forwards the names of admitted students to the Registrar, who registers them in the FST major.

**How and when will students be notified of application decisions?**

Within a week after Commencement, applicants will receive notification, through their UNCW email accounts, of their acceptance or rejection. Successful applicants may confirm their admission through their degree audits, which will indicate that they are FST majors.

**If I am already another major and admitted to the FST major, do I become a double major?**

Yes. If you want to major only in Film Studies, you must drop your other major.

**What happens to students whose applications to the major have been rejected?**

Students whose applications have been rejected will be removed from courses restricted to majors, including FST 205 and any courses that have FST 205 as a co-requisite.

**Can students appeal a rejection of admission to the FST major? And can I apply again to the FST major if my first application is rejected?**

Admission decisions are final and may not be appealed. However, since the cut-off grade for admission may change in another semester, students may reapply to the FST major by signing another Application Form.

**Can students retake FST 200 and use the new grade for admission to the major?**

Yes, but students may only retake FST 200 once (including graded audits). Students who receive below a "C" grade in FST 200 may simply repeat the course. Students who receive a "C" or higher may arrange to retake the course as a "graded audit," following the procedure established by the Office of the Registrar. Admission to the major will be based on a student's highest grade in FST 200. Students should recognize, however, that retaking the course may impede their progress toward graduation.

**Can transfer grades be used for admission to the FST major if a student has completed a course similar to FST 200 at another institution?**

No. Students must complete film studies core courses (FST 200, 201, and 205) at UNCW.