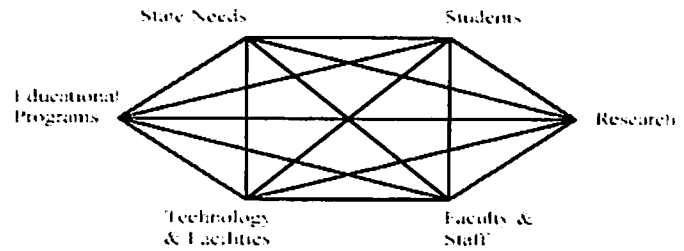


**Regents Guidelines**  
**University of Alaska Board of Regents**  
**Program Approval Summary Form**

MAU: UAF  
Title: Film  
Target admission date: Fall 2010



**How does the program relate to the Education mission of the University of Alaska and the MAU?**

The movement towards a major degree in Film began in 1991 when Associate Professor, Anatoly Antohin, founded the UAF Film Club, followed by the approval of the Film Studies minor in 1992. Since this time, the departments of Theatre (who houses the film minor), English, Journalism, and Art, with assistance from the Center of Distance Education, have collaborated to offer courses that meet the needs of this requirement. Each of the aforementioned academic programs have independently, and collaboratively, added courses, technologies, and faculty proficient in areas of Film. The annual assessments of the theatre department from 2000-2004 clearly indicated a growing trend in student interest and previous academic work in media arts, with a decline in performing arts at the high school level. In 2005 the FLM designator for film studies was included in the course catalogue, leading to a clear increase in class enrollments cross listed with FLM.

Over the 2007-2008 academic year, an interdisciplinary committee of UAF faculty formed the Ad Hoc Digital Cinema Curriculum Committee in response to the CLA Curriculum Council's recommendations. This committee, consisting of Miho Aoki (Art), Anatoly Antohin (Theatre), Karen Grossweiner (English), Leonard Kamerling (English/UA Museum), Robert Prince (previously of Journalism), Kade Mendelowitz (Theatre), and Maya Salganek (Committee Chair, Theatre/Film) met regularly to initiate this Film program proposal. Maya Salganek ultimately wrote the proposal. UAF's peer institutions were looked to as guidance in demonstrating the need, viability, and academic approach to a program in Media Arts and Film. In particular, the University of Montana in Missoula, University of Cornell, University of Idaho, and the University of Utah were all researched as references to the development of this program. Discussions with UA's Office of Information Technology, Rasmuson Library, and the Center for Academic Technologies were all consulted along with academic departments.

**What State Needs met by this program.**

Alaska is a film destination, frequently hosting film crews from around the world that seek out the unique landscapes, people, politics, and stories that only Alaska can offer. Hundreds of film professionals work in Alaska annually, and frequently they contact the University of Alaska Fairbanks Theatre department or Journalism department looking for assistants, resources, or advice. Unfortunately, the majority of the time they opt to bringing their own production assistants, sound techs, and producers to Alaska as they can not find the support here to help them with their projects.

The University of Alaska has many pockets of media studies and media arts courses, but no definitive program that unites all of the disparate faculty and students, and resources together. As a result, the state needs which are broadcast on a daily basis through the Alaska Film Board's website largely go unaddressed by the University of Alaska.

According to information collected from the State of Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development, the number of jobs in the motion picture industry subcategory of video

production (category 512), have increased from a statewide average of 37 jobs in 1997 to an average of 370 jobs in 2007! A 100% increase in video production jobs over 10 years reveals only one aspect of the potential growth of this medium. These numbers do NOT include television broadcasting, advertising, or web/internet based production.

In Spring of 2007, the Alaska State Legislature passes Senate Bill 230 which established a state film office and tax incentive program. This bill was signed into law by Governor Palin on June 4, 2008, and includes a provision that the state will certify an internship program to help develop the demands of the Alaska Film Industry. Maya Salganek testified to the Legislature in favor of SB 230 several times over the past year, and is currently working with the Film Office to develop the UAF Film degree program as a state certified program for the industry.

#### What are the Student opportunities and outcomes? Enrollment projections?

In the Spring of 2007 Theatre UAF offered an internship with Grey Jumper Productions, an independent film company who was producing a film written by a UAF alum. The resulting film produced, *Chronic Town*, was premiered at the Sundance Film Festival in January 2008. This film highlighted UAF campus, students, staff, and faculty as locations, production assistants, producers, extras, and actors.

As an interdisciplinary medium, film and video studies attract students from a wide variety of backgrounds and academic disciplines. Both undergrads and graduate students use digital media for basic research and to enhance the understanding of their research subjects. In May of 2008 the Film program collaborated with the Geophysical Institute, and offered an interdisciplinary class in Barrow, Alaska. Film students learned about arctic documentary filmmaking while focusing on a group of sea-ice scientists and students. The material shot during the Maymester course will become part of a DVD and Sea-Ice Research Manual to be published by UA Press in 2009. Enrolled in the film portion of the course were 10 students, from PhD to undergraduate, working in diverse fields such as Wildlife Biology, Natural Resource Management, Anthropology, and Theatre.

Since beginning the film minor in 1992, we have graduated 24 students with film minors. By offering the FLM (film) designator in the course catalog in Fall 2005, we have noticed a considerable increase in interest and enrollment in classes cross-listed with FLM. Movies and Films FLM/THR F331 had 23 enrolled in Fall 2005 compared to 17 enrolled in Fall 2004 when only the Theatre designator was used. In spring 2007, this same class saw a record total of 30 enrolled students, with 19 of them registered under FLM (63%) and only 11 of them registered under THR (37%). Similarly, in Fall 2006 Intro to the Study of Film FLM/JRN F217 had an enrollment of 26 students compared to 15 enrolled in the Spring of 2005. It is anticipated that numbers will continue to increase as visibility of the program grows. More courses were cross-listed with the Film designator in 2007-2008, which is anticipated to help contribute to the growth of many courses.

#### Describe Research opportunities:

Students of Film will have the opportunity to participate in professional video and film production projects conducted both for UAF programs and outside organizations. Current projects include the Geophysical Institute's Sizonet project documenting sea ice research in conjunction with the International Polar Year; the UAF College of Education Yup'ik Math Program documenting elder's knowledge of traditional mathematics; authoring DVD guides for curriculum instruction for teachers; and the Fairbanks North Star Borough School District's Project ARTiculate documenting the training educators in the visual and performing arts. Students will assist faculty in all stages of video production and will be included as collaborators in the projects.

Describe Fiscal Plan for development and implementation:

By providing video production services – from writing to directing, filming to editing and DVD authoring in conjunction with students, the Film program will be able to help offset costs by working in tandem with departmental grants and grant development in a variety of fields. Student fees would help assist for the annual expenses of computer labs, video and audio equipment, etc.

By pooling the current resources of the Journalism, Art, and Theatre programs, students should have sufficient access to required video production equipment. However, combining these resources and managing them would require a more sophisticated equipment management and maintenance system. Options include using the resources of the Rasmuson Library for equipment check-out, or a similar system for departmental check-out.

In Spring 2009 the Provost awarded Maya Salganek' proposal for purchasing a UAF site license for video editing software, Final Cut Pro. With OIT support, this software should be installed within the year, streamlining editing facilities across campus and significantly contributing to the Film program's needs.