

## Cinema and Television Arts B.F.A. Thesis Project

The BFA in Cinema and Television Arts is an intensive degree for students who want to go above and beyond what they can do in the normal sequence of classes within the major. The thesis project is the culminating experience for students in the BFA program, and should demonstrate advanced research, technical, and creative skills, fostered through experiential learning and one-on-one faculty mentorship. Students independently produce an original festival-quality television or cinematic work, script, or other media product. Students submit a proposal during their junior year that includes substantive written documentation explaining the goals and objectives of the project.

The BFA thesis project consists of:

- at least 3-4 page written proposal based on the application guidelines.
- two consecutive semesters of CTA 4970 (2 sh/ea semester).
- regularly scheduled meetings with the thesis project faculty mentor over two semesters.
- a fully developed production notebook including literature, film, and source material review, and reflection.
- a midpoint review (must pass the first section to continue in the BFA).
- a substantial festival-quality project (nature and length to be determined with faculty mentor).
- a public screening/presentation and thesis defense of project to faculty mentor and committee.

### Timeline

Junior Year – Fall	Junior Year – Spring
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Envision concept for project</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Work on BFA proposal (all signatures due no later than April 15)</li> </ul>
Senior Year – Fall	Senior Year – Spring
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Enroll in CTA 4970, BFA Thesis Project (Must pass the first section to continue in the BFA).</li> <li>• Conduct review of pertinent motion pictures, artworks in other mediums, literature, including historic and journalistic sources, scholarly writing, and creative works</li> <li>• Complete pre-production of project</li> <li>• Complete production notebook that informs the project</li> <li>• Apply for grant funding, if appropriate</li> <li>• Begin production of project upon approval of pre-production documents by the faculty mentor</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Enroll in CTA 4970, BFA Thesis Project (Must pass the second section to receive the BFA).</li> <li>• Complete production of project</li> <li>• Complete post-production of project</li> <li>• Delivery of project to faculty mentor - See course syllabus for deadlines.</li> <li>• Public presentation/screening of thesis project</li> </ul>

# Cinema and Television Arts B.F.A. Thesis Project Application

*(Typed, please)*

Name:

OnTrack ID#:

Email address:

Cell phone number:

1<sup>st</sup> Elon semester (month/year):

Graduation date: Minor(s):

Major(s):

Project Title:

# Cinema and Television Arts B.F.A. Thesis Project Proposal Requirements and Format

Your 3-4 page proposal should be typed, double spaced, and proofread carefully. In it, explain the suitability of the thesis project in terms of its challenge, significance, and practicality. Use the following section headings:

## **Final Product:**

Provide a general description of what your final product will look like. Include expected format and length. Also, if you feel you have any unique opportunities for exhibition of your work beyond film festivals and Elon University please indicate.

## **Logline:**

In 1-3 sentences give an overview/pitch of your project.

## **Story Synopsis:**

In a single page, clearly summarize the story and/or concept of the project including its basic structure and story arc. Be sure to identify key characters or participants, as well as any locations.

## **Main Goal of the Project:**

In addressing this, you should consider the following questions: Why is this story important to you? What themes and issues will you investigate? Why do you think it will resonate with an audience, and who is that intended audience? What worthwhile challenges does the project present to you? How is this project original or unique, and how could it potentially add to the fields of television, or other media?

## **Review of Relevant Sources:**

You must include the following: What sources will you use in researching your themes, characters, story, setting, and locations? What sources will you use to research the style and look of your project? This section should include books, articles, motions pictures, scholarly writings, as well as visual references such as photography, architecture, fine art, etc.

## **Methods:**

Describe the methods, procedures, and tasks you will use in completing this project. How will you collect information and produce audio, video, graphics, or other materials?

Outline your specific contributions to this work (i.e. screenwriter, director, editor, etc.). Describe any additional personnel or crew that you will need to support this production. Also, outline any on-camera or voice-over talent needed for this production (narrator, actors/actresses, extras, etc.).

## **Budget:**

Provide a budget outlining any projected expenses involved in the production of this project (sets, location costs, costumes, original music, etc.) and the source(s) of funding to support expenses that exceed existing resources provided by the School of Communications.

## **Timeline:**

Outline the major steps with projected completion dates.

## Cinema and Television Arts B.F.A. Thesis Project Proposal Approval Form

**INSTRUCTIONS FOR ELECTRONIC SIGNATURES:** After opening this form in Acrobat Pro DC, select the Fill and Sign button from the tool bar on the right. Next, use the **TEXT TOOL** to type your name and the **SIGNATURE TOOL** to sign. Save the document and then email to Department Chair (Professor Staci Saltz – [ssaltz@elon.edu](mailto:ssaltz@elon.edu)) for final approval.

BFA Thesis Title: \_\_\_\_\_

**STUDENT:** The student’s signature below indicates that he or she understands the School of Communications thesis project requirements and agrees to comply with those expectations and Elon’s Honor Code.

\_\_\_\_\_  
BFA Student (type name)

\_\_\_\_\_  
BFA Student (electronic signature)

**Thesis Proposal and Signature Form**  
**DUE TO DEPARTMENT CHAIR BY APRIL 15**  
**email: [ssaltz@elon.edu](mailto:ssaltz@elon.edu)**

**DEPARTMENT CHAIR:** The Department Chair’s signature below indicates that they have seen the thesis project proposal and agree that the project is suitable and practical.

Professor Staci Saltz  
Department Chair  
Cinema and Television Arts Department

\_\_\_\_\_  
Department Chair (electronic signature)