MFA in Integrated Media Arts: Critique Policy

Each student in the MFA/IMA Program is required to pass two formal critique sessions while enrolled in the program. Critique sessions consist of students showing their work during a scheduled critique session in person to at least three MFA/IMA faculty members. Crit week will take place during the finals week of each semester. No MFA/IMA seminars or workshops will be held during this period, to ensure that all current MFA/IMA faculty members are available to participate in the crit process for a minimum of three hours. Students will be scheduled for a critique session by the program. The schedule will be posted at least one week before crit week.

The first required crit session (Mid-program Critique) comes after the completion of five creative cluster (Words, Visions, Channels) workshops. The second required crit session (End-of-program Critique) comes after the completion of ten creative cluster workshops. In order for a workshop to count towards a student’s accumulation of coursework toward the degree, a passing grade in each seminar and workshop is required. A grade of C/C+ is considered a failing grade in the IMA/MFA program. Students are permitted to re-take a class in which they have received a failing grade.

The student will present visual, sound and/or interactive media work at the crit session. Students will select work to be presented to the crit panel. At both the Mid-program and End-of-program Critique, students are required to provide the panel with a one-page written artist’s statement describing the work they are presenting, their social and aesthetic goals and future directions. Written work over two pages must be submitted to the panel at least one week before the crit session is scheduled, and will be discussed, along with other work, during the session.

Members of the faculty panel will offer verbal and written evaluations of work presented. The purpose of these sessions is to offer supportive comments that will help students to effectively realize their creative and conceptual goals. Students are encouraged to ask specific questions of the critique panel but are not permitted to respond to comments made by the panel during the session.

At the End-of-program Critique, students must present a draft Thesis Description to the panel. As is the case with any written work over two pages, this description must be provided to the panel to read at least one week before the scheduled crit session. Please see the MFA Thesis Guidelines for details on the format and contents of the Thesis Description.

Guests may attend crit presentations, but guests may not participate in the critique discussion. At the End-of-program Critique, if a student’s proposed primary thesis advisor is not already a member of the panel, the student may invite the proposed primary thesis advisor to attend and speak in support of the student’s proposed Thesis Project. If it is not possible for the proposed primary thesis advisor to attend in person, he or she may write a note of support of the student’s Thesis Project to the panel. In rare cases, if a student has not identified a primary thesis advisor, a member of the critique panel interested in the proposed project may step forward to become the student’s primary thesis advisor. However, students are warned against counting on a panel member to step forward as it is likely to be a very rare event, and are advised to find a willing primary thesis advisor prior to the End-of-program Critique session.
Passing the two crit sessions is a requirement of the program and, should the student’s work be judged unsatisfactory or incomplete, the panel will request that the student resubmit work in the next semester’s crit week. Students may repeat the Mid-program (5 workshops) and End-of-program (10 workshops) critiques up to two times each. Students who do not attend their scheduled critique session are counted as failing that session.

If a student has not passed the End-of-program critique, but is finished with the 10 cluster workshops, he or she is encouraged to take additional workshops in order to refine and develop the quality of their work.

Successful passage of the End-of-program critique session is necessary in order to be approved to move forward with the Thesis Project, and to complete the requirements for the MFA/IMA degree.
1. Idea or ideas being presented: originality, poignancy, specificity, research.

2. Technical competency. Capacity to use tools in order to achieve creative objectives. (visual composition; sound design; writing; graphic elements, typography, etc., as applicable)

3. To what extent does this piece have a clear, identifiable voice?
   Is it consistent throughout? (as applicable)

4. Public relevance. Does the work speak effectively to an intended audience?

5. Ability to talk about and contextualize the work presented and its aims.

Overall Evaluation (Pass or Re-Present next semester):