

Cinema & Media Arts Production Info Session

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On Oct. 24, Dr. Stacy Rusnak and Dr. Danielle Williams led an hour-long information session for one of GGC's newest majors, Cinema Media Art and Production, or CMAP, to help CMAP majors better understand the plans that have been set to help guide them.

The major was announced in fall of 2017 but was just recently recognized by the USG, and as of right now, there are only three concentrations for the CMAP major: Production and Design, Writing for Screen and Stage, and Entertainment Media Studies.

As seniors, CMAP students will be expected to perform the CAPSTONE project class. This is one of the final classes students take as CMAP majors and will put everything they have learned during their time at GGC to the test.

"It's going to be taught where all three tracks are in the same class. For design and production folks, you're going to make a short film, but it will be longer than what you do in production one and two." said Dr. Williams, Assistant Professor of Film.

"If you are in the writing track, it's going to be writing a longer script than what you have written in the other writing classes. And if you're in the entertainment industry then you are writing a research paper that is longer than . . . I'm saying it's longer, but it's something that can be done in a semester," Dr. Williams said.

One of the major concerns brought up by multiple students of CMAP is the way the classes are organized. For many, spring 2020 would be the earliest students could graduate. The students that are able to graduate in 2020 are ahead because they have either already taken several classes before the major became finalized or have early registration.

"For freshmen and sophomores, it shouldn't be a problem, but for us juniors and seniors or students on financial aid, it's incredibly disappointing," said Arturo Arredondo, Junior CMAP major.

"Course availability is already limited each semester, and there are too few slots in those classes for the massive number of CMAP majors. So you're trying to maintain full-time credit hours while balancing personal issues while still being more or less forced to come to school four to five days a week," Arredondo said. "Having to put a job and life on the backburner for longer than expected is frustrating when it's because of someone else's plan."

There are currently over 460 students enrolled in the CMAP major versus the 61 students that switched to the major during fall 2017, not long after being announced. With the influx of GGC's population, the major quickly grew past what the professors had originally intended, and professors are now having to find ways to accommodate those students.

"I've only taken entry-level courses, so I can't speak for the entire program, but it seems like they do a good job of introducing people into the world of film and video production," said Zachary Hicks, Film Club president and CMAP major.

During an interview with Dr. Rusnak, associate professor of film, students were given both a detailed summary of the major's history and its reason for not just being the average film studies program. Originally, it was believed by a majority that CMAP was simply a film major but Dr. Rusnak explained that it's a multimedia style of major allowing students to work in TV, film, advertising, music industry or anything involved with production skills. The courses help build appreciation for each field, acting, and help build upon students critical thinking skills, philosophy, and film theory.

"At the time, when we were thinking about CMAP, we wanted it to be something bigger and not just be film," Dr. Rusnak said. "So, by doing cinema media arts and production, we are actually able to hit on a lot of areas, so that's the big jump from the film to the CMAP."

The CMAP major and its courses are causing some headache, but in the end it's worth it. Georgia's growing film and production community warrants the need for a major like this. As time goes on more classes will be added on, the Georgia Film Academy (GFA) will be fully integrated with the curriculum, and the major will be able to prepare its students for their intended career.