

SUNY Buffalo State University
Television and Film Arts Program
Statement on Scholarship and Creative Activity

May 15, 2025

The Television and Film Arts (TFA) program at SUNY Buffalo State University values scholarship and creative activity as essential elements of our mission to foster dynamic storytellers, thoughtful scholars, and engaged citizens. Consistent with the standards of SUNY Buffalo State and the School of Arts and Sciences, TFA faculty are expected to pursue scholarly and creative work that enriches their teaching, advances their fields, and contributes meaningfully to broader academic, artistic, and professional communities.

Faculty members are encouraged to define their scholarly and creative agendas in ways that reflect the interdisciplinary nature of television, film, and media arts. Our scholarship encompasses a broad spectrum of work, including traditional research, creative production, critical studies, community-engaged projects, and professional industry activities. Recognizing that numerous aspects of our discipline are inherently collaborative and practice-based, we regard both artistic creation and critical inquiry as valuable forms of scholarship.

Evidence of scholarship and creative activity may include, but is not limited to:

- Narrative storytelling in the form of screenwriting, directing, producing, editing, and exhibiting film, television, and digital media works;
- Publication of peer-reviewed books, book chapters, journal articles, and essays focused on film, television, media studies, and/or creative writing;
- Public presentations, lectures, and workshops at academic, artistic, and professional conferences;
- Recognition through competitive festivals, conferences, screenings, awards, and grants;
- Community-based creative projects and public scholarship;
- Professional activities such as consulting, creative collaborations, and leadership in industry organizations.

Faculty are expected to maintain a coherent line of inquiry or creative exploration, demonstrating sustained engagement with their craft or scholarship over time. The impact, originality, and rigor of the work, along with the competitiveness and reputation of the venues in which it appears, are key considerations for evaluation. Both individual and collaborative projects are valued, with the understanding that media production often necessitates collective effort.

Because storytelling through media is both an academic and an applied art form, TFA places a strong emphasis on creative practice as scholarship. Faculty creative works should demonstrate evidence of research, innovation, and contributions to the evolving discourse of film and television arts. Critical reflection on the creative process is encouraged and can complement creative output.

The TFA program celebrates diversity in scholarship and supports each faculty member's ability to frame and articulate the significance of their work. We encourage cross-disciplinary projects, international collaborations, and experimental approaches that expand the boundaries of traditional media arts.

In all cases, scholarship and creative activity should align with the faculty member's teaching and service responsibilities, enriching the academic experience for students and supporting the program's mission. Faculty members are encouraged to pursue projects that not only advance their fields but also inspire students to engage creatively and critically with the world around them.