



The Certificate in Documentary Arts

The cornerstone of the Center for Documentary Studies' Continuing Education program is the Certificate in Documentary Arts. Enrollment in the certificate program is not required for students to take CDS courses; however, working toward a certificate provides a more formal process for involvement and for reaching specific goals. No prior educational specialization or expertise is required for enrollment in the program. Certificate students receive special invitations to events and other unique opportunities at the Center for Documentary Studies.

The certificate program establishes a process for engaging and empowering already motivated people to do the work they care about. Students are encouraged to think broadly about their projects: While most are photo, audio, or video projects, students have also completed multimedia projects, websites, books, and installations. Specific project goals, integral to the certificate program, create better opportunities for the successful completion of this work. In addition, certificate students can become part of a vibrant program with interested, supportive colleagues.

Two approaches to earning a Certificate in Documentary Arts are available. The local track is best for local students who are able to attend on-site classes at CDS. This track may take up to four years to complete. The two-year distance track is designed for students who live outside the area. Certificate graduation ceremonies are held in December and May and include public presentations of student projects.

Local Certificate Requirements:

- Application, statement of intention, and an \$80 registration fee.
- Two introductory classes: The **Introductory Seminar in Documentary Studies: Traditions**, and the **Introductory Seminar in Documentary Studies: Ethics and Practice**. The latter can be substituted with the summer **Intensive Introduction to Documentary Studies**.
- Elective courses sufficient to bring the total credits earned to **112 credit hours** when combined with the required courses (the Intro Seminars, Projects, and the Final Seminar, which total 64 hours).
- A **Projects** course, during which students develop their final projects over six weeks with the instructor in a small-group setting. This class may be taken more than once.

- The **Final Seminar in Documentary Studies**, during which students refine and polish their projects. The course culminates with a public presentation and graduation. Students must receive permission from the director of Continuing Education to enroll in the Final Seminar.

Distance Certificate Requirements:

- Application, statement of intention, and an \$80 registration fee.
- Two introductory classes: The **Introductory Seminar in Documentary Studies: Traditions**, offered online, and the **Intensive Introduction to Documentary Studies**, offered in the summer.
- **50 credit hours of elective courses.**
- **Two DocuArts sessions**, one in the first year of study and one in the second. These sessions are held over a long weekend in February.
- An **Independent Study** with one of our instructors, usually conducted via email, phone, and virtual meetings. Students can request a mentor they'd like to work with (pending availability), or we can help choose one.
- An online version of the **Final Seminar in Documentary Studies**. Students must receive permission from the director of Continuing Education to enroll in the Final Seminar. Distance students should plan to come to the subsequent graduation ceremony.

Additional information

- Students have four years from the time they enroll in the Local Certificate program to finish. The Distance Certificate is to be completed in two years.
- Any course completed counts toward the certificate. This is true even if you decide to enroll in the certificate after the course was taken.
- Students register for all classes through this site: cdscourses.org. The site keeps a record of your course and payment history. Please read the refund policy carefully. Some institutes and workshops may require a non-refundable deposit.
- The email used when you log in to the registration site will be the primary means of contact. You may receive email notices from time to time about courses.
- Registration is on a first-come, first-served basis. Instructors will contact you in the week prior to the start of class. Most classes require some work, either production or writing, outside of class.
- All courses, unless otherwise stated, will be held in the CDS building.