

CFA**Photo** Photography Minor

rev. February 18, 2025

The Photography Minor exposes students to the breadth of photography, offering experiences from traditional photography (i.e. film exposure and silver printing) to digital shooting and output. Students pursuing the Photography Minor will become familiar with a variety of photography techniques, its history and significant practitioners, and develop their own distinct engagement with the medium.

Application Process

Students may apply for the Photography Minor as early as the first semester they are enrolled in a CFA Photography course, with no additional special requirements. All undergraduate students are welcome to apply from any department and at any skill level.

Applications are accepted in both the fall and spring semesters, and students will be notified of their status prior to the start of registration week. Students will be admitted to the minor based on their aptitude, appropriate level of photography skills, and space availability within the program. Once admitted, the photo minor advisor will help them determine a sequence of courses that best fits their scheduling needs and curricular interests. Additionally, photography minors are granted on-site storage space for the duration of their time in the program.

For current deadlines: [CFA Photo website](#) and application form: [Photo Minor Application](#)
Questions? Contact Jamie Gruzka, gruzka@andrew.cmu.edu, Photography Minor Advisor

Application Materials

The following items are required for submission through our online form:

1. A completed application form, which includes signed permission from your home department advisor.
2. A personal statement, explaining why you want to minor in photography and how the minor will benefit you in the future.
3. An academic audit, including your grades. You must receive a B or better for a course to count towards the Photography Minor requirement.
4. Portfolio; see guidelines below.

Portfolio Guidelines

Your portfolio should be a collection of 10-15 images that demonstrate your current level of skill and interests. You may submit a final project from a recent photography class or assemble a cohesive body of work from recent projects. Your portfolio may take the form of an online gallery, a collection of individual image files, a multi-page PDF or a physical printed folio or book.

Portfolio Alternative

In lieu of a formal portfolio upon applying, you may request an endorsement from your current or recent CFA Photography instructor. Please have the instructor fill out the endorsement linked from the application form. If you choose this alternative, you will need to submit a portfolio by mid-semester of your final semester before graduation to complete the minor.

Curriculum

3 Required Courses (30 units)

62-141 Black & White Photography I	10 units
62-241 Black & White Photography II	10 units
62-142 Digital Photography I	10 units

1 Photography Studio Elective (10 units)

Choose one additional photography course in consultation with the photo advisor.

1 Photo History Required Course (9 units)

62-360 Photography Since WWII
62-371 Photography, the First 100 Years

1 History, Theory, or Criticism of the Visual Arts Elective (9 units)

Choose one additional History, Theory or Criticism of the Arts course in consultation with the photo advisor. A second photo history course can be used for this requirement.

Course Offerings

The following CFA Photography courses have been offered recently. Please consult the course catalog or talk to Jamie Gruzka for the current schedule, as not all courses are available every semester.

Various CMU programs (i.e. Art, Design, History, and Architecture) may offer courses that can satisfy the History, Theory or Criticism of the Visual Arts requirement. One academic course may be double counted with your major. Please note that most courses are cross-listed and have corresponding School of Art course numbers with the prefix 60-xxx. History courses are cross listed with 79-xxx prefixes.

Studio Courses

62-141 Black & White Photography I
62-241 Black & White Photography II
62-142 Digital Photography I
62-281 Intermediate Digital Photography II
62-165 Mutable Landscape
62-240 Unfolding Environments
62-245 Portrait Photography
62-276 Photography and the Ephemeral
62-208 (mini) Alternative Photography: Contemporary Antiquarian Printmaking
62-277 (mini) Constructing Meaning with Photographs
62-278 Infinite Rooms: Photography and Installation
62-375 Large Format Photography: The Antiquarian Avant-Garde
62-343 Professional Practices in Photography
62-279 Photography and the Ineffable
62-471 Photography/Print Workshop

History, Theory and Critical Studies Courses

62-360 Photography Since WWII
62-371 Photography, the First 100 Years

Exhibition Requirement

To complete the photo minor, all candidates must exhibit a small group of work in either the Photo Minor Exhibition, held in the CFA Photo facility every spring semester, or exhibit a group of work in a public exhibition, with documentation required. Contact Jamie Gruzka for details.