

Admissions and Applicant Information

Entrance Requirements

The MFA Committee makes admissions decisions based on its belief, as determined upon review of all application materials and interviews, that a matriculating student has the capacity for graduate-level work and is likely to thrive in the low-residency environment. The Committee expects that a student matriculating into the MFA program at Maine Media College holds a B.F.A., B.A., or B.S. degree (or the documented equivalent in the case of international students), has had extensive practical and/or academic experience in his or her area of endeavor, and is conversant with the history of his or her chosen media. In extraordinary circumstances the MFA Committee may admit an applicant who does not hold an undergraduate degree. In these instances, the applicant must provide persuasive and ample documented evidence of an education equivalent in breadth and depth.

Application Procedures

Materials

An individual interested in applying to the MFA program at Maine Media College must send the following materials to “MFA Admissions,” Maine Media College, 70 Camden Street, Rockport, Maine 04856:

- Completed application form and \$75 application fee (make checks payable to “Maine Media College”)
- Official transcripts from all post-secondary schools attended
- Resume
- An essay, approximately 500 words in length, describing: the applicant’s background and formative influences, either aesthetic or experiential, in his or her discipline, his or her interest in pursuing an MFA degree, and the applicant’s goals beyond graduate school
- Three letters of recommendation from academic and/or professional colleagues
- A portfolio, reel, or other documentation of work (see “Submission Guidelines” below)

Applications are accepted for consideration at any time, however because admissions decisions are made at retreats (see “The retreat” below) an applicant is advised to send these materials and conduct an interview (see “Interview” below) no less than six weeks prior to the start of the retreat at which he/she wishes to make formal application. An applicant who is interviewed within the six-week time frame may be invited or deferred until the following retreat as space permits.

Submission Guidelines

A prospective applicant may submit work on CD, DVD or as a print portfolio. An applicant with PAL formatted submissions is encouraged to convert them to NTSC. Web submissions, in any format, are welcome. Materials should be sent to “MFA Admissions,” Maine Media College, 70 Camden Street, Rockport, Maine 04856

An applicant in photography should submit 20 – 25 images that represent a single body of personal creative work made within the past three years. Additional professional or contract work is reviewed, but is of secondary importance. Image resolution for digital portfolios submitted on CD or DVD should not exceed 1500 pixels in any dimension.

An applicant in film or multimedia should submit up to 30 minutes of material representing personal creative work made within the past three years. Additional professional or contract work is reviewed, but is of secondary importance. Professional work should be labeled as such. All material presented must indicate the creative role of the applicant. Serving “below the line” on a project is not acceptable for application material. Writers may submit scripts as well as other writing samples. A multimedia applicant may submit a URL for web-based work.

Interview

A member of the MFA Committee contacts a prospective applicant upon receipt of the application materials to schedule an interview. While it is possible to conduct the interview via telephone, an applicant may prefer to visit the campus. In the event that an applicant elects to interview in person, he or she may bring the portfolio, reel, or other documentation of work to the interview rather than send it in advance.

The Admissions Screening Committee, which is composed of resident members of the graduate faculty in all disciplines, reviews admissions materials submitted by the applicant and notes from the interview in deciding to invite the applicant to attend a retreat. The Committee bases its decision to extend the invitation on its expectation that the applicant will be accepted upon completion of the application process.

The Retreat

The application process is completed at an MFA retreat, at which time the MFA Committee renders its decision concerning an applicant’s admission to the program. An applicant must be invited by a member of the MFA Committee to attend. * The invitation is extended by the interviewer in consideration of the review of an applicant’s work and supporting material.

The process of applying to the MFA program at Maine Media College may seem comparatively intricate. It is designed to meet a number of objectives that aid both the applicant and the MFA Committee in making admissions decisions. Attending a retreat for the purposes of applying to the program affords an applicant opportunity to meet the faculty and current candidates for the degree and to become familiar with the learning paradigms and methodologies of Maine Media College MFA. Conversely, it provides faculty and current candidates the opportunity to learn about the applicant, his or her educational aspirations and creative efforts.

An applicant meets one-on-one with a few faculty members during the retreat, however he/she is encouraged to speak with any faculty, students, and other applicants about their experiences in the program, creative projects they are engaged in, or anything else he/she may feel is relevant or helpful. Just as an applicant is evaluated for possible admission at a retreat, so should the applicant carefully determine in consideration of information gleaned from other attendees, if he/she wants to commit to participation in the program.

An applicant makes a presentation to the MFA Committee and others in attendance at the retreat. This presentation lasts approximately one half hour and is roughly divided into three 10-minute segments. During the first segment, an applicant describes his/her artistic goals and development. The next 10 minutes is devoted to a discussion of the work an applicant brings to the retreat. At this time, an applicant explains, critically evaluates, and provides historical and cultural context for the work. During the last segment of the presentation, the applicant answers questions about the work and the presentation that are posed by faculty and current candidates for the degree. An applicant seeking further guidance as to how to prepare for the presentation is encouraged to contact the MFA office.

* A prospective applicant may audit a retreat as an opportunity to experience this aspect of the program without making a commitment to apply.