



Office of the Executive Vice President for
Academic Affairs and Provost

September 23, 2025

Dr. Kevin Sightler, Director of Substantive Change
Commission on Colleges
Southern Association of Colleges and Schools
1866 Southern Lane
Decatur, GA 30033-4097

Dear Dr. Sightler:

This letter serves as notification to the Southern Association of Colleges and School Commission on Colleges to terminate the Bachelor of Arts in Film and Media Studies program.

B.A., Film and Media Studies

- The Film and Media Studies program recently merged with the Bachelor of Arts in Media Arts.
- Currently enrolled students will either move to the newly merged program or finish in the Bachelor of Arts in Film and Media Studies.
- The decision to close the program was made on approximately December 5, 2023. The faculty then created a committee to revise the Media Arts degree to include Film and Media Studies coursework in the spring semester of 2024. The faculty voted to accept the degree changes at the conclusion of the spring semester. Closure of the program was communicated to faculty, staff and students through several forms of communication (via email, direct mail, face-to-face, advisors, website, and staff and faculty meetings).
- There will be no direct impact to faculty and staff because of this closure as there is sufficient work and responsibilities for faculty and staff after closing this program. The staff person who supported the Film and Media Studies program was shared with the Department of English Language and Literature; thus, the Chair of that unit informed the staff person of the pending closure.
- Faculty were informed of the changes over the course of the fall 2023 and spring of 2024 through communication from Film and Media Studies Program Director Lauren Steimer, School of Visual Art and Design Director Laura Kissel, and College of Arts and Sciences Dean Joel Samuels.

The University of South Carolina Columbia will terminate the program effective Fall 2025 and currently enrolled students will have graduated or transferred to other programs by Fall 2030.



Current students were notified of the degree closure via a letter dated December 12, 2024. The letter was emailed to them by their advisor. Incoming students who declared the degree on their 2025 application received a letter notifying them of the change on March 20, 2025. Lapsed students will be notified upon their attempt to re-enroll in the program and will then be advised to enroll in the Media Arts major.

Please let us know if you have any questions regarding this notification.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mary Anne Fitzpatrick".

Provost Mary Anne Fitzpatrick
Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs
USC Educational Foundation Distinguished Professor

MFP/TH

Trena Houp, Executive Director of Academic Program Planning and Decision Support
cc: Donald Miles, Executive Director of Institutional Research, Assessment and Analytics