

Digital Cinema Production – Portfolio Review

Procedures, Expectations and Timelines

Last Updated January 11, 2024

In order to take the upper division courses of the Digital Cinema Production (DCP) major you must have passed a Portfolio Review Process. The purpose of this process is to ensure you are ready and capable of succeeding in both the more rigorous academic environment as well as are prepared for professional work in the film industry.

Thanks to UVU's wonderful open enrollment policy all who enroll and do the work are capable of earning a two-year AAS degree in Digital Cinema. This degree is a great achievement and demonstrates your ability to succeed in general education courses and introductory film production courses. This degree will help you as you seek employment in entry level positions within the film industry.

The more advanced upper-division courses leading to the Bachelor of Science in Digital Cinema Production degree allows you to focus your study and prepare for a career in a specialized field. Starting in the Fall of 2020 you will be able to declare the following specializations (Recommended Tracks): Writing for Digital Media, Directing, Producing (or Producing with the Pre-MBA Track), Cinematography, or Post-Production.

However, in order to advance to these upper-level courses, you must pass Portfolio Review.

The most basic requirements for advancement are:

- Complete all required lower-division DCP courses with a grade of B- or better.
- Show drive and competency and essentially be someone that your professors would recommend for a job or an on-set opportunity.
- It is preferred that you are on course for accomplishing the AAS degree, including the required General Education courses

(note that these need to be completed by the time you enter advanced courses, NOT by the time you apply for Portfolio Review):

TIMELINE

The year before you anticipate starting upper-division courses:

November 15 – Fill out the application found on the Student Resources page of the Program website: <https://uvu.edu/dgm/cinema/students/studentresources>

This will include a statement of intent where you describe (in 500 words or less) why you want to pursue upper-division coursework and why you should be accepted, a declaration of which track you want to pursue. Please make sure your statement of intent is written clearly and free of typographic or grammatical errors.

March 1 – Sign up for an INTERVIEW with one of the current full-time faculty members. Preferably you should interview with the person who oversees the area of emphasis you are interested in: Duane Andersen (Post-Production), Jenny Mackenzie (Producing), Kevin Smith (Cinematography), Alex Nibley (Writing), or Jerell Rosales (Directing).

Interviews will happen mid-March.

During your interview you will present your link to your online portfolio and a hard copy of your current Wolverine Track to your interviewer.

ONLINE PORTFOLIO Instructions:

First, you are entering a visual field. Your Online Portfolio should be visually striking. This should be prepared as if it were being submitted to potential employers and collaborators. It should feel professional in every sense of the word.

Here's a sample Professional Reel (<http://www.biancaclinedp.com>). While your Portfolio will be fundamentally different because you're a student, it should feel visually compelling and should be easy to navigate. Getting a website from Wix.com or a similar site is a good way to start.

It should include the following Tabs or Sections:

INTRODUCTION PAGE: Tells us about you, your accomplishments and skills, and your academic and professional goals and aspirations. This should be about three simple, well written paragraphs. Don't be boring.

SENIOR PROJECT PLANS: Let us know what you hope to do for senior projects. Do you have any ideas that are already in motion? If you are a cinematographer or an editor, it is expected that you will shoot or edit a project. Are you already part of a group? If you are a writer, it is expected that you write a short film for a senior project that you will also produce or that you write a feature script. Tell us about those ideas. You don't have to have anything set in stone, but you will need to be ready to go with this by Spring of the next year... so it's good to start thinking early. Refer to the Senior Projects sheet available on the DCP website.

PAST WORK: Include links to work you have done in your classes thus far (DGM 1520, DGM 1061, DGM 2540, DGM 2661, DGM 2110 are all classes where you make projects... indicate what your role was on each), including PDFs of written work you've done for DGM 2570. If you are still in the process of taking some of these classes, you might not have them available yet.

In another section include work you've been involved in as a crew member, including student and professional shoots. This could be links from Youtube or Vimeo, photos, or, if nothing else, lists of things you've worked on (student projects, professional, the FEMME Project, etc). This could include work you do for your employment.

In another section include personal work you've made outside of school. Any work that you feel is worth sharing here – fun videos with friends, skateboard videos, music videos, even wedding videos, show a sense of your skill and talent. Show us your favorite work. Explain what you did on each and why you think it represents your skill. You should also include scripts you've written outside of class as PDFs that we can open or download, a photo portfolio of your best work, or things you've edited. This isn't about quantity, it's about quality, so don't throw everything you've ever done in... just your best work. **All of this work should be from the time you started at UVU.**

The point of this is that we want to see that you're working, engaged, involved, and serious. We're not looking for any specific thing – it will be different for each of you depending on your strengths and interests. But we do want to be convinced that you're working hard and doing good work.

The minimum amount to include is the stuff from your classes. But we hope each of you are doing work outside as much as possible, and that you have work that you're proud of.

RESUME – Include a resume that emphasizes your film related experience. This will include volunteer work on student projects and any other work that might include photography, graphic design, editing, events, or set type work. Other non-film related work can be included in a "Additional Experience" section.

ACCEPTANCE

Acceptance will be based on many things, including the quality of the work in your portfolio, your grades, and the recommendation of your instructors. If it is decided that you are not ready for upper-level classes you will be told and you can either: 1) work on improving the areas you are told you need to improve and resubmit later (if this is given as an option); 2) finish your Associates Degree and enter the workforce; 3) Get a Bachelor's Degree in another area.

As our program grows, we will necessarily become more restrictive in how many we can allow into the program each year. We will likely become more discerning in how many people are entering which "Recommended Track" and we may start suggesting alternative tracks if your first choice is full.

Once the selections are made you will be notified, and your advisors will be made aware. They can help you with your upper division course schedules. Please refer to the Flow Chart for your individual Recommended Track as a guide.