



Digital Cinema Production – Portfolio Review

Procedures, Expectations, and Timelines

Last Updated: October 19, 2026

To enroll in upper-division courses for the Digital Cinema Production (DCPR) major, **you must pass a Portfolio Review**. This process ensures you are prepared for both a more rigorous academic environment and professional work in the film industry.

UVU's open enrollment policy allows all students who complete the required work to earn an A.A.S. in Digital Cinema Production. This degree demonstrates your ability to succeed in general education and introductory film production courses and can help you secure entry-level positions in the industry.

The Bachelor of Science in Digital Cinema Production allows for specialized study in Writing for Entertainment Media, Narrative Directing, Producing, Cinematography, Post-Production, or a General Track. However, to advance to upper-division courses, you must pass the Portfolio Review.

When applying to Portfolio Review, you are committing to two more full years of schooling. Students pursuing Cinematography, Post-Production, Producing, or Narrative Directing **are required** to take the following sequence in their junior and senior years:

Capstone Sequence

1. DCPR 4900 – Senior Capstone Prep (1 credit). Spring of junior year. Students who don't take it won't be eligible for a leadership position on a Senior Capstone project.
2. DCPR 4910 – Senior Capstone I (3 credits). Fall of senior year.
3. DCPR 4920 – Senior Capstone II (3 credits). Spring of senior year.
4. DCPR 4930 – Senior Professional Prep (1 credit). Spring of senior year.

Note: Students in the General and Writing for Entertainment Media tracks are not required to take the capstone courses DCPR 4900, 4910, and 4920, but they do take DCPR 4930.

Note on the General Track: General Track students complete the same foundational core requirements as students in every other track, while gaining the flexibility to take more electives, explore multiple areas of interest, and shape their degree around their own goals. This works well for transfer students and students returning to their degree after time away. The General Track does not include a capstone project as one of its requirements, and therefore students may complete their degree sooner. General Track students must receive preapproval from the professor teaching a senior-level class (such as Editing III or Writing III) before enrolling in it.



Basic Requirements for Advancement

- Complete (or be currently enrolled in) all required lower-division DCPR courses, earning a grade of B- or better.
- Show drive and competency—essentially, be someone your professors would recommend for a job or on-set opportunity.
- Be on target to complete the A.A.S. degree, including General Education courses.

Timeline

November 15 (by 11:59 p.m.): Submit your application through the Qualtrics form linked on the side of the [UVU DCPR Student Resources](#) page. The application includes your Online Portfolio link, a statement of intent, and a declaration of your desired track. Ensure your statement is clear and free of typographic or grammatical errors.

Approximately March 1: You will receive an email (to your UVU email) to sign up for an interview with the full-time faculty member who oversees your chosen track:

- Duane Andersen (Post-Production)
- Max Burnett (Writing for Entertainment Media)
- Jenny Mackenzie (General Track, and students interested in Non-Fiction)
- Justin Olson (Producing)
- Jerrell Rosales (Narrative Directing)
- Kevin Smith (Cinematography)

Results are usually shared by the faculty member during your interview.

Questions? Contact the faculty member listed above who oversees the track you're interested in.

Online Portfolio Instructions

You're entering a visual field, so your Online Portfolio should be **visually striking and professional**, like something you would send to potential employers and collaborators. A platform like [Wix.com](#) is a good place to start building a portfolio that looks great and is easy to navigate.

Example of a professional portfolio: [Bianca Cline DP](#)

Your portfolio will differ from this example because you're a student, but it should still feel polished.



Required Sections

1. Introduction Page

Write **three short, well-written paragraphs** about yourself, including:

- Your accomplishments
- Your skills
- Your academic and professional goals

Show your personality and avoid sounding generic. Keep it engaging and professional.

2. Past Work

Course Projects

Include links to projects you've completed in your courses (e.g., DCPR 1800, DCPR 1610, DCPR 2410, DCPR 2800). For each project:

- State your **role and contribution**
- Attach **PDFs of any written work** (e.g., scripts from DCPR 1210)
- If you're still taking some of these classes, mention your **ongoing work**

Crew Experience

Show your work as a crew member on other student or professional shoots:

- Include links to content on platforms like YouTube or Vimeo, or photos of you working on set
- List the projects you've worked on (e.g., student projects, professional shoots, or work like the FEMME Project)
- Include any relevant work you've done for an employer

Personal Work

Show work you've completed outside of school, such as projects with friends, music videos, skateboard videos or wedding videos. Include anything that shows your skill and passion for filmmaking.

- Focus on **quality over quantity**: include only your best work
- Add a **short description** to each project explaining what you did and why it shows your talent

Note: All work should be made while you're a UVU student, whether for a class or on your own. Course work is the minimum requirement, but we strongly encourage you to include outside projects you're proud of.



3. Resume

Include a resume that **highlights your film-related experience**, including:

- Student projects
- Photography, graphic design, editing or event work

You may list non-film work under an “**Additional Experience**” section.

A note on AI

You may use AI tools to build and design your website, but the work in your portfolio and film samples must be made by you. We also encourage you to write your portfolio text. It doesn't need to be perfect, but we want to see where you are now so we can help you grow from there.

Note for Narrative Directing Applicants

Along with the sections above, feature **one** film you directed that best represents where you are as a director today. Your first job as a director is to direct the viewer's attention, so choose the one film you want faculty to focus on. You may mention other films, but feature only one.

Your featured film must be:

- Directed solely by you (no co-directing)
- Narrative fiction
- Made during your time at UVU (no high school work)
- Wholly original (no fan films or recreations)
- Human-made (no AI-generated content)

What We're Looking For

The portfolio should show that you are **engaged, serious and producing good work**. We aren't looking for anything specific, because each portfolio will reflect the student's own strengths and interests. We do want to see that you're **working hard, committed to your craft and dedicated to learning**.

Acceptance

Acceptance into upper-division courses is based on several factors:

- The quality of your portfolio
- Your academic performance
- Instructor recommendations

If you are not ready for upper-level courses, you will have these options:



1. Improve in specific areas and resubmit later, after discussing it with your track head.
2. Complete your A.A.S. degree and enter the workforce.
3. Pursue a bachelor's degree in a different area.

As the program grows, admissions may become more selective, and some tracks may have limited space. If that happens, we may recommend a different track.

Consequences of Poor Performance After Acceptance

Remaining lower-division Cinema Core courses: Your top priority is to finish them with a **B- or better within two semesters** of passing the Portfolio Review. If you don't, your acceptance will be rescinded.

Upper-division performance: If you perform poorly in upper-division courses, your acceptance may also be revoked. If that happens, your track head will work with you to decide whether you can reapply or whether other steps are needed to help you succeed academically.