

Digital Cinema Production

Program Overview

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Overview

The BS degree, AAS degree, and Certificate of Proficiency in Digital Cinema Production train students in the development, production, and post-production processes for film, television and media content across a variety of platforms.

Using a hands-on, practical approach, students learn the tools, equipment, technologies, software, and protocols used on film and television sets and in post-production facilities. The curriculum focuses on creating character-driven stories and using emerging digital technologies to enhance storytelling.

Advanced students can choose to focus their study on different skill sets within the Digital Cinema Production process, including Nonfiction and Narrative Directing for Digital Cinema, Writing for Entertainment Media, Cinematography, Nonfiction and Narrative Producing, and Post-Production. We also offer a General Track for students who want to take foundational coursework across all five focus areas, receive a well rounded cinema production education, while enrolling in more electives.

The First Two Years

The first two years of the Digital Cinema Production program introduce students to a broad range of skills, ideas, and technologies needed to be competitive in securing employment in the entertainment industry. This includes courses in directing, editing, screenwriting, cinematography, film production, photography, producing, and film history. With successful completion of the two-year curriculum, students earn an AAS degree in Digital Cinema Production. This training and degree qualify graduates for entry-level positions in the film industry across a variety of capacities.

At the end of their second year, students go through a portfolio review to assess their achievements and confirm they are prepared to advance to the more rigorous upper-division courses. Students may apply for portfolio review in the following tracks: General, Post-Production, Writing, Cinematography, Nonfiction Producing, Narrative Producing,

Nonfiction Directing, and Narrative Directing. A thorough explanation of expectations for the portfolio review process is available on our website.

The Second Two Years

The following two years allow students to specialize in a specific Recommended Track of Study. In these years, students move beyond entry-level work and build the skills and training to become leaders in specialized fields within the filmed media industry.

There are six required core advanced classes: Cinematography II, Editing II, Storytelling for Digital Media II, Production Management, Producing I, and the Directing Workshop. In addition to these courses, students focus their attention on one of six Recommended Tracks: 1) Nonfiction and Narrative Directing for Digital Cinema, 2) Writing for Entertainment Media, 3) Post-Production, 4) Cinematography, 5) Nonfiction and Narrative Producing, and 6) General Track. Acceptance into individual tracks may be limited and is determined by the quality of a student's portfolio review.

In the senior year, students in the Cinematography, Post-Production, Producing, Directing, and Writing tracks complete a Senior Capstone Project that showcases the culmination of their training and experience in their chosen track. General Track students are not required to complete a capstone project. More information about Senior Capstone Project expectations is available on our website. Upon successful completion of all degree requirements — including the Senior Capstone Project for students in a specialized track — students are eligible for a Bachelor of Science degree in Digital Cinema Production.

Frequently Asked Questions

What if I'm not accepted to continue into upper-division courses after finishing my first two years? What are my options?

After two years, you should have completed an AAS degree — a great foundation for entry-level film work. Students who are not selected to advance to upper-division courses may resubmit their portfolio the following year after focusing on areas that need improvement. It is the student's responsibility to ensure their portfolio is resubmitted for committee evaluation. It's also a good idea to come up with a “Plan B” with your advisor — discuss other disciplines of interest outside of cinema, or how your cinema credits might apply to a different degree.

If I transfer to UVU and already have my Associate Degree, can I get into the program and finish in two years?

A transfer student must meet the same criteria as a student who has done all of their academic work at UVU: the first- and second-year courses must be completed, and the student's portfolio must be reviewed. Some Digital Cinema courses will transfer from other institutions and help

speed up the process, but it is unlikely that a transfer student could arrive at UVU with an Associate Degree, be accepted into the program, and complete the degree in two years. It is more typical for a transfer student to have about three years of coursework remaining to complete a bachelor's degree.

Is there a minor that works well with this major?

Some options students have minored in are Cinema Studies, Theatre, Entrepreneurship, Marketing, and Creative Writing. We now offer a writing minor and in 2028 we will have a documentary minor.

How can I get more involved in the industry?

The UVU Filmmakers Club Facebook group is a great hub for student and industry news, information, and opportunities.

I work a full-time, forty-hour-a-week job. Is there an evening program available?

Many of our students work close to FT. Many of our classes required for the AAS degree are offered in the late afternoon and evening. This is not the case for the upper-division courses required for the bachelor's degree.

What equipment do I need, and what software should I purchase?

Having an external hard drive to store media and edit projects is essential. Owning your own camera equipment is not critical. UVU has a wide variety of gear that is state-of-the-art in the film industry, ranging from introductory Cinema DSLR cameras and quality audio equipment to top-level Grip & Electric equipment, Cooke lenses, ARRI Alexas, and RED cameras. By the time you enter your sophomore or junior year, we recommend having a Mac laptop with at least 8GB of RAM (16GB is preferable). The program, and the industry in general, is Mac-based. Software needs vary and will be discussed in individual classes.