

Cinema Production Capstone Guidelines & Information

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What is a Cinema Production Capstone Project?

A Senior Capstone Project reflects the education you have gained and the skill level you have achieved while at UVU. Artistically and technically, it is expected to feel like professional work. This level of quality must come through in all aspects of production: story development & arc, directing choices, cinematography, production design, audio design, management of the assets & creative execution of the edit. Our expectation is that your project will be of high enough quality that we can submit it for a variety of prestigious festivals and student film/television awards.

What are the goals and outcomes of the Cinema Capstone Class?

1. Complete capstone film project (once it has been green lighted), demonstrating professional level expertise in your area of focus (track).
2. Participate in ongoing development of your professional strategic plan and goals.
3. Observe, engage and participate in ongoing conversations with your professional mentors and other faculty mentors.
4. Prepare the design and implementation of your employment assets to successfully transition into the professional industry (updated resume, reel, website).

What types of Cinema Capstone Projects can I make?

You may make a short narrative, a short documentary, an episodic TV pilot/reality show/docu-series, a video project for a not-for-profit or corporate organization, or write a feature-length screenplay or a Pilot/ Bible for a series (the length of the series will determine how much will be written).

TRT should be between 8-12 minutes. Scripts should be NO longer than 12 pages. You should be able to shoot your capstone film in 2-3 days.

Production crew from this class will consist of the following: 1) Director, as well as at least THREE of the following from the class: 2) Producer, 3) Cinematographer, 4) Writer, 5) Editor.

Students working on feature-length scripts must coordinate with Max Barnett, and we truly hope that some of the short scripts for Capstone's are written by our own writing track students.

Each primary crew position (Director, Lead Producer, DP, Writer, Editor) MUST be a current UVU student for the duration of the capstone project (prep, production, post) and each crew position MUST have taken the following courses (or be currently taking them) prior to production: Directors - Directing III (DGM 458R or 458I); Cinematographer - Cinematography III (DGM 454R); Producers - Producing II (DGM 4550) or Doc 2 (459R) Doc Producing and Pitching; Editors - Editing III (DGM 350R-601); Documentary directors must have taken Documentary I (Doc Directing, DGM 3950). For narrative projects, the writer must have workshopped the script in Story Editing (DGM 450R).

Please note that Audio and Commercial Music students also do Senior Projects. It is a good idea to make friends with students in these programs who might mix and compose your project as their Capstone.



What are the expectations for Capstone fulfillment in each track?

Directing Expectations & Parameters:

- Narrative short film: Final film no longer than a TRT of 12 minutes including credits. Must submit the director's lookbook and production binder.
- Narrative digital episodic short: Pilot episode, no longer than a TRT of 10 minutes including credits. Must submit showrunner's bible, director's lookbook, production binder, and script for episode 2
- Music videos: Minimum of 3 industry-standard music videos or 1-2 hybrid narrative music videos. Total TRT must equal 7-10 minutes. Must submit director's lookbook, production binder.
- Commercials: Minimum of 5 unique spots (15-sec, 15-sec, 30-sec, 60-sec, 120-sec). Must also submit the director's lookbook, storyboards if applicable and production binder.
- Documentary short film: Final film no longer than a TRT of 12 minutes including credits. Must submit director's lookbook/treatment and production binder.
- Docu-reality series episodic short: Pilot episode, maybe one more episode, no longer than a TRT of 15 minutes including credits. Must submit showrunner's bible, director's lookbook, production binder, and treatment/outline for two additional episodes.
- Branded Content Docu-Style Commercials: Minimum of 5 unique spots (15-sec, 15-sec, 30-sec, 60-sec, 120-sec). Must also submit the director's lookbook and production binder.
- No features, but can be proof of concept in a short film (with full screenplay).

Cinematography Expectations & Parameters:

- Lead DP of a short film that is a documentary or narrative project.
- Lead DP of an episodic series: Pilot episode & final episode, no longer than a TRT of 10 minutes including credits. Can be fiction or nonfiction.
- Lead DP of Music videos: Minimum of 3 industry-standard music videos or 1-2 hybrid narrative music videos. Total TRT must equal 7-10 minutes.
- Lead DP of Commercials: Minimum of 5 unique spots (15-sec, 15-sec, 30-sec, 60-sec, 120-sec)

Producing Expectations & Parameters :

- Lead Producer of a short film that is a documentary or narrative project. Must submit budget, schedule, and production binder.
- Lead Producer of a digital episodic short: Pilot episode, no longer than a TRT of 10 minutes including credits. Can be fiction or nonfiction. Must submit budget, schedule, treatment and production binder.

- Lead Producer of Music videos: Minimum of 3 industry-standard music videos or 1-2 hybrid narrative music videos. Total TRT must equal 7-10 minutes. Must submit budget, schedule, and production binder.
- Lead Producer of Commercials: Minimum of 5 unique spots (15-sec, 15-sec, 30-sec, 60-sec, 120-sec). Must submit budget, schedule, and production binder.

Post-Production Expectations & Parameters:

- Lead editor of a short film that is a documentary or narrative project.
- Lead editor of a digital episodic short: Pilot episode, no longer than a TRT of 10 minutes including credits. Can be fiction or nonfiction.
- Lead editor of Music videos: Minimum of 3 industry-standard music videos or 1-2 hybrid narrative music videos. Total TRT must equal 7-10 minutes.
- Lead editor of Commercials: Minimum of 5 unique spots (15-sec, 15-sec, 30-sec, 60-sec, 120-sec)

Screenwriting:

- Completed feature length screenplay & a one sheet (visual image, logline, short summary, development and distribution strategy).
- Pilot episode for a television series which will include the series bible (with visual images, series logline, development and distribution strategy).

**Please feel free to email Jenny Mackenzie, Ph.D. with any questions at
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