

FILM AND TELEVISION PRODUCTION, M.F.A.

Objectives

The School of Film and Television's major in Film and Television Production is designed to enable students to express their ideas on the screen whether that screen is in a theater, at home, or held in one's hand. Beyond the existing television and theatrical feature landscape, new forms of media empower a single person to be both a worldwide broadcaster and a very selective receiver. Digital technologies have created new ways of working that transcend the traditional distinctions between film and television. The Film and Television Production major combines the best of both of these fields.

Students admitted to this rigorous major quickly become immersed in the art of storytelling for the screen. They encounter and study great works of world cinema, both past and present, and ponder the ramifications of the emerging media of the future. They receive expert hands-on training in writing the screenplay, directing actors, cinematography, sound recording and design, and editing. In the process, each student learns about the challenging relationship between art and technique, and how both serve each other. Students learn the practical aspects of mounting a production: budgeting, location scouting, casting, set design and construction, post production, and the importance of safety in all aspects of what they do. Complete, premier art equipment and technology are available 24/7—all in service of story. Through teamwork, students learn an appreciation for all of the artists who labor to serve the story, and the camaraderie that comes from working as part of a crew engaged in a large, collaborative creative enterprise.

Students also learn to find their individual voices, and express their own points of view, on projects driven by their own creative choices. Beginning with their work on a series of short and intermediate films, students forge the fundamental skills of visual storytelling. Each student's experience culminates with a final project in which advanced students create their own thesis films.

Film and Television Production Student Learning Outcomes

Film History and Context

By studying a diverse canon of great films and filmmakers, students will gain a broad understanding of the history and socio-historical contexts of American and global film, television, and emerging media to inspire them to create transformative works of their own.

Storytelling

Students will master the methods of visual storytelling—through screenwriting, camera placement and movement, lighting, blocking and performance, post-production picture and sound—to create content with unique cinematic expression and engaging dramatic structure.

Technical Proficiency

Students will demonstrate mastery of the components and processes in at least one of the following areas of specialization: Creative Producing, Fiction Directing, Non-Fiction Directing, Cinematography, or Post-Production.

Voice and Creativity

By analyzing past historical works and applying technical and storytelling skills, students will be able to produce works with a strong personal voice that show vision and imagination.

Collaboration

Students will work constructively to problem solve and collaborate in diverse teams to create impactful media.

M.F.A. in Film and Television Production Requirements

Code	Title	Semester Hours
First Semester Requirements		12
Program Requirements		39
Thesis Requirements		9
Total Semester Hours		60

M.F.A. in Film and Television Production Guidelines

- Proper sequencing of major requirements is indicated by prerequisites of individual courses and as noted in the outline below. Consult assigned academic advisor.
- First semester courses (PROD 500 Directing the Short Film I: Vision and Exploration, PROD 541 Introduction to Cinematography, PROD 566 Introduction to Post-Production, and SCWR 501 Fundamentals of Cinematic Storytelling) must be completed with a grade of B- or higher. Failure to do so may lead to disqualification from the program, based on review of an exceptions committee. Students who receive a grade lower than a B- in any class may not continue with the standard sequence until they repeat the course when it is next offered. A course may be repeated only once. If a passing grade of B- is received, the student may continue with the standard course sequence in the program.
- Thesis requirements are specific to the student's selected Specialization, detailed below. Consult the Graduate Director regarding requirements for Advancement to Candidacy and Thesis Submittal.
- Probation/Dismissal: See Academic Standing in Academic Degree Requirements and Policies.
- SAFETY: Since the School of Film and Television is fully committed to safety and sensible risk management, every student will be required to adhere to all safety and risk management policies. The School considers violation of the Safety and Risk Management policies infractions of the LMU Student Honor Code. In accordance with the Honor Code guidelines and process, disciplinary measures may range from warnings, to failure in the course to expulsion from the University. Additionally, any footage acquired during the commission of a violation of these policies will be disallowed from the project. Students in violation of SFTV policies also risk suspension of privileges. Privileges include access to SFTV Production and Post Production resources and equipment and participating at the end of the semester screenings. When a violation occurs, the instructor, the appropriate department chair, HOPA, and the graduate director will meet to determine whether and to what extent the student shall incur temporary loss of privileges, or they may jointly make a recommendation to the dean for permanent loss of privileges.

Three-Year Plan

Course	Title	Semester Hours
First Year		
Fall		
PROD 500	Directing the Short Film I: Vision and Exploration (must earn B- or higher)	3
PROD 541	Introduction to Cinematography (must earn B- or higher)	3
PROD 566	Introduction to Post-Production (must earn B- or higher)	3
SCWR 501	Fundamentals of Cinematic Storytelling (must earn B- or higher)	3
Semester Hours		12
Spring		
PROD 530 or SCWR 530	Intermediate Documentary Pre-Production or Developing the Short Film	3
PROD 550	Directing the Short Film II: Visual Storytelling (must earn B- or higher)	3
PROD 570	Production Planning	3
RECA 500	Sound for Production	3
Semester Hours		12
Second Year		
Fall		
PROD 600	Directing the Short Film III: Directing Actors (must earn B- or higher)	6
RECA 567	Seminar in Sound ¹	3
Students declare one of the following specializations:		
Cinematography Specialization		
Creative Producing Specialization		
Directing Fiction Specialization		
Directing Non-Fiction Specialization		
Editing Specialization		
Semester Hours		9
Minimum Semester Hours		33

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must be taken alongside PROD 600 Directing the Short Film III: Directing Actors

Cinematography Specialization

Course	Title	Semester Hours
Second Year		
Spring		
FTVS 513	Seminar in American Film	3
PROD 567	Practicum in Color Correction	3
PROD 642	Cinematography II	3
Semester Hours		9
Third Year		
Fall		
FTVS 514	Seminar in International Film	3
PROD 649	Cinematography Master Class	3
Select three semester hours of the following advanced electives: ¹		3
PROD 580	Music Video Production (Fall only)	
PROD 598	Special Studies (topics specified by Chair)	
PROD 666	Advanced Editing	
PROD 684	Visual Design (Summer only)	
PROD 685	Advanced Production Seminar (topics specified by Chair, including Post Production Supervisor Workshop, Spring only)	
PROD 685	Advanced Production Seminar (DIT Workshop)	

PROD 688	Directing the Camera (Spring only)	
Semester Hours		9
Spring		
PROD 675	Thesis Portfolio	3
Select three semester hours of the following advanced electives: ¹		3
PROD 580	Music Video Production (Fall only)	3
PROD 598	Special Studies (topics specified by Chair)	0-4
PROD 666	Advanced Editing	3
PROD 684	Visual Design (Summer only)	3
PROD 685	Advanced Production Seminar (topics specified by Chair, including Post Production Supervisor Workshop, Spring only)	2
PROD 685	Advanced Production Seminar (DIT Workshop)	1
PROD 688	Directing the Camera (Spring only)	3
FTVS Elective–Film, Television, and Media Studies: Select one course (or three3 semester hours) from FTVS 500 or 600 level.		3
Semester Hours		24-28
Minimum Semester Hours		42-46

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Nine total semester hours are required for the degree. Other courses by permission only.

Final Deliverables–Cinematography Specialization

- 2-4 minute cinematography reel (reviewed by Thesis Committee)
- 25-60 minutes of content from PROD 650 Thesis Project I: Pre-Production and Production, PROD 490 Advanced Production: Producing and Directing the Fiction Short/PROD 492 Advanced Production: Producing and Directing the Documentary Short and/or WPTV Thesis projects. Other projects (e.g, music videos, PROD 600 Directing the Short Film III: Directing Actors, films from other graduate institution Thesis programs or professional work shot **during** applicant’s second and third year) accepted only at committee’s discretion. Must include a minimum of three projects.
- Online portfolio/website (reviewed by Thesis Committee)
- A completed personal marketing package

Creative Producing Specialization

Course	Title	Semester Hours
Second Year		
Spring		
FTVS 513	Seminar in American Film	3
PROD 633	Developing, Selling, and Monetizing Digital Content	3
PROD 639	Producing Master Class	3
Semester Hours		9
Third Year		
Fall		
FTVS 514	Seminar in International Film	3
SCWR 685	The Business of Entertainment (must be taken Fall of 3rd Year)	3
Select three semester hours of Advanced Electives:		3
SCWR 598	Special Studies (topics specified by Chair)	
PROD 635	Film and Television Development	
SCWR 635	Advanced Motion Picture Script Analysis	
SCWR 551	Feature Screenwriting: Writing and Producing for TV	
SCWR 660	Writing the Drama TV Series Spec	
SCWR 670	Writing the Comedy TV Series Spec	
Semester Hours		9
Spring		
PROD 675	Thesis Portfolio	3
Select three semester hours of Advanced Electives:		3

PROD 580	Music Video Production	
PROD 598	Special Studies (topics specified by Chair)	
SCWR 635	Advanced Motion Picture Script Analysis	
SCWR 551	Feature Screenwriting: Writing and Producing for TV	
SCWR 660	Writing the Drama TV Series Spec	
SCWR 670	Writing the Comedy TV Series Spec	
FTVS Elective—Film, Television, and Media Studies: Select one course (or three semester hours) from FTVS 500 or 600 level		3
Semester Hours		9
Minimum Semester Hours		27

Final Deliverables—Creative Producing Specialization

- 25-60 minutes of content from PROD 650 Thesis Project I: Pre-Production and Production, PROD 490 Advanced Production: Producing and Directing the Fiction Short/PROD 492 Advanced Production: Producing and Directing the Documentary Short and/or WPTV Thesis projects. Other projects (e.g., PROD 600 Directing the Short Film III: Directing Actors, music videos, films from other graduate institution thesis programs or professional work shot **during** applicant's second and third year) accepted only at committee's discretion. Must include a minimum of two projects.
- A three-page reflection paper on your produced films.
- Complete a project consisting of a Bible, pitching material, business marketing strategy, and pitch presentation for industry and a look book.
- A web series idea composed of either a written treatment and visual pitch **or** a completed digital proof of concept (POC).
- A rip/tone reel or visual sales tool for a web series, TV show or feature.

Directing Fiction Specialization

Course	Title	Semester Hours
Second Year		
Spring		
FTVS 513	Seminar in American Film	3
SCWR 620	Writing the Production Thesis Screenplay	3
Select three semester hours of the following Advanced Electives: ¹		3
PROD 580	Music Video Production (Fall only)	
PROD 598	Special Studies (topics specified by Chair)	
PROD 631	Web Series Development	
PROD 635	Film and Television Development	
PROD 639	Producing Master Class	
PROD 642	Cinematography II (Spring only)	
PROD 664	Visual Effects (Spring only)	
PROD 666	Advanced Editing	
PROD 680	Advanced Directing Seminar	
PROD 684	Visual Design (Summer only)	
PROD 685	Advanced Production Seminar (topics specified by Chair, including Editing and Finishing the Short, DIT Workshop, Post Production Supervisor Workshop)	
PROD 687	Actor Workshop	
PROD 688	Directing the Camera (Spring only)	
RECA 568	Advanced Post-Production Sound	
SCWR 635	Advanced Motion Picture Script Analysis	
SCWR 660	Writing the Drama TV Series Spec	
SCWR 670	Writing the Comedy TV Series Spec	
SCWR 551	Feature Screenwriting: Writing and Producing for TV	
Semester Hours		9

Third Year

Fall		
FTVS 514	Seminar in International Film	3

PROD 650	Thesis Project I: Pre-Production and Production (must earn B- or higher)	3
Select three semester hours of the following Advanced Electives: ¹		3
PROD 580	Music Video Production (Fall only)	
PROD 598	Special Studies (topics specified by Chair)	
PROD 633	Developing, Selling, and Monetizing Digital Content	
PROD 635	Film and Television Development	
PROD 639	Producing Master Class	
PROD 642	Cinematography II (Spring Only)	
PROD 664	Visual Effects (Spring Only)	
PROD 666	Advanced Editing	
PROD 680	Advanced Directing Seminar	
PROD 684	Visual Design (Summer only)	
PROD 685	Advanced Production Seminar (topics specified by Chair, including Editing and Finishing the Short, DIT Workshop, Post Production Supervisor Workshop. Spring only)	
PROD 687	Actor Workshop	
PROD 688	Directing the Camera (Spring only)	
RECA 568	Advanced Post-Production Sound	
SCWR 554	The TV Writers Room	
SCWR 660	Writing the Drama TV Series Spec	
SCWR 670	Writing the Comedy TV Series Spec	
SCWR 551	Feature Screenwriting: Writing and Producing for TV	
Semester Hours		9

Spring

PROD 670	Thesis Project II: Post-Production	3
Select three semester hours of the following Advanced Electives: ¹		3
PROD 580	Music Video Production (Fall only)	
PROD 598	Special Studies (topics specified by Chair)	
PROD 633	Developing, Selling, and Monetizing Digital Content	
PROD 635	Film and Television Development	
PROD 639	Producing Master Class	
PROD 642	Cinematography II (Spring Only)	
PROD 664	Visual Effects (Spring Only)	
PROD 666	Advanced Editing	
PROD 680	Advanced Directing Seminar	
PROD 684	Visual Design (Summer only)	
PROD 685	Advanced Production Seminar (topics specified by Chair, including Editing and Finishing the Short, DIT Workshop, Post Production Supervisor Workshop)	
PROD 687	Actor Workshop	
RECA 568	Advanced Post-Production Sound	
PROD 688	Directing the Camera (Spring only)	
SCWR 554	The TV Writers Room	
SCWR 660	Writing the Drama TV Series Spec	
SCWR 670	Writing the Comedy TV Series Spec	
SCWR 551	Feature Screenwriting: Writing and Producing for TV	
FTVS Elective - Film, Television, and Media Studies: Select one course (or three semester hours) from FTVS 500- or 600-level.		3
Semester Hours		9
Minimum Semester Hours		27

¹

Nine total semester hours are required for the degree. Other courses by permission only.

Final Deliverables—Directing Fiction Specialization

- Completed fiction film 8-15 minutes in length
- Festival plan and promotional materials

Directing Non-Fiction Specialization

Course	Title	Semester Hours
Second Year		
Spring		
PROD 626	Pre-Production for Documentary Thesis	3
Select three semester hours of the following Advanced Electives: ¹		3
PROD 580	Music Video Production (Fall only)	
PROD 598	Special Studies (topics specified by Chair)	
PROD 633	Developing, Selling, and Monetizing Digital Content	
PROD 635	Film and Television Development	
PROD 639	Producing Master Class	
PROD 642	Cinematography II (Spring Only)	
PROD 664	Visual Effects (Spring Only)	
PROD 666	Advanced Editing	
PROD 680	Advanced Directing Seminar	
PROD 684	Visual Design (Summer only)	
PROD 685	Advanced Production Seminar (topics specified by Chair, including Editing and Finishing the Short, DIT Workshop, Post Production Supervisor Workshop)	
PROD 687	Actor Workshop	
PROD 688	Directing the Camera (Spring only)	
RECA 568	Advanced Post-Production Sound	
SCWR 635	Advanced Motion Picture Script Analysis	
SCWR 660	Writing the Drama TV Series Spec	
SCWR 670	Writing the Comedy TV Series Spec	
SCWR 551	Feature Screenwriting: Writing and Producing for TV	
FTVS Elective–Film, Television, and Media Studies: Select one course (or three semester hours) from FTVS 500 or 600 level.		3
Semester Hours		9
Third Year		
Fall		
FTVS 514	Seminar in International Film	3
PROD 650	Thesis Project I: Pre-Production and Production (must earn B- or higher)	3
Select three semester hours of the following Advanced Electives: ¹		3
PROD 580	Music Video Production (Fall only)	
PROD 598	Special Studies (topics specified by Chair)	
PROD 633	Developing, Selling, and Monetizing Digital Content	
PROD 635	Film and Television Development	
PROD 639	Producing Master Class	
PROD 642	Cinematography II (Spring Only)	
PROD 664	Visual Effects (Spring Only)	
PROD 666	Advanced Editing	
PROD 680	Advanced Directing Seminar	
PROD 684	Visual Design (Summer only)	
PROD 685	Advanced Production Seminar (Seminar in Directing)	
PROD 685	Advanced Production Seminar (Editing and Finishing the Short. Spring only)	
PROD 685	Advanced Production Seminar (Topics chosen by the Chair)	
PROD 685	Advanced Production Seminar (DIT Workshop)	
PROD 685	Advanced Production Seminar (Post Production Supervisor Workshop, Spring Only)	
PROD 687	Actor Workshop	
PROD 688	Directing the Camera (Spring only)	
SCWR 635	Advanced Motion Picture Script Analysis	
SCWR 660	Writing the Drama TV Series Spec	
SCWR 670	Writing the Comedy TV Series Spec	
Semester Hours		9
Spring		
PROD 670	Thesis Project II: Post-Production	3
Select three semester hours of the following Advanced Electives: ¹		3

PROD 580	Music Video Production (Fall only)	
PROD 598	Special Studies (topics specified by Chair)	
PROD 633	Developing, Selling, and Monetizing Digital Content	
PROD 635	Film and Television Development	
PROD 639	Producing Master Class	
PROD 642	Cinematography II (Spring Only)	
PROD 664	Visual Effects (Spring Only)	
PROD 666	Advanced Editing	
PROD 680	Advanced Directing Seminar	
PROD 684	Visual Design (Summer only)	
PROD 685	Advanced Production Seminar (Seminar in Directing)	
PROD 685	Advanced Production Seminar (Editing and Finishing the Short, Spring only)	
PROD 685	Advanced Production Seminar (topics specified by Chair)	
PROD 685	Advanced Production Seminar (DIT Workshop)	
PROD 685	Advanced Production Seminar (Post Production Supervisor Workshop, Spring Only)	
PROD 687	Actor Workshop	
PROD 688	Directing the Camera (Spring only)	
SCWR 635	Advanced Motion Picture Script Analysis	
SCWR 660	Writing the Drama TV Series Spec	
SCWR 670	Writing the Comedy TV Series Spec	
FTVS 513	Seminar in American Film	3
Semester Hours		9
Minimum Semester Hours		27

1
Nine total semester hours are required for the degree. Other courses by permission only.

Final Deliverables–Directing Non-Fiction Specialization

- Completed non-fiction film 8-20 minutes in length
- Festival plan and promotional materials

Editing Specialization

Course	Title	Semester Hours
Second Year		
Spring		
FTVS 513	Seminar in American Film	3
Select two of the following Advanced Electives: ¹		6
PROD 567	Practicum in Color Correction	
PROD 598	Special Studies (topics specified by Chair)	
PROD 642	Cinematography II (Spring only)	
PROD 664	Visual Effects	
PROD 685	Advanced Production Seminar (topics specified by Chair, including Post Production Supervisor Workshop, DIT Workshop)	
RECA 568	Advanced Post-Production Sound	
Semester Hours		9
Third Year		
Fall		
FTVS 514	Seminar in International Film	3
PROD 666	Advanced Editing	3
Select three semester hours of the following Advanced Electives: ¹		3
PROD 567	Practicum in Color Correction	
PROD 598	Special Studies (topics specified by Chair)	
PROD 642	Cinematography II (Spring only)	
PROD 664	Visual Effects (Spring only)	
PROD 685	Advanced Production Seminar (topics specified by Chair, including Post Production Supervisor Workshop, DIT Workshop)	

RECA 568	Advanced Post-Production Sound	
Semester Hours		9
Spring		
PROD 675	Thesis Portfolio	3
PROD 685	Advanced Production Seminar	1-3
FTVS Elective—Film, Television, and Media Studies: Select one course (or three semester hours) from FTVS 500- or 600-level.		3
Semester Hours		7-9
Minimum Semester Hours		25-27

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Nine semester hours are required for the degree. Other courses by permission only.

Final Deliverables—Editing Specialization

- 2-5 minute editing reel (reviewed by Thesis Committee)
- Online portfolio/website (reviewed by Thesis Committee)
- Trailers for completed films (reviewed by Thesis Committee)
- 25-60 minutes of content from PROD 650 Thesis Project I: Pre-Production and Production, PROD 490 Advanced Production: Producing and Directing the Fiction Short/PROD 492 Advanced Production: Producing and Directing the Documentary Short and/or WPTV Thesis projects. Other projects (e.g. music videos, PROD 400 /PROD 600 Directing the Short Film III: Directing Actors, films from other graduate institution thesis programs or professional work completed **during** applicant's second and third year) accepted only at committee's discretion. Must include a minimum of two projects.
- Post-production schedules, budgets, and workflow maps/outlines for each project