

CINEMATOGRAPHY ADMISSIONS

Film and Television MFA Program

About the Program

Established in 1997, the Film and Television MFA degree in Production/Cinematography is a three-year program that offers students comprehensive training in bringing their creative vision to life with cinematography professionals. From understanding the nuances of lighting to mastering emerging technologies, students are trained to be industry leaders and innovators in the world of visual storytelling. With over two decades of experience, we pride ourselves on producing versatile and pioneering professionals in the realm of cinematography.

All MFA programs in Film, Television, & Digital Media are FULL-TIME programs. The Department admits new students only once each year for the Fall Quarter.

We do not accept Films, DVDs, or Links.

Applicants must submit all required application materials to be considered for admission.

ONLINE AND MAILED APPLICATION DEADLINE: NOVEMBER 1, 2026

Important Information

The information and supplemental materials must be uploaded and mailed by **Sunday, November 1, 2026 (11:59pm PST)**.

Make sure you review all categories before you submit your UCLA Application for Graduate Admission. You may log in/log out of the system as many times as needed during the filing period, but once the application is submitted, you will not be able to make **ANY** corrections or additions.

Payment and final submission of the online application are required for a COMPLETE application.

MFA Applicants

By the time of entrance, **MUST:**

- Have at least a 3.0 GPA.
 - Satisfy the University of California's [Graduate Admission Requirements](#).
 - Complete equivalent to a 4 year US Bachelor's Degree.
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**Please do not contact the department to check on your application, as we cannot update you on its status or materials.

CINEMATOGRAPHY APPLICATION WORKSHEET

Film and Television MFA Program

APPLICATION CHECKLIST

Use this checklist to help prepare your materials. This information **MUST** be electronically submitted online AND sent by mail as indicated. More detailed information on these materials will be included in the following pages of this document. **This is NOT an application, it is only to be used as a checklist.**

ONLINE

The following materials must be completed online.

Check Once Completed:

- ☐ Complete the [UCLA Application for Graduate Admission](#).
 - ☐ Complete all required information.
 - ☐ Indicate MFA, FILM AND TELEVISION, and PRODUCTION/CINEMATOGRAPHY as your program.
 - ☐ Upload UNOFFICIAL Transcripts.
 - ☐ Submit Three LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION.
 - ☐ Enter the Names and Emails of all recommenders.
 - ☐ Upload a STATEMENT OF PURPOSE.
 - ☐ Upload a PERSONAL STATEMENT.
 - ☐ Upload an ESSAY on CINEMATOGRAPHY AS STORYTELLING.
 - ☐ Pay the APPLICATION FEE and then complete the FINAL SUBMISSION on the application.

MAIL

The following hard-copy materials **MUST** be sent by mail. This is in addition to the online materials. (Transcripts and Test Scores can arrive separately if needed.)

Check Once Completed:

- ☐ Mail OFFICIAL copies of TRANSCRIPTS.
- ☐ Mail OFFICIAL TEST SCORES. *(Not required for all applicants)*

ONLINE AND MAILED APPLICATION DEADLINE: November 1, 2026

Applicants MUST complete BOTH the Online and Mail portions of the application to be considered.

If you have any additional information, call 310-206-8441, or email filmgrad@tft.ucla.edu.

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CINEMATOGRAPHY APPLICATION WORKSHEET

Film and Television MFA Program

APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS GUIDELINES

Step 1: Online

- Complete the [UCLA Application for Graduate Admission](#).
 - MUST be paid and completed ONLINE BY **NOVEMBER 1, 2026**.
 - Indicate MFA as the Degree,
 - FILM AND TELEVISION as the Major,
 - PRODUCTION/CINEMATOGRAPHY as the Area.
 - AREA selection will be on the FILM & TELEVISION page of the [UCLA Application for Graduate Admission](#).
 - Upload a STATEMENT OF PURPOSE. (500 word max)
 - Give the faculty a sense of who you are. What do you hope to achieve by participating in the program? What are your professional goals? How do you plan to achieve them?
 - Find more information on this requirement within the online application, and by going to: [UCLA Graduate Admissions Requirements](#)
 - Upload a PERSONAL STATEMENT. (500 word max)
 - Find more information on this requirement within the online application, and by going to: [UCLA Graduate Admissions Requirements](#)
- SUPPLEMENTAL MATERIALS.

When applicable, Supplemental Materials must be uploaded in PDF Format, 12 point font, double-spaced, use 8 ½ by 11 page size, and not exceed the indicated page maximum. If you do not follow these guidelines, your application will not be considered. Also include your name, title of the piece, and page number on each page.

- Upload an ESSAY on CINEMATOGRAPHY AS STORYTELLING.
 - Submit a 2-4 page short essay on a film in which the cinematography plays a key role in the story being told. Discuss the ways in which the cinematographer uses movement, composition, color, and light to enhance the dramatic elements of the story.
 - **DO NOT submit scripts, DVDs, or films**
- Upload UNOFFICIAL copies of all TRANSCRIPTS.
 - Upload PDF copies of all Undergraduate and Graduate institutions attended.
 - Many institutions allow access to records online, where students can print or save unofficial copies.
 - If you have hard copies of transcripts, you can scan and save the documents as PDF files.
 - NOTE: Community College transcripts are NOT required for this program, only include these if you feel the coursework is relevant to your application review.

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- Submit Three LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION.
 - Enter the Names and Emails of all recommenders.
 - Recommenders will be sent an automated email with instructions on submitting letters once submitted.
 - *Letters should be from individuals who know you well: a teacher, an employer, or someone in a position of leadership or responsibility with substantial knowledge of your personal qualities and capabilities. Avoid asking family friends and/or prominent public figures who may not know you as well as a teacher or employer. You want to find those who can honestly tell us what is unique, remarkable, and admirable about you and your abilities, based upon their personal experience. **Do not submit more than three letters of recommendation.***

Step 2: Mail

- Mail an OFFICIAL PAPER copy of all TRANSCRIPTS from each Undergraduate and Graduate institutions attended.
 - NOTE: Community College transcripts are NOT required for this program, only include these if you feel the coursework is relevant to your application review.
 - Please have transcripts sent to the address below or include them in sealed envelopes with the supplemental application packet.
- Request that all TEST SCORES be sent directly to UCLA.
 - Only test scores taken by **December 31, 2026** will be accepted.
 - The GRE UCLA Code is 4837 and the Department Code is 2409.
 - **NOTE: THE GRE IS NOT REQUIRED FOR MFA APPLICANTS.**

MAILING ADDRESS:

Please SEND all applicable materials to:

Graduate Film Admissions: Cinematography
UCLA Department of Film, Television, and Digital Media
103 East Melnitz Hall, Box 951622
Los Angeles, CA 90095-1622

ONLINE AND MAILED APPLICATION DEADLINE: NOVEMBER 1, 2026

If you have any additional questions, call 310-206-8441, or email filmgrad@tft.ucla.edu. **

**Please do not contact the department to check on your application, as we cannot update you on its status or materials.

Privacy Notice:

1. The principal purpose of requesting the enclosed information is to consider your application for admission to the UCLA Department of Film, Television, and Digital Media.
2. This information is solicited in accordance with University policy, adopted pursuant to Article IX, Section 9 of the California Constitution.
3. Failure to furnish each item of information will delay or may prevent completion of the purpose for which this questionnaire is intended.
4. Information furnished in this questionnaire may be used by various University departments and may be transmitted to State and Federal government agencies if required by law.
5. This questionnaire is maintained by the Student Services Office for the UCLA School of Theater, Film and Television.

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Additional Information & Resources

International Students

For more information on requirements and applying to UCLA as an International Student, visit <http://grad.ucla.edu/gasaa/admissions/INTLREQT.HTM>.

English Proficiency: Any international applicant whose first language is not English must certify proficiency in English when applying to UCLA, and, if admitted, upon arrival. Such applicants must submit scores received on the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) or the International English Language Testing System (IELTS) as part of their application. The UCLA Code is 4837 and the Department Code is 2409. Only test scores taken by **December 31, 2026** will be accepted. For more information, visit <https://grad.ucla.edu/admissions/english-requirements/>. International applicants who have received a Bachelor's degree from an American institution are not required to take the TOEFL.

Academic Records: Although the UCLA Graduate Division Application enables applicants to upload an unofficial copy of their academic records, all applicants are required to submit official records from each academic institution attended. For more information, visit: <https://grad.ucla.edu/admissions/required-academic-records/>.

Undergraduate Degree Requirement: Applicants must complete equivalent to a 4 year US Bachelor's Degree. International students who hold three-year ordinary pass degrees, or who hold professional diplomas in accounting, business, librarianship, social work, physical education, health education and so on, or four-year degrees, diplomas or higher certificates from technical, vocational or post-secondary specialized schools are **NOT** eligible for graduate admission. For Academic Requirements by Country or Educational System, visit: <https://grad.ucla.edu/admissions/required-academic-records/>.

Proof of Funding for Visa: U.S. immigration law requires that international applicants, if admitted, show documented evidence that sufficient funds to cover all tuition, fees, transportation, and living expenses are available for the first year of their studies at UCLA. This must be proven before a Certificate of Eligibility (I-20 or DS2019) for a visa can be issued. For more information about this requirement, visit <https://grad.ucla.edu/admissions/visa-procedures/>.

FAFSA

For U.S. Citizens and Permanent Residents interested in receiving financial aid in the 2027-2028 year, note that the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) deadline for UCLA is March 2, 2027. Applicants must complete the FAFSA by this date if they want to be eligible for all awards, work-study, and scholarships that UCLA offers. If applying after March 2, please check with the Financial Aid Office for available funding opportunities. www.financialaid.ucla.edu

DREAM Act

For non-US Citizens or non-Permanent Residents who are approved to pay in-state tuition because they graduated from a high school in California; they will need to complete the California DREAM application by the March 2, 2027 deadline. The DREAM application can be accessed at <https://dream.csac.ca.gov>. If applying after March 2, please check with the Financial Aid Office for available funding opportunities. www.financialaid.ucla.edu