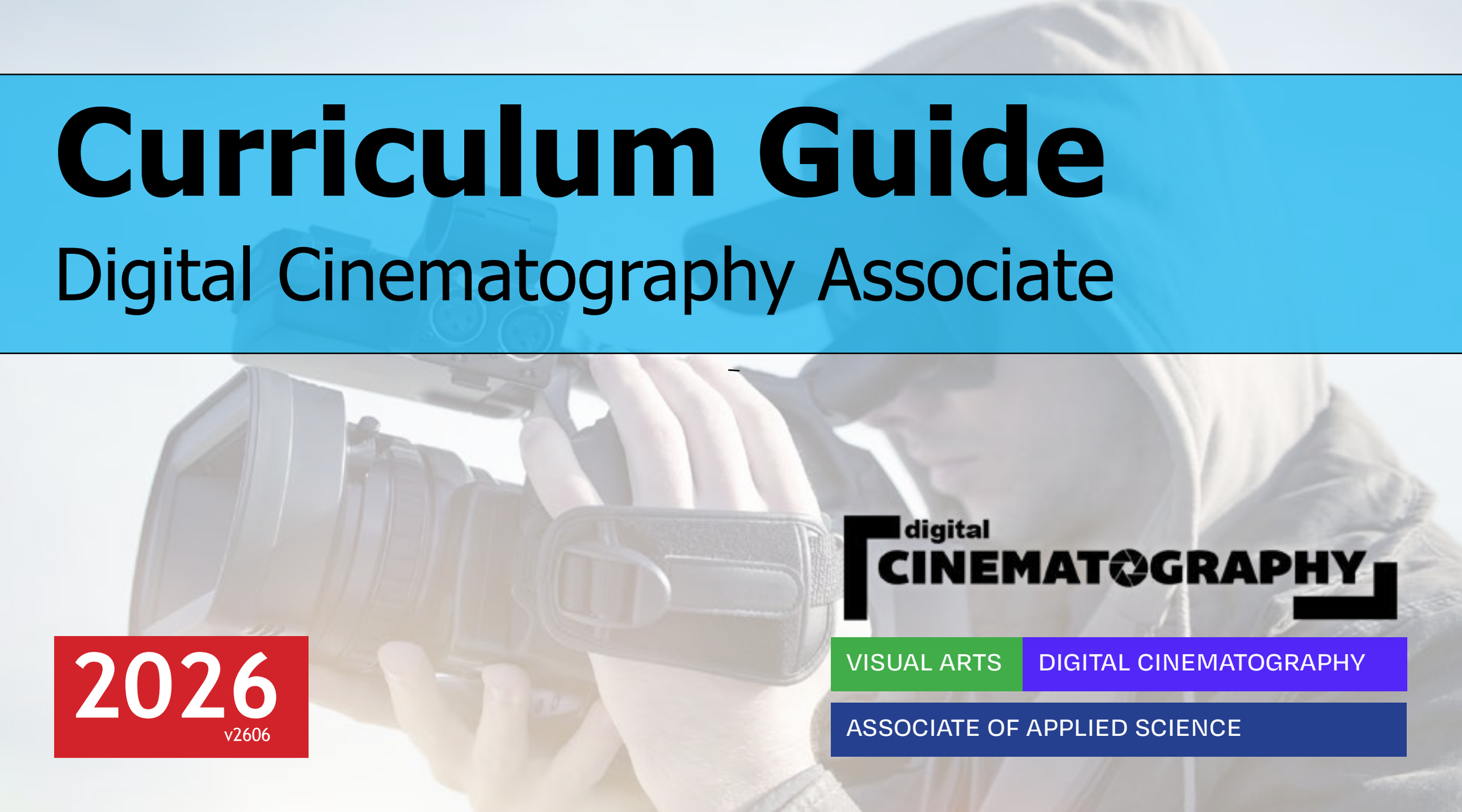
Curriculum Guide

Digital Cinematography Associate



digital CINEMATOGRAPHY

VISUAL ARTS | DIGITAL CINEMATOGRAPHY

ASSOCIATE OF APPLIED SCIENCE

2026

v2606

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WELCOME

This curriculum guide gives a view into the Digital Cinematography Associate of Applied Science. You will find advice on success, an expected schedule of courses, and a description of the services and events that the Digital Cinematography Department offers at Full Sail University. This degree contains multiple portfolio courses, and the requirements of those projects are inside. We are happy to be joining you on this journey!



With the explosion of digital media, artists and filmmakers have to adapt their content for a variety of platforms.

The Digital Cinematography Associate of Applied Science degree program prepares students in digital video and filmmaking production. You'll learn about digital photography, HD video production, lighting, and audio mixing, giving you the skills to create professional content for various platforms.

Courses in Degree: 20
Completion Time: 14 months

SCHEDULE BREAKDOWN

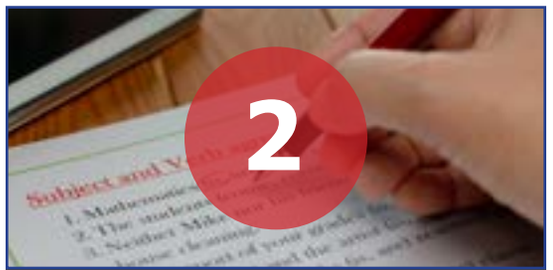
SEMESTER 1



Creative Presentation

GEN1011-O

- Communication Types
- Storytelling Basics
- Giving a Presentation
- Understanding the Audience



English Composition

ENC1101-O

- Storytelling and Structure
- Formatting Scripts
- Action and Dialogue
- Revision



History of Motion Picture Arts

FIL1037-O

- Origins of Motion Pictures
- Film Genres
- Foreign Cinema
- Elements of Filmmaking

Psychology of Play

GEN1011-O

- Time Management
- Gamification
- Motivation
- Handling Stress



Introduction to Film and Video

FIL1422-O

- Story Structure
- Building Strong Characters
- Basic Film Techniques
- Building Blocks of a Scene

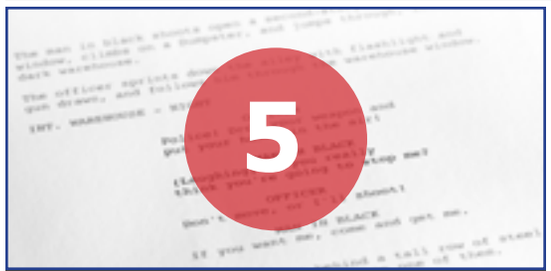
PORTFOLIO COMPONENTS

- Treatment
- Storyboards

Each course is 4 weeks long, and all students progress in the same order of classes.

SCHEDULE BREAKDOWN

SEMESTER 2



Scriptwriting Techniques

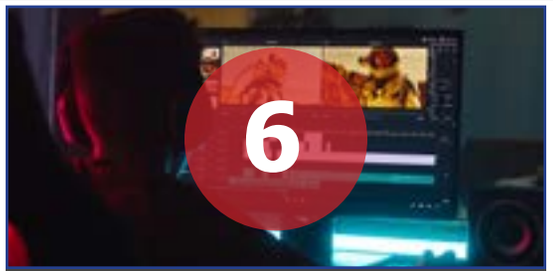
ECW3055-O

- Scriptwriting Structure
- Formatting Scripts
- Action and Dialogue
- Revision

New Media Tools

MCM1203-O

- Adobe Creative Cloud
- Video Editing: Premiere Pro
- Audio: Audition
- Imaging: Photoshop
- Effects: After Effects
- Vector: Illustrator



Introduction to Postproduction

FLM1009-O

- Recording Audio
- Basic Video Editing
- Visual Asset Collection
- Short mini-doc
- Soundscape Development



Project and Portfolio I

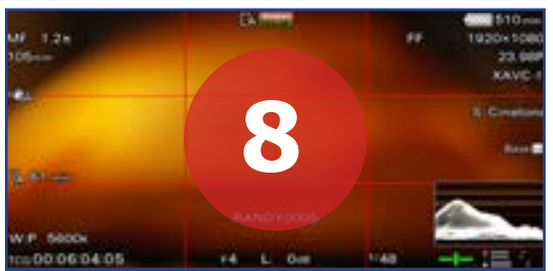
ECW3055-O

- Set Safety
- Adobe Portfolio
- Shot Types
- Film Industry Research
- Introduction of Production Hours

PORTFOLIO COMPLETION

- 1-Minute Instructional Video

RECEIVE LAUNCHBOX CAMERA PACKAGE



Composition and Visual Design

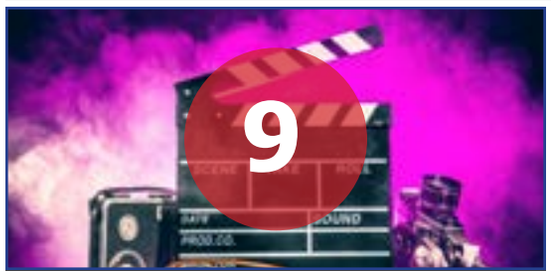
DCN1107-O

- Camera/Gear Walkthrough
- Focus, Exposure, and White Balance
- 3-Point Lighting
- Shot Composition

Each course is 4 weeks long, and all students progress in the same order of classes.

SCHEDULE BREAKDOWN

SEMESTER 3



Project and Portfolio II

FAV229-O

- Script Deveopment
- Pre-visualization
- Video Pitch
- Basic Lighting Concepts

PORTFOLIO COMPONENTS

- Narrative Contracts

Professional Development I

DGC3111-O

- Career Planning
- Personal Branding



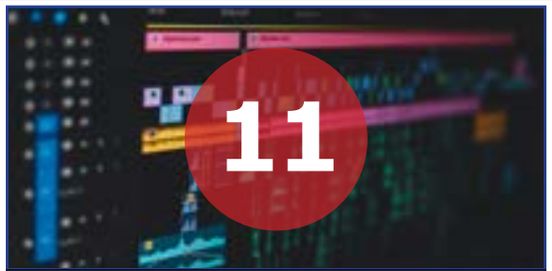
Fundamentals of Production I

FLM280-O

- Preproduction Elements
- Shot Lists
- Camera/Lighting Techniques
- Budgeting/Scheduling

PORTFOLIO COMPONENTS

- Narrative Footage
- Production Bible



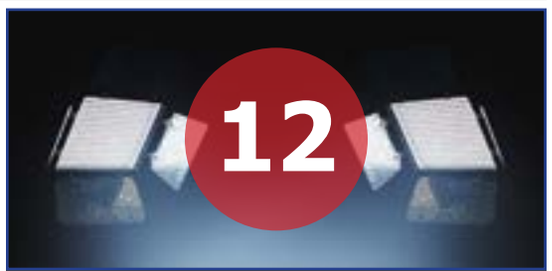
Fundamentals of Production II

FLM378-O

- Audio Post
- Editing Narrative Scenes
- Titles and Basic Animation
- Color Correction

PORTFOLIO COMPONENTS

- Narrative Fine Cut



Location Lighting

DCN3317-O

- Lighting Plots
- Lighting for Emotion
- Exterior/Interior Lighting
- Shooting in S-Log

Each course is 4 weeks long, and all students progress in the same order of classes.

SCHEDULE BREAKDOWN

SEMESTER 4



Web Design

WEB4550-O

- Website Research
- Web Standards
- SEO Fundamentals
- Create a Website

Film Criticism

DCN4111-O

- Autuer Theory
- Presenting a Critical Identity
- Negative Criticism
- Critique Video



Project and Portfolio III

FLM280-O

- Production Hours
- Titles and Credits
- Where I am as a Filmmaker
- Resume Building

PORTFOLIO COMPLETION

- Final Edit

Professional Development II

DGC3222-O

- Career Dev. Strategy
- How to Stand Out



PORTFOLIO I - Instructional

In this Portfolio, you will create a 1-minute Instructional Video (a video on how to do something). A person will be instructing the viewer in front of the camera using techniques that are visually interesting and engaging. The Portfolio will include an A/V Script, Storyboards, and the final video itself.

Requirements

- Use of an iPad, cellular phone, or a DSLR camera in order to record the footage
- Utilizing 16:9 landscape framing, and a variety of shot types
- 50 second to 1 minute in length
- Adheres to the policies of the DC Student Policy Manual

Components and Deliverables

- 1 page, 2-column A/V Script
- 6 shot Storyboard
- 50 second to 1 minute video posted to YouTube or Vimeo

Note that some components may be completed in previous classes, and instructors may require that they be resubmitted, revised, or redone in future classes. This is to maximize the excellence of your body of work.

Example Student Works:
https://wearedcbs.com/dc-portfolios-student-examples/#port1





PORTFOLIO II - Narrative Pitch

In this Portfolio, you will develop the groundwork for a Narrative project for Portfolio III. Narratives have a number of moving parts, and the deliverables will prepare you for making that journey smooth. You will create a pitch video (an "elevator pitch") that will sell your Narrative idea, telling the story as succinctly and visually as possible using the camera and lighting techniques learned in previous courses.

Requirements

- Use of the school-provided camera
- Narrative screenplay that meets the shooting requirements
- Demonstrate your verbal and visual storytelling skills
- Pitch Video that is less than 90 seconds in length
- Adheres to the policies of the DC Student Policy Manual

Components and Deliverables

- 2-5 page script in screenplay format
- Photo storyboards, 12-24 shots
- Pitch Video no longer than 90 seconds exported into MP4

Note that some components may be completed in previous classes, and instructors may require that they be resubmitted, revised, or redone in future classes. This is to maximize the excellence of your body of work.

Example Student Works:
https://wearedcbs.com/dc-portfolios-student-examples/#port2

PORTFOLIO III - Narrative Short Film

In this Portfolio, you will complete a Narrative Short Film, from Preproduction documentation all the way to a locked picture with titles and credits. You will craft the story, the world, and the characters in it, and demonstrate your technical and artistic ability to tell an emotionally engaging and visually interesting film. You will also prove that you have completed 24 verified production hours.

Requirements

- Complete 24 verifiable production hours
- Use of the school-provided camera and light kit
- Demonstrate your verbal and visual storytelling skills
- 3 to 5 minutes in length with titles and credits
- Video adheres to the policies of the DC Student Policy Manual

Components and Deliverables

- Document proof of 24 Production Hours (or alternate assignment)
- Production Bible
- 3 to 5 minute video posted to a discussion

Note that some components may be completed in previous classes, and instructors may require that they be resubmitted, revised, or redone in future classes. This is to maximize the excellence of your body of work.

Example Student Works:
https://wearedcbs.com/dc-portfolios-student-examples/#port3



LAUNCHBOX EQUIPMENT

What it Includes

Sony Camera Package

- FX6 Camera Body with Front Camera Sensor Cap
- LCD Screen & Mounting Arm
- LCD Screen Hood
- Camera Top Handle with Mic Holder
- Cold Shoe plate and screws
- Right Side Hand Grip
- Sony BP-U35 Battery
- Sony Battery AC Adapter with AC cable, works on both the camera and the battery charger.
- Sony Battery Charger Plate (plugs into AC adapter)
- Sony SELP 24-105mm G Lens with Front Lens Cap and Back Lens Cap
- 64G V90 Tough SDXC Card

Camera Bag

- Porta-brace CSDV4R Black Soft Camera Bag
- Portabrace Small Black Zippered Pouch w/ white card and soft camera cage and velcro strap
- Portabrace camera strap for camera bag.
- Portabrace White Card (Do not throw this away)
- Small black bag to put headphones in

Audio

- Sony Shotgun Mic ECM-VG1
- Short XLR Cable
- Wind Screen
- Rubber Microphone Gasket
- Sony Headphones (MDR-7506)
- Plastic Mic Holder with screw in adapter
- Stage Master 25ft XLR Microphone Cable (SMM-25) (Used to connect the shotgun mic to a boom pole)

Tripod & Head

- Siuri VHS10 Fluid Head and SQ75 Tripod with Quick Release Plate
- Tripod handle, ¼-20 screw, 3/8-16 screw in the base plate, manual and warranty card.
- Soft Tripod Bag.



LAUNCHBOX EQUIPMENT

Light Kit

- 2- GVM SD80D Spotlight (80watt COB LED)
- 1- GVM YR200 50watt Soft light
- 1- GVM Full Size Light Stand for the YR200
- 2- GVM Heavy Duty Light Stands for the SD80s
- 1- GVM Desk Stand
- 1- GVM 5 in 1 40” reflector
- 1- GVM 22 Inch Easy Setup Softbox (for SD80) with 2 diffusion panels (Large/Small) and Black Honeycomb Grid
- 1- GVM Barn door (Bowen Mount) For SD80D light.

Apple MacBook Pro, Applecare, and Adapters

Laptop made by Apple, and is compatible with all software provided by the Program. This laptop comes with a 3 year Applecare warranty, in case it is broken (see Broken Equipment section). The package also comes with a USB-C to USB adaptor, so that a greater variety of devices can be plugged into the laptop.

Adobe Creative Cloud

A suite of software applications, that include Photoshop (image editing), Premiere Pro (video editing), AfterEffects (motion graphics effects), Audition (audio editing), and many more that will be vital to your professional and educational careers. More information at http://adobe.com and https://creativecloud.adobe.com/cc/learn

Microsoft Office 365

A suite of software application, that include Word (word processor), Excel (spreadsheet), PowerPoint (presentations), Outlook (email client), and more that will be necessary to complete your assignments. More information can be found at http://office.microsoft.com

Movie Magic Budgeting and Scheduling

Industry-standard software for the budgeting and scheduling of film productions. More information can be found at https://ep.com

Final Draft

Screenwriting software to bring your story concepts into an industry-accepted format. More information can be found at https://finaldraft.com

When Do I Get It?

Students receive the LaunchBox in stages. The Laptop and most software are received in Month 3 in English Composition, and the rest is received in Month 7, at the end of Project and Portfolio I. In the following class, Composition and Visual Design, students will learn about the assembly, operation, and care for the equipment.



LAUNCHBOX EQUIPMENT

Broken Equipment?

If your equipment arrived broken, or it was broken during the course of your studies, please email **technicalsupport@fullsail.com and copy your instructor** as soon as you can. This is an accelerated program, and you may need your equipment in order to complete assignments in your course. Some repairs take longer than others, so keep your instructors in the loop as to the state of your equipment, and we will do our best to mitigate any downtown, if we are able to.

Although it is not a requirement for the program, it is vital that you purchase insurance for your equipment. While your Applecare warranty will apply to your MacBook, and manufacturers may repair faulty equipment -- **otherwise you bear the cost of replacing damaged equipment**.

Does Your LaunchBox Look Different?

Occasionally, we change the contents of the LaunchBox package due to costs, upgrades, and other considerations. Rest assured that whatever equipment that you received is industry-accepted and perfect for your Full Sail education...and beyond, in the professional world.

SUPPORT SERVICES

The Digital Cinematography Department and Full Sail University have a diverse and effective set of resources to help students through their educational experience. Here are a few of them:



Your Instructor

The instructor of your current class is a great source of information -- not just about the educational material, but also as a guide to the other services that the DC Program and Full Sail University provides.



DC Program Mentors

The Digital Cinematography Department has a great team of current students who have agreed to give their time to help other students earlier in the program. For more information on getting a Mentor -- or to become one yourself -- please visit wearedcbs.com.



Technical Support

Provides technical support with the LMS, other web and app-based university services, and the technology that is included in the Launchbox.

Hours: Every day 8:00am EST - 2:00am EST
Email: technicalsupport@fullsail.com
Phone: 1-877-437-6349



Student Advocacy Team

Provides support to students facing challenges in academic and financial matters, like Probation, Change of Enrollment, taking time off, and program withdrawals.

Hours: Mon - Fri 9:00 am - 5:30 pm EST
Email: studentadvocacy@fullsail.com
Phone: 1-855-374-3572



Academic Advising

Assists with scheduling concerns, academic coaching, graduation requirements, and re-enrollment.

Hours: Mon - Fri 9:00 am - 5:30 pm EST
Email: aasupport@fullsail.com
Phone: 1-855-374-3572



Student Development

24/7 Support in the areas of Personal Growth, Student Community Activities, Code of Conduct, Crisis Related Resources, and Continuing Education.

Email: contactstudentdevelopment@fullsail.com

Image of DC Program Mentor Jordan Young. Source: wearedcbs.com. Image of Your Instuctor: Dr. Christopher Odom. Source: Full Sail LMS

SUPPORT SERVICES

The Digital Cinematography Department and Full Sail University have a diverse and effective set of resources to help students through their educational experience. Here are a few of them:



Academic Liaison

Help with the online platform, prevent obstacles, access resources, set goals, advocate for themselves, and facilitate communication with other student support departments.
Hours: Mon-Fri 9am-8pm EST, Sat-Sun 9am-6pm EST
Email: studentsupport@fullsail.com
Phone: 1-855-374-3572



Student Success Services

Manages disability support and accommodations, CoPilot Tutoring, Student Success Seminars, and test-outs.
Hours: Mon-Fri 9am-5pm EST
Email: success@fullsail.com
Phone: 1-855-374-3572



Military Student Success Services

Provides support to activity duty military and veterans involving their unique education considerations above and beyond what Student Success Services provides.
Hours: Mon-Thu 9am-6pm EST, Fri 9am-5pm EST
Email: militarycenter@fullsail.com

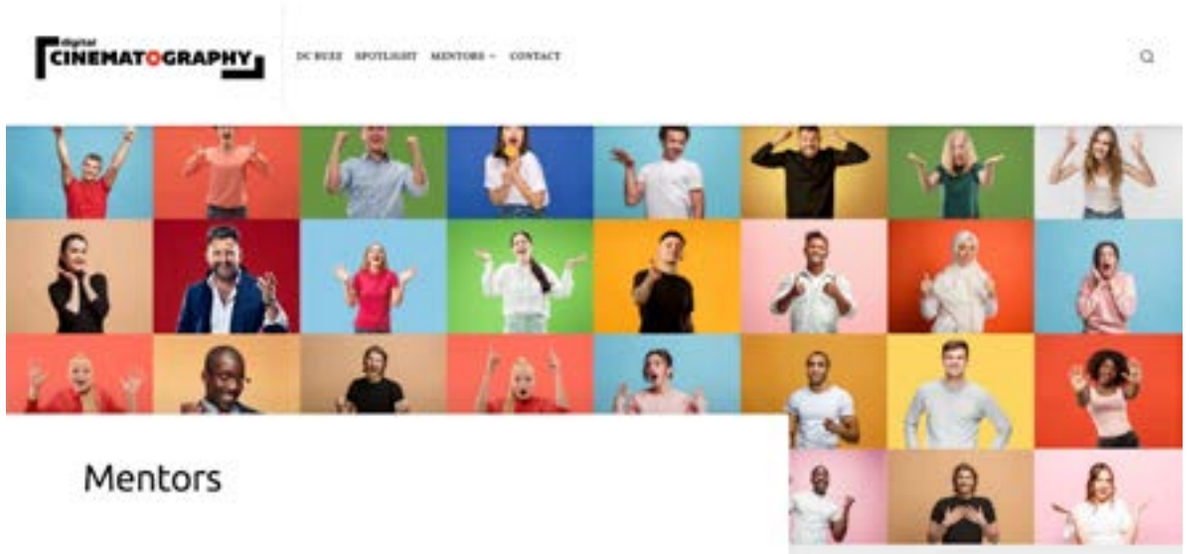


DEPARTMENT EVENTS AND RESOURCES

DC Buzz

Every term, the department holds an event over Zoom about a topic in digital cinematography, or interviews special guests and industry professionals. Everyone is invited to attend! This is a great way to meet new people, future instructors, and gain knowledge outside of the curriculum. The event is usually held on the fourth Thursday of each term, and will be announced through the LMS and Full Sail One. See you there!





WEAREDCBS.COM

The DC Program has an external website called wearedcbs.com. It contains great information on student and instructor spotlights, holds the archive of previous DC Buzz's, and how to get a student mentor -- or become one yourself!

The DC Program on Other Social Media Platforms

Facebook: Full Sail Digital Cinematography
Facebook: Full Sail Film Makers' Society
YouTube: DCBS Channel

Tips for Success

Manage Your Time

Keep track of what is due for each week. Block out a time and a place to study. Develop good time-management habits and educational discipline.

Communicate

Talk about your passion and find others who share it. Ask your instructor if you have any questions (before the due date!). They are here to help!

Network

Get to know your fellow students. Develop friendships and study teams. In the future, they may say a good word about you and get you a job!

Care for Your Equipment

Be it a phone, computer, or camera -- make sure that all of the equipment that you need for your education is in good working order, and is always in a safe place.

Be Prepared

Organize your thoughts and materials to make the best use of your time. Develop contingencies for obstacles that may come between you and your education.

Double-check Your Work

Before submitting anything, double check if it covers everything that the assignment requires, saved in the correct file format, and with the proper file name.

NOTE: Please check with your instructor, because specific curriculum and portfolio content may have changed since the publishing of this document.

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