



PROD 550 • SPRING 2027

- Students will complete a 4–6-minute short film that emphasizes visual storytelling.
- Students have the option to include up to seven (7) lines of dialog (see example).
- Students must use the script written in SCRW 501: Writing for Production.

! IMPORTANT

Films that do not adhere to these guidelines will carry consequences that may result in sanctions including, but not limited to, a grade reduction, failure of the course, loss of use of SFTV equipment and facilities, loss of screening privileges, and/or review by the LMU Academic Honesty Review Committee and/or Student Conduct.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

- Direct a 4–6-minute film (including credits) using the script written in SCRW 501 and approved by 550 faculty.
- Include zero (0) to **seven (7) lines** of dialog (see example).
- Words on the screen (e.g. computer, phone, TV, notes) that would otherwise be spoken to convey the information **count as part of the 7 lines**. Rule of thumb: *Do the words on screen create a narrative beat that would otherwise be said with dialog, and without them would be unclear? Then they count.*
- Principal photography must take place between **Weeks 4 and 10**, Thursday-Sunday only, in filmmaker teams assigned by faculty. Each production in a team may shoot a **maximum of 2 days each** for principal photography and must shoot in the 30-mile zone.
- Work in partnerships and collaborate on classmates' films.
- Attend the Prod 550 final screenings during finals week.

FILMING REQUIREMENTS

- Adhere to current Production Administration Team (PAT) and LMU Risk Management safety guidelines, including releases and permits. Review the SFTV Production Handbook.
- Be in good academic standing (C or better) with all previsualization work submitted to faculty prior to shooting.
- Script, budget, and schedule must be approved by faculty before uploading to TAP.
- Submit faculty-approved scripts and pre-pro to TAP for PAT review **before** entering hard prep. PAT approval may take 5 business days to 2 weeks — plan ahead.
- **No more than 2 locations** and **no more than 4 key cast members**. Cast and crew are limited to **15 max per day**.
- Use of track dollies, cranes and drones are prohibited.
- **No prop guns or children under 12-years-old** allowed on set.
- On-campus locations are unavailable during campus blackout dates (SFTV stages excluded).
- Professionals can only be used in an advisory function unless required and must be instructor approved.
- LMU students cannot be paid to work on the film (considered academic dishonesty).
- Correctly export and upload films on time for final graded screenings. Films longer than 6 minutes (including credits and LMU graphics) will not be screened or graded. Films will not be screened if the student is not passing the class.
- Students must receive a B- or higher in PROD 550 to advance. Students who earn less than a B- may not repeat the course.

TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS

- Shoot on the designated SFTV camera or a non-SFTV camera available to the student. Make sure outside camera packages and gear are compatible with any needed SFTV equipment.
- Use any editing platform — SFTV officially supports Adobe Premiere and Media Composer.
- **No generative A.I. tools** are allowed in any post process (sound, picture, or VFX).
- Shoot at a resolution your editing system can handle (1080p or 2K recommended). UHD resolutions may add workflow issues, including increased transcode/render/export times. If shooting UHD, editing with proxy files is advised. SFTV does not support shooting at resolutions above 4K.

BUDGET-IMPACT ELEMENTS

These require additional budgetary resources — plan early:

- Stunts
- Filming in water or in vehicles
- Filming intimacy
- Use of minors and animals
- Mechanical effects
- Various off-campus locations

Review the Production Handbook for all requirements.

7 lines of dialog spoken is not 7 lines of dialog on a page.
See below!

SEVEN LINES OF DIALOG

LYNDA

1 I signed you up with a Math tutor
2 after school.

PAIGE

3 Sorry what?

LYNDA

4 I signed you-

PAIGE

5 I heard THAT. I don't need a tutor!

LYNDA

6 Paige, we can't afford to pay for
7 both ballet class and a tutor.