



PROD 650F • FALL 2026

- 2nd course of a 3-semester sequence to complete an 8-15-minute fiction thesis film.
- Film must demonstrate mastery of story and craft while executing personal vision.
- Script is written the semester before in SCRW 620: Writing the Narrative Thesis.

! 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 an 8–15-minute film (including credits) using the script written in SCRW 620. Substantial script changes require faculty and committee approval.
- Principal photography must take place between Weeks 5 and 15 over **one** three-day weekend. Students may request a second weekend, but availability is not guaranteed.
- Follow the schedule outlined in the “M.F.A. Thesis Guidelines” document available from the Administrative Coordinator for the Graduate Program.
- Work as on-set crew for a production (undergrad or grad) for at least a full day and write a reflection.
- Submit a rough cut by the end of the semester.

FILMING REQUIREMENTS

- Adhere to current Production Administration Team (PAT) and LMU Risk Management safety guidelines, including releases and permits. Review the SFTV Production Handbook for full safety and production requirements.
- Be in good academic standing (C or better) with all previzualization work submitted to faculty prior to shooting.
- Script, budget, and schedule must be approved by faculty before uploading to TAP.
- Submit faculty-approved proposals and pre-pro to TAP for PAT review **before** entering hard prep.
- PAT approval may take 5 business days to 2 weeks — plan.
- On-campus locations are unavailable during campus blackout dates (SFTV stages excluded).
- No children under 5-years-old. Limited use of drones for filming is allowed with approval.
- Professionals and alumni can be brought on as needed with approvals from both faculty and PAT. 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 15 minutes (including credits) will not be screened or graded.

TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS

- Shoot on any available SFTV camera or a non-SFTV camera available to the student. Make sure outside camera packages are compatible with any needed SFTV equipment.
- Starting Week 9, M.F.A. thesis students have priority on all camera, grip, and electric equipment.
- Use any editing platform — SFTV officially supports Adobe Premiere and Media Composer.
- 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 cars / while driving
- Filming in water
- Filming intimacy
- Use of minors and animals
- Mechanical effects
- Various off-campus locations

Review the Production Handbook for all requirements.

DON'T FORGET

“Making films has got to be one of the hardest endeavors known to humankind.”

— Spike Lee