



PROD 650NF • FALL 2026

- 2nd course of a 3-semester sequence to complete a 15-20-minute non-fiction film.
- Film must demonstrate mastery of story and craft while executing personal vision.
- Treatment is developed the semester before in PROD 626.

! 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 15–20-minute film (including credits) using the treatment written in PROD 626. Substantial treatment 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 previsualization work submitted to faculty prior to shooting.
- Treatment, 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.
- Shooting during the summer prior to the fall semester requires faculty approval.
- On-campus locations are unavailable during campus blackout dates (SFTV stages excluded).
- 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 20 minutes (including credits) will not be screened or graded. Films will not be screened if the student is not passing the class.

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.

Review the Production Handbook for all requirements.

DON'T FORGET

“Making films is about having absolute and foolish confidence; the challenge for all of us is to have the heart of a poet and the skin of an elephant.”

— Mira Nair