

Guidelines for Applicants to the Graduate Program in Television, Film, and New Media Production (TFM)

NOTE: The master's degree program in Television, Film, and New Media Production (TFM) accepts applications for admissions for the fall semester only: The application deadline for application to the web portal is March.1st.

This graduate program is designed for candidates who have the creative/artistic potential, discipline, and organizational skills to complete original, provoking, and significant narrative, documentary or digital production work at a professional (or near professional) craft level during their course of study in the program. While previous academic achievement is desirable, such accomplishments are only one indication of a candidate's potential for success. Beyond the general University application, these guidelines indicate the additional materials that applicants must provide to the department. These materials must be received by April 1, and are submitted on line at SDSU Decision Desk. <http://gra.sdsu.edu/decisiondesk/>

MATERIALS TO BE SUBMITTED TO THE DEPARTMENT VIA DECISION DESK.

1. A resume to include any film and/or video production experience you have had. (Note: if you come from a discipline other than media, we strongly advise you to acquire basic training either in community college media courses or one of the many intensive media production training programs offered across the country. At minimum, you will need to provide tangible evidence of your craft skill level).
2. The best evidence the applicant can provide of creativity, technical skill level, and command of the medium. Generally, a sample reel is the most useful. The sample reel should be a work in which applicant held a key creative role (writer/director, cinematographer, editor, sound designer, production designer). Credits must be clearly indicated. Even though long work may be submitted, expect that about 10 minutes of the work provided will be viewed, so cue, or specify appropriate cueing, where necessary. In lieu of a sample reel, other examples might include a sample of original textual work (play, story, or screenplay for writers/directors) or visual material (drawings, storyboards, designs, or studio photography that may reflect lighting, framing, or composition skills).

The best way to submit your video work is through a link to a website such as Vimeo or YouTube. Please make sure any necessary passwords are included with the link. You may also upload files directly into the Decision Desk application, but make sure you are aware of the format and file size requirements as outlined on the site.

If the applicant prefers they may send a hard copy of the work on dvd or usb flash drive directly to:

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David Morong
Graduate Advisor
School of Theatre, Television and Film
San Diego State University
5500 Campanile Dr.
San Diego, CA 92182-76013.

3. A written treatment for an original short film. The subject can be narrative or documentary, and should be no longer than 2 pages. We are not looking for Hollywood blockbusters, but rather for an idea of what type of film you would want to make upon entering the program.
4. Personal Statement: A short (2-3 pages) essay (separate from the application form) detailing your creative and career goals, and how you think this program will benefit you.
5. Three letters of recommendation from academic and/or professional sources who can speak to your ability to achieve artistically and creatively in Media Production. These letters may be included in your application in sealed envelopes, signed over the seal by the respective writers

Specific Steps to Apply for Graduate Studies

1 APPLY TO THE UNIVERSITY

Apply to the university using [CalState Apply](#)

Please note: After you apply, you will receive your SDSU Red ID -- Your Red ID is required to submit your program application.

2 SUBMIT OFFICIAL TEST SCORES AND TRANSCRIPTS

Official test scores and transcripts must to be sent to Graduate Admissions.

Details can be found on the [Graduate Admissions website](#).

3 COMPLETE PROGRAM APPLICATION

Create a Decision Desk account and complete the program application. Here, you will submit materials required by the program -- e.g., essays, writing samples, letters of recommendation.

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Submission done through Decision Desk. <http://gra.sdsu.edu/decisiondesk/>

NOTE: If you are an international student, there are several additional procedures you will need to complete, including:

- A phone or skype interview (short list candidates only) to determine English skill level.
- Achieving a TOFEL of at least 550 (paper-based), 213 (Online), or 80 (Internet-based).
- Providing proof of degree awarded in your first language
- Completing a Financial Statement.
- The SDSU Graduate Admissions Office will evaluate your transcripts.

These procedures take longer than domestic applications, so it is vital that the process be started early and that you keep track of your application status by contacting the Graduate Admissions evaluator for international students at (619) 594-4178.

The University requires the Graduate Record Exam. The School of Theatre, Television and Film targets a minimum score of 150 on the Verbal, 142 on the Math, and a level 4 or better on the GRE writing. On rare occasions, if a candidate's creative portfolio is unusually strong, the TFM Selection Committee may waive scores falling below these minimums and accept the candidate on a provisional basis.

NOTE: The School of Theatre, Television and Film requires minimum grade point averages (GPA of 3.4 in the last 60 semester units attempted or an overall undergraduate GPA of 2.8 with a 3.0 in the last 60 semester units attempted.

Once the file is complete the School of Theatre, Television and Film will make an admission recommendation to the Graduate Admissions Office, who will render final approval. If the recommendation is for admission, and the student has a deficient GPA, a letter of support from the Graduate Advisor must accompany the Department Recommendation form stating the reason for the exception. If approved, you will be accepted on a provisional basis. Graduate Admissions will send you official notification as to your admission or denial at a later date. With rare exceptions, Graduate Admissions accepts the recommendation of the Graduate Advisor.

Information about all state, federal, and institutional aid programs is available from the Financial Aid Office. Call (619) 594-632 for more information