Guidelines for Applicants to MFA Program in Film and Television Production.

NOTE: The MFA in Film and Television Production 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 online at Interfolio https://apply.interfolio.com/52019

MATERIALS TO BE SUBMITTED TO THE DEPARTMENT VIA INTERFOLIO.

1. 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.

2. 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).

3. A story treatment for a short film, either narrative or documentary. This should not be for a blockbuster productions, but rather to give us an idea of the kind of film you would like to make as a graduate student.

4. 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

5. Creative samples fo your work. Film and video work that you have had a major role in are preferred (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. Other creative samples might include a
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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). You may also submit scripts, treatments, artwork, or any other example you think would help us evaluate your potential as a filmmaker to the additional documents section of the application.

The best way to submit your video work is though 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 to the Interfolio site, 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:

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

Specific Steps to Apply for Graduate Studies

1 APPLY TO THE UNIVERSITY
Apply to the university using CSU Mentor. 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 an Interfolio account and complete the program application. Here, you will submit materials required by the program -- e.g., essays, writing samples, letters of recommendation.

Submission done through Decision Desk. https://apply.interfolio.com/52019

NOTE: If you are an international student, there are several additional procedures you
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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 Graduate Record Examination (GRE) is required of all applicants, however, in some cases it may be waived. The waiver may be granted for an applicant who at the time of application a) has earned a bachelor's degree at a U.S. institution with a final GPA of at least 3.00 or b) has the bachelor's degree in progress at a U.S. institution and the current GPA is at least 3.25. Applicants who meet either criteria will be granted the waiver when an official transcript has been provided and reviewed by both the department and Graduate Admissions. International applicants and students below the target GPA must take the GRE. Applicants taking the GRE must post a verbal score of 450 or higher; a GRE quantitative score of 450 or higher; a combined GRE verbal and quantitative score of 950 or higher; and a GRE writing assessment (GRE-W) of level 4 or higher. For applicants deficient in the GRE quantitative, a score of 450 or higher on the GRE analytic may be substituted.

NOTE: The School of Theatre, Television and Film requires a Minimum grade point average of 3.0 (when A equals 4.0) in the last 60 semester (90 quarter) units attempted (this calculation may not include lower division courses taken after award of a baccalaureate degree).

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
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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.