Digital Film Production

Ontario College Diploma (2 Years - 4 Semesters) (1097)
705.759.6700 : 1.800.461.2260 : www.saultcollege.ca : Sault Ste. Marie, ON, Canada

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

If you want to explore an incredibly exciting field, consider this 2-year diploma program. It is the perfect fit for anyone who is passionate about movies and television, has always dreamed of being a filmmaker, loves storytelling, enjoys working with advanced technology or just wants to embrace their creativity. The program is also a marketable complement to any existing degree or diploma as the opportunities in this field are numerous and varied.

The film and television industry in Canada and on an international level is thriving with a growing number of major feature films shot in the Sault Ste. Marie area including on the Sault College campus! With so many entertainment and new media outlets, the global appetite for fresh and original content is virtually insatiable. Our goal is to train the digital storytellers of today and tomorrow who can produce these film projects. This is a field in the fine arts that values both creative and technical skills and is based on strong teamwork, smart business sensibilities and unique ideas. Maybe this is exactly what you are looking for!

Our unique program will cover the entire filmmaking process from idea development and scripting, through production into post-production and distribution. Students will focus on Producing, Directing, Screenwriting, Cinematography, Editing and Sound work. They will graduate with a portfolio of high quality, story-driven projects including short films, PSAs/commercials and a factual television pilot. Classes will cover both Feature/Short Film Production and Television Series Production. In addition to traditional, narrative filmmaking, a core focus of the program will be the growing industry need for factual and reality content for television and web. We will also address the complex, business side of the industry including networking, financing, job hunting and film festivals. Students will learn through access to advanced technology and software and a combination of hands-on classes, personal projects, lectures, guest speakers, screenings, work placement and community/client opportunities.

The program will also take advantage of everything the Sault area, Algoma region and College can offer including opportunities to work with the local theatre/acting community for narrative short film projects, interning options on local film productions as well as connections with existing college programs such as: aviation, culinary arts, adventure recreation and natural environment experiences to produce factual pilot projects. All with the added bonus of our campus being situated in one of the most beautiful parts of our country!

PROGRAM OUTCOMES

A graduate of the Digital Film Production Program at Sault College will reliably demonstrate the ability to:

1. Create independent digital film projects using development, scripting, pre-production, production and post-production techniques.
2. Work within a digital film production team in various industry capacities and roles on short projects.
3. Schedule and budget for various types of digital film productions with different scopes.
4. Capture professional quality moving images using the appropriate camera/lighting equipment and techniques.
5. Develop a portfolio of at least 3 short films and 1 television pilot to show creative and professional skills and abilities in digital filmmaking.
6. Write story-driven, visual and cinematic scripts that fit within proper/professional screenwriting format and style with a focus on effective dialogue, strong structure and character development.

7. Record and mix multi-track sound in a digital format using industry standard equipment and software.

8. Research, pitch, produce, package, market and distribute digital film projects using industry and new media outlets.

9. Edit digital video on non-linear, industry standard software and equipment.

ADMISSIONS

MINIMUM ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS

Ontario Secondary School Diploma or Mature Student Status

CAREER PATHS

Graduates may work as Independent Filmmakers, Screenwriters, Producers, Production Managers, Production Coordinators, Production Assistants, Assistant Directors, Directors, Sound Recordists, Sound Mixers, Editors, Editorial Assistants, Camera Operators and Camera Assistants. They may also gain employment at a variety of companies in roles involving film development, distribution, production, post-production, technical, festival and broadcasting in administrative, business, sales, finance and management capacities.

MANDATORY FEES

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<td>Tuition</td>
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These fees are for the 2020-2021 academic year (year 1 of study) and are subject to change. Please visit your Student Portal to view your Schedule of Fees.

OTHER INFORMATION

What you can expect:

- Small Classes with a healthy student/teacher ratio that will allow for a lot of one on one time with your instructors.
- Access to new equipment and software (all dictated by current industry trends).
- To graduate with a demo reel, resume and references and possibly even broadcast credits.

You will also be part of something that is brand new and you’ll have the opportunity to shape the program with us!

For more information contact Program Coordinator Frank Salituri at 705.759.2554 ext 2793 or email frank.salituri@saultcollege.ca
PROGRAM OF STUDY

SEMESTER 1
FPD114-4 Production I
FPD116-2 Introduction to Pre Production
FPD119-3 Screenwriting I
FPD129-3 Film Fundamentals
FPD130-3 Introduction to Post Production
FPD140-3 Visual Communication

SEMESTER 2
FPD121-3 Cinematography and Lighting
FPD122-3 Screenwriting II
FPD125-4 Production II
FPD126-5 Short Film I
FPD128-3 Television Development I

Select one of the following:
GEN110: Student Selected General Education

Note: *This student-selected general education course code indicates a general-education course is taken in this semester. Students will choose from a selection of courses [details] prior to the semester in which the student-selected general education course is to be taken.

SEMESTER 3
FPD233-2 Directing Workshop
FPD235-5 Short Film II
FPD236-4 Advanced Post Production
FPD238-3 Television Production II
GEN100-3 Global Citizenship

SEMESTER 4
FPD240-6 Short Film III
FPD242-2 Producing, Freelancing and the Business of the Film Industry
FPD243-2 Specialized Workshop
FPD244-4 Industry Work Placement Session
FPD248-3 Television Development III

Course Descriptions

Semester 1

Production I (FPD114) (4 credits)

This entry-level course will introduce students to the film industry and all aspects of a film set/production. Students will get hands on experience with equipment including lights, lenses, camera and grip equipment. The content and skills attained in this course will be a prerequisite for future courses in the program.

Introduction to Pre Production (FPD116) (2 credits)

This course will begin to explore important elements of the creative development process and how a project moves into pre-production. Students will learn how to schedule, budget and prepare for a shoot by understanding crewing, casting, location scouting and how to run effective production meetings. Students
will be able to utilize this knowledge in their own work.

**Screenwriting I** (FPD119) (3 credits)

Students will learn how to tell visual and cinematic stories. They will explore the importance of strong story telling, idea development, pitching, writing log lines, summaries, outlines, treatments and writing without dialogue. This course will give students the foundation for industry writing skills including the use of proper format, structure and form.

**Film Fundamentals** (FPD129) (3 credits)

This course will provide students with an introduction to the history of film and an overview of the fundamental components that contribute to modern film language. Through the evaluation of short films and feature film clips, students will explore the elements of: lighting, shot composition, types of shots, moving shots, colour correction, art direction, production design, props, make up, wardrobe, screenwriting, visual effects, practical special effects, locations, sets, sound, music, titles and actor performance. Students will learn about the evolution from photo chemical motion picture film to digital.

**Introduction to Post Production** (FPD130) (3 credits)

This course will cover an introduction to nonlinear, digital picture editing. It will give students the skills to complete their own projects as well as prepare them for their advanced second year post-production class. They will learn about both the creative and artistic side of post-production as well as the technical aspects. The course will cover importing, exporting, logging and organizing footage, picture editing, basic sound mixing, introduction to titles and colour correction.

**Visual Communication** (FPD140) (3 credits)

This course will begin to explore important elements of visual communication and how it relates to the organization of elements in compositions. Students will gain an understanding of how compositional arrangements can manipulate a visual interpretation from a viewer and how the composition can create a specific mood or feeling. Students will also develop an understating of how typographic imagery can also create a specific aesthetic and mood.

**Semester 2**

**Cinematography and Lighting** (FPD121) (3 credits)

This course builds on the knowledge and skills developed in Production I. Through project based assignments students can explore their creativity and apply visual communications skills. There will be an emphasis on capturing a moving image effectively and artistically through choice of lenses, lighting and grip equipment.

**Screenwriting II** (FPD122) (3 credits)

Students will build on what they learned in Screenwriting I - develop dialogue skills, understand character development and work on scripts for their short film projects.

**Production II** (FPD125) (4 credits)

This course will build on knowledge gained in Production I as students will look in more depth at all aspects of the camera functions, lens use, grip equipment, and lighting. Location shooting, Production Design, professional set etiquette, safety and equipment terminology will all be covered.

**Short Film I** (FPD126) (5 credits)

Students will consult with a teacher mentor, pitch ideas and work with groups to complete a short film
project. Students will be encouraged to direct or produce a project and crew on another project.

**Television Development I (FPD128) (3 credits)**

Students will explore current trends in episodic programming and production. This workshop style class will walk students through the process of developing their own television property (factual or narrative) and the creation of an industry style pitch package for their project.

**Student Selected General Education (GEN110) (3 credits)**

For Transfer Credit Purposes only.

**Semester 3**

**Directing Workshop (FPD233) (2 credits)**

Working with actors, the students will learn about the casting process, rehearsals, blocking, working with non-actors and effective techniques for communicating with actors. Also, students will cover the director’s preparation process and effective communication skills for working with crew.

**Short Film II (FPD235) (5 credits)**

A more ambitious continuation of Short Film I where students will tackle more sophisticated productions.

**Advanced Post Production (FPD236) (4 credits)**

This course builds on the skills required for effective storytelling in post-production through picture editing and sound mixing using industry standard software. Students will learn about editing theory, organizational skills as well as cutting and multi-track mixing techniques. Topics will include: trouble shooting for problem projects, effective use of music, colour correction, titling and basic visual effects.

**Television Production II (FPD238) (3 credits)**

Building on skills acquired in Factual Pilot I and the projects that the students began to develop, they will prep and shoot some of their television properties. This course will also cover: writing as a team, shooting an episodic project, 3 camera shoots and commercial production.

**Global Citizenship (GEN100) (3 credits)**

The world we are living in is one in which local, national and international issues are interwoven, and the need for us to understand the impact these issues can have on our lives has never been greater! Using a socio-cultural, political and environmental lens, students will view how the world is changing and how to become active agents of change from the local to international level. Important issues such as social injustice, poverty, environmental protection, resource scarcity, sustainability, and health will be addressed. Global citizenship is an opportunity to ‘Be the Change’. This course meets the Civic Life and Social and Cultural Understanding General Education themes.

**Semester 4**

**Short Film III (FPD240) (6 credits)**

Final film preparation and execution with consultation from a teacher mentor.

**Producing, Freelancing and the Business of the Film Industry (FPD242) (2 credits)**

Students will learn about higher level industry concepts including the studio system, tax credit system, film festivals, networking, making independent films and breaking into the industry. They will also gain an overview of all aspects of the film industry from financing to distribution. Students will learn everything from contract basics to how New Media plays a role in the current industry.
Specialized Workshop (FPD243) (2 credits)
The course will include industry guest speakers, specialized workshops (i.e. Continuity Supervision, Storyboard Artistry, Intro to Visual Effects), preparation for a Year End Screening as well as collaboration with the Shadows of the Mind film festival and local industry.

Industry Work Placement Session (FPD244) (4 credits)
Students will work with various organizations and charities in the community to produce PSAs, educational and instructional videos. They will gain valuable experience working with a ‘client’ contributing immensely to the local community.

Television Development III (FPD248) (3 credits)
In groups, students will shoot and complete a television pilot based on the projects that they developed in Factual Pilot I and II.