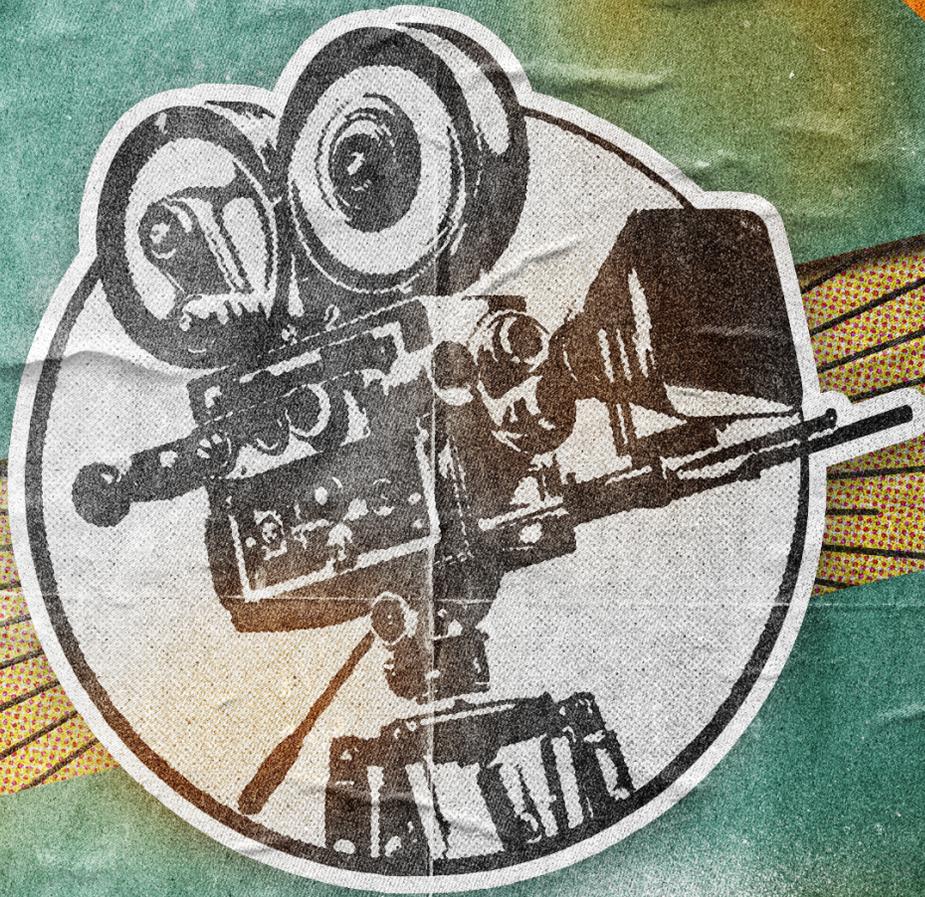


THE UIL YOUNG FILMMAKERS FESTIVAL



**2024-2025
PARTICIPANT
GUIDE**

University Interscholastic League

UIL Young Filmmakers Festival

2024-2025

Telephone: 512-471-5883 Theatre/Film Only: 512-471-9996

1701 Manor Road, Austin, TX 78722

WEB Address: www.uiltexas.org

WHO TO CONTACT WITH FILM QUESTIONS

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Participants

Only high school students eligible **under UIL rules** are eligible for the high school film contest.

Students producing the film must be currently enrolled (2024-2025 school year) and attending a UIL member high school. The entire production team must be enrolled full-time at the participating UIL member high school during the 2024-25 school year. See [UIL Eligibility](#)

Only students producing the film (non-performers) must be listed on the official entry form.

- There is no minimum or maximum number of student contestants.
- **Performers are not considered contestants if that is their only role in the project.**
- Adult involvement in the project is limited to sponsors and onscreen talent.
- There is no amateur rule for this contest.
- Adult Sponsors in the UIL State Student Film Festival shall be full-time employees of the school districts they represent. Their actual involvement in producing the film shall be in an advisory capacity only.

Contact [UIL Director of Eligibility and Education](#) if you have questions regarding student eligibility.

Conference

Schools will enter in one of the following conferences. Failure to enter in the correct conference may lead to disqualification of the entry.

- Conference 3A-Combined Conferences 1A- 3A schools only.
- Conference 4A-Conference 4A
- Conference 5A-Conference 5A
- Conference 6A-Conference 6A

TIME LIMITS AND ENTRIES

Time limits include credits and will be checked in prelims. Each school may submit **three (3) films** in each of the following four categories:

- Narrative- 3-7 minutes maximum in length
- Documentary (No Broadcast News or PSAs)- 3-7 minutes maximum in length
- Computer/Digital Animation, in which the illusion of movement/imagery of the subject or character is created by **keyframes** in a digital animation program. 30 seconds to 3 minutes maximum in length.
- Traditional Animation, in which the illusion of movement is 100% created by the filmmaker(s). **This includes hand-drawn animation or stop-motion animation which physically adjusts objects in each frame.** 30 seconds to 3 minutes maximum in length.

See Film categories.

ELIGIBLE MATERIAL

There is no particular theme for film festival entries.

Submitted films must be original works and are required to have clearances for music and or other copyrighted material featured in the project. Students are encouraged to find non-copyright sources for music and images. A media log of any copyrighted music, footage and images used shall be kept on file at the school. See link example of the [media log](#).-**Your school is responsible for obtaining all copyright clearances for images, footage and music used in your submission.**

The submitted film shall not infringe upon or violate the intellectual property rights of any third party and will not give rise to any claims of infringement, invasion of privacy or publicity, or infringe on copyrights, trademarks, patents, or other intellectual property rights. The submission has not been released commercially, been previously published or won any awards.

Artificial Intelligence (A/I) cannot be used to produce content (including images or written script) for any UIL film submission.

Films containing copyrighted material used without permission will not be eligible for screening. (C&CR Section 1036)

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COMMUNITY STANDARDS FORM

The administration of the producing school shall assure that the production does not offend the moral standards of the community. A signed "UIL FILM FESTIVAL-Community Standards and Copyright Compliance Form" signed by your Principal shall certify that the entries have been carefully examined and approved for presentation. **This form is included on the online entry and due by the entry deadline.**

Only those films produced for the current school year (2024-2025) will be considered for submission into the contest. Films from previous contest years *are not eligible* for competition. Films that *began* production during the spring (2024) or summer months (2024) prior to the new school year, are eligible for the 2024-2025 UIL Film contest.

All students producing (non-performers) the film must be eligible students under the current UIL rules (e.g., a 10th grade student may start production of a contest film in summer of 2024 and enter their film as an 11th grader for the 2025 festival).

Entry Procedures

- Schools will be asked to submit an [Intent to Participate form](#) by December 1, 2024. This is a survey only and not the official UIL enrollment form.
- The official UIL entry form for submitting films will become active January 1, 2025. The form can be found at www.uiltexas.org/film.
- **FILM SUBMISSION DEADLINE IS JANUARY 11, 2025. Films must be submitted by the deadline to qualify. No late submissions will be accepted.**
- The date, times and venue for the State Awards are tentatively scheduled for **February 26, 2025 (Combined Conferences 1A- 3A & Conference 4A) & February 27, 2025 (Conference 5A & Conference 6A)** in Austin. Check the UIL Film page for updates.

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EVALUATION

Films submitted to the Festival shall be previewed, critiqued and ranked by our adjudicators. **Originality, cinematic storytelling, and technical execution** are the basis of the scoring. Students will receive feedback from the judges.

Films should be the creative vision of the production team. As such, class projects which may end up as a longer piece than UIL time limits allow, should not be submitted as separate entries. A school's entries should be unique, representative of the individual teams.

Depending on the number of entries received in your category, advancing films will compete in multiple rounds, culminating with a State Semi-final round to determine State qualifiers. Those entries advancing to State in each category will be screened and ranked **first through sixth place** at the State Festival. First through sixth place will be awarded medals and/or trophies. Schools shall receive a written evaluation of the film via the Film Contest Portal for each level.

The UIL TALK TAB system will be used to tabulate rankings.

JUDGES-NEW to 2025:

Due to the growing number of entries to the contest, UIL Film sponsors are strongly encouraged to assist in judging film entries outside their competition pool. This year, schools are required to provide a minimum of one film judge for every 3 entries from their schools. Film sponsors can cover the judging assignments for their school themselves or submit to UIL the names of judges. A UIL Film Judges training guide and ZOOM workshop will be available in December. Check the [UIL Film Page](#) for more information.

JUDGES INTEREST FORM- COMING SOON

**JUDGE TRAINING (LIVE) COMING IN DECEMBER!
CHECK THE UIL FILM WEBSITE**

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FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What does it mean by “producing team”?

The producing team are the official, UIL eligible students (non-performers) participants on the film entry. This includes, but not limited to, the following positions: writers, directors, producers, editors, designers, camera operators, technicians, animators. These students may *also* serve as performers in the film.

Is my school locked in to compete if I file an intent to participate?

No. This is merely an “intent” to participate. This will help us plan for acquiring judges and planning for the evaluation process.

Is there an entry fee?

No.

Can my faculty advisor/sponsor help me write, edit or shoot the film?

They may ONLY assist you on set; in fact, that is strongly advised. They may give artistic and technical advice throughout the process only. They shall not write, edit, design, direct or shoot the film. This is a 100% student film production.

When is eligibility checked?

Eligibility is checked at the time of the submission deadline, JANUARY 11, 2025. The project is entered as a **producing team (non-performers)** representing the school. Ineligible students shall not be allowed to represent the school at the state finals.

What does it mean that there is no “amateur rule?”

Unlike athletic events in UIL, on-screen talent in the film contest can have professional film, TV or commercial credits.

Can our students work with friends that go to another school?

Only as on-screen or voice talent.

Can I use my little brother/sister from middle school as an on-screen talent (performer)? What about adults?

Yes. Non-high school students or students from another school can participate as **on-screen talent only**. They may not be listed as official participants in the contest entry.

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What is the difference between stock footage and B-Roll?

Stock footage is **pre-recorded video content not recorded by the filmmaker** that can be reused in a variety of media projects. It is commonly used in films to show things the filmmakers could not film themselves, such as occurrences from the past or distant locations. B-roll footage in documentaries is any supplemental video **shot by the student filmmaker** that is considered to be additional to the primary footage, typically used to illustrate and enhance interviews and prevent from uninterrupted use of “talking heads.”

Will I need location permissions? Waivers? etc?

Schools should check with each location. Waivers from talent, etc. shall be the responsibility of the participating school.

May we use pre-generated materials software? No. However, the creation of virtual sets and animated elements from animation software that are **CREATED BY THE STUDENTS** are permissible. Check with the UIL office for clarification.

Any rules on language or content?

See Section 1036 (c)(1)(B) of the current UIL [Constitution and Contest Rules](#).

Does Mockumentary fall under the Narrative or Documentary category?

Narrative. Since a mockumentary is scripted fiction, it will fall into the Narrative category.

May I use stock footage?

Your film may contain LICENSED or *public domain* stock footage as needed for a documentary. **Stock footage used in narrative and animation entries should not exceed more than 10% of the total running time. This will be checked in prelims.**

Stock footage is pre-recorded video content that can be reused in a variety of media projects.*

What will I need to prove I have permission to use the music and stock footage?

Receipts will need to be produced if requested by the State Contest Director.

NEW in 2025: A music, footage and image log should be maintained and kept on file at the high school. See [Film page](#) for sample media log. Your school is responsible for acquiring any and all clearances for any copyrighted music or images you use. The UIL cannot give opinions on copyright issues. All music, images, titles, footage and other copyrighted material used in your submission **MUST be properly licensed**. You must have permission and/or the proper rights to all content submitted.

Will the school receive any points towards Academic Championships?

Schools awarded 1st through 6th place at State shall receive points that count towards the overall Academic Championship. Additionally, points from One-Act Play, Film and Theatrical Design shall count towards the overall State Theatre Championship. The points are equivalent to any group contest in Academics.

POINTS (at the state level)

1st—20

2nd—16

3rd—12

4th—10

5th—8

6th—6

Can I view winning films from previous years?

Yes. Award-winning films from previous years may be found on the UIL Film page.

Does the University Interscholastic League hold the copyright for the submitted film?

No.

I am new to this contest. Are there any workshops or presentations I can view that could help me prepare?

Yes. There are UIL Film workshops throughout the year. Please check the UIL Theatre site for dates and opportunities. See below for a listing of student activity conferences. View the UIL YouTube channel for past filmmaking sessions.

[UIL Student Activity Conferences 2024](#)

This year's schedule includes four in-person conferences offering contest information, instruction and tips to help coaches and students prepare for the 2024-2025 competition season. Sessions will be scheduled for all UIL academic contest areas. A full program of events at each site will be posted and updated on this page approximately two weeks prior to the conference. If you are interested in presenting a session for the UIL Film contest please submit the [Workshop Proposal Form](#).

September 7, 2024- Tyler Junior College, Tyler
September 15, 2024 – Lone Star College- Houston
October 5, 2024 – Texas Tech University
November 2, 2024 – University of Texas, Austin

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UIL FILM CONTEST RESOURCES

[Film Technology for All Budgets](#) (UIL Student Activity Conference Presentation)

[Getting Started with the UIL Film Festival](#)
(UIL Student Activity Conference Presentation)

*[StudioBinder](#)

[All American High School Film Festival Music Library](#)

EditMentor

ASBClassroom

Filmmaking For Teens by Troy Lanier and Clay Nichols

[How to Obtain Permission](#) (U.S. Copyright Office, Library of Congress document)

SEE YOU AT THE MOVIES!

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