

Film Thesis Guidelines
Film & Performing Arts BA
Department of Theatre & Film
University of Alaska Fairbanks

All students proposing a "Senior Thesis" in film directing must be a film major in good standing and have completed either FLM/FLPA 331 Directing Film and Video
OR FLM/FLPA 470 Advanced Film/Video Directing
OR FLM/FLPA 480 Documentary Filmmaking
OR FLM/FLPA 431 Advanced Film Production.

A semester of FLPA 498, Film Research, is also highly encouraged to prepare students for the Thesis work and provide time to begin screenplay revisions, breakdowns, and pre production logistics.

Senior thesis project proposals will be evaluated by the Film UAF faculty on the basis of previously completed coursework, practical directing history, the merit of the written proposal, compatibility with departmental season goals and schedules, and the availability of support staff. Previous film directing experiences outside the department may also be considered in the evaluation and selection process.

The proposal for the senior thesis project in film directing should include the following elements:

- Complete Screenplay or Treatment (with production releases as necessary)
- Production Board or Breakdown including list of locations, cast, equipment, and budget.
- Brief synopsis of the plot, as well as a description of primary characters and themes found in the work;
- Concept and design statement relating to HOW you will produce this show within the parameters of the project guidelines;

For all senior thesis directing projects, the student must select a 15 page or less screenplay which can be effectively cast, designed, produced, and edited within a semester's time period. Each directing project will be presented for a public audience, free of charge. The Department has the authority to schedule the presentation dates and times to best fit time and space considerations.

Student directors may be awarded a minimal budget grant (as determined by the faculty and department chair). All purchases are to be approved by the faculty advisor prior to the purchase time. The Department is NOT responsible for any expenses accrued from the student film production, and any equipment purchases remain the property of The Department.

Student directors are responsible for coordinating and planning all aspects of the project, including acquisition of necessary actors, crew, designers, technical personnel, and publicists. The Theatre and Film Department does not guarantee access to workstudy or practicum students, or to departmental staff in the shop areas, although it is our intent to help you fully produce your realized production.

The final grade for the senior thesis will be assigned by the project advisor, and will be based on both process (50%) and the final product outcomes (50%). The remaining faculty members will provide the student director with written comments and reactions for their consideration.

Production Notebook and Website

Student directors must carefully document ALL aspects of the production process (as indicated by the project advisor) and compile a professional production book or website at the completion of the project. This production "book" MUST include the following: