

# What Career Is Best For Me?

There are many different career paths in film and television! This guide will introduce you to the many job possibilities in this field that you may have never thought about. Based on your interests, here are some careers you may consider!

## During a class project I like to...

### Take a leadership role

- Film or Television Director
- Director of Photography
- Post Production Supervisor
- Television Station General Manager
- News Director
- Art Director
- Entertainment Attorney
- Corporate Communications/Media Spokesperson

### Create workflows and organize

- Executive Producer
- Producer
- Associate Producer
- Line Producer
- Booking Producer
- Assignments Manager
- Promotions/Marketing Managers
- Account Executive
- Media Coordinator
- Social Media Specialist

### Tell stories

- Screenwriter
- News writer
- Actor
- News Anchor
- News Reporter
- Sports Anchor/Reporter
- Meteorologist
- Foreign Correspondent
- Copy Editor
- Field Producer
- Editor
- Publicist

## Be on set

- Cinematographer
- Camera Operator
- First Assistant Director
- Grip
- Best Boy/Girl Electric
- Sound Engineer
- Boom Operator
- Digital Imaging Technicians
- Script Supervisor
- Production Assistant
- Set Designer
- Costume Designer
- Hair and Makeup Artist
- Makeup Effects Artist
- Teleprompter Operator
- Tricaster Operator
- On-Set Visual Effects Supervisor

## Create visuals and sound

- 2D or 3D Animator
- Graphic Designer
- Motion Graphics Designer
- Title Artist
- Film Trailer Editor
- Colorist
- Sound Mixer
- Foley Artist
- Re-Recording Mixer
- Composer
- Visual Effects Artist
- Web Designer

# Where Should I Attend College?

Now that you know more about the different types of careers in film and television, here are some colleges and universities in the Midwest that offer programs in these fields.

- Ball State University
- Bowling Green State University
- Calvin College
- Cleveland State University
- Columbia College Chicago
- DePaul University
- Drake University
- Grand Valley State University
- Huntington University
- Illinois Media School
- Illinois State University
- Indiana University Bloomington
- Kennedy King College
- Loyola University
- Minnesota State University Moorhead
- North Central College
- Northwestern Medill School of Journalism
- Northwestern School of Communication
- Oberlin College
- Ohio State University
- Ohio University
- Purdue University
- School of the Art Institute of Chicago
- Southern Illinois University
- University of Chicago
- University of Illinois at Chicago
- University of Illinois-Urbana/Champaign
- University of Iowa
- University of Michigan
- University of Minnesota Twin Cities
- University of Notre Dame
- University of Wisconsin Madison
- Washington University in St. Louis
- Wayne State University
- Webster University

The college and universities listed above have a wide range of multimedia, film, and journalism programs. Click on the school's name to be taken to their website, and explore what each school has to offer. Think about what type of program you would be interested in, like hands-on production programs or in-depth media studies. Also consider the school's location, class size, and degree programs. What school offers the best program for the ways in which you like to learn?

When applying to colleges, take your time with applications! Answer questions to the fullest, and always proof-read before sending.

For your personal statement, your goal is to sell yourself- why should a certain university or college accept you into their program? Talk about your accomplishments, skills, awards, community involvement, work ethic, and your future career plans. You may even consider turning your written personal statement into a video and submitting that along with your application.

# Practice Makes Perfect!

If you are interested in learning more about media, here are some tutorials, resources, and software!

## Film/Cinematography/Post Production

### Websites and Books

- **No Film School**
  - Everything from tutorials to news stories, No Film School is a great resource (<https://nofilmschool.com/>)
- **LinkedIn Learning**
  - Many universities give students free access to LinkedIn Learning, which includes everything from software tutorials to business tips
- **Studio Binder**
  - Guides and articles on directing, producing, scriptwriting, and post production (<https://www.studiobinder.com/>)
- **Adobe**
  - Adobe has countless articles on their website on the fundamentals of editing and how to use Premiere. Here's a great article to start: <https://adobe.ly/3CXpN3B>
- **Art Of The Title**
  - Behind the scene looks into title design for film, television, and video games
- **Motionographer**
  - A collection of inspiring motion graphics work, plus articles with artists breaking down their projects
- **Walter Murch's *In A Blink of an Eye***
  - A book on editing and understanding the impact of a cut. Murch is a prolific editor, and cut many classic films including *Apocalypse Now* and *The Conversation*.

### Communities and Classes

- **Chicago Filmmakers**
  - Local group that offers film and television courses (<https://chicagofilmmakers.org/>)
- **Free Spirit Media**
  - Local non-profit that supports creators from underrepresented communities in Chicago (<https://freespiritmedia.org/>)
- **Chicago Filmmaking Resource**
  - Website that details a bunch of resources for filmmakers in Chicago (<http://chicagofilmlist.com/resources.html>)
- **Sundance Co//ab**
  - Free membership service by Sundance Institute that offers master classes, workshops, a weekly screenwriting inspiration newsletter, and more (<https://collab.sundance.org/>)

### Software

- **Blender**
  - A free 3D modeling and animation program with a huge community full of tutorials
- **Substance Painter Academy**
  - A free resource for learning 3D texturing. Substance Painter is free for both high school and college students!
- **Adobe Rush**
  - Adobe also recently released Adobe Rush, which is a free editing program on mobile and desktop. It's a stripped down version of Premiere, but is a great introduction to editing software.

# Practice Makes Perfect!

## Writing/Storytelling

### Websites and Books

- **Go Into the Story by Scott Myers**
  - A screenwriting blog/source from The Blacklist. Myers is a professor at DePaul University. (<https://gointothestory.blcklst.com/>)
- **Indiana University High School Journalism Institute**
  - A journalism networking conference (<https://hsji.mediaschool.indiana.edu/>)
- **Jeff Butera's Write Like You Talk**
  - A guide to broadcast news writing
- **Al Tompkins' Aim for the Heart**
  - Broadcast journalism book about connecting with audiences through emotion

## Media Literacy

### Websites

- **Poynter's "MediaWise"**
  - Resource for learning about media literacy and how to be more critical of information found online (<https://www.poynter.org/mediawise/>)
- **Media Ethics for Students & Instructors: UW-Madison CJE**
  - Resource for journalism and ethical writing

## YouTube Channels

- **Ben Marriott**- After Effects tutorials
- **Blender Guru**-resource for learning Blender
- **Rocket Jump Film School**
- **Every Frame a Painting**- video essays
- **H8URS**- video essays on film
- **Writing with the Camera**- video essays diving into scene structure and how to fix bad scenes
- **The Off Camera Show**-podcast about actors diving into their process
- **Judith Weston**- Directing tips and advice
- **Filmscape Chicago**- select recordings from workshops hosted at the annual convention
- **Hollywood Camera Work**- workshops and master classes with film/TV professionals
- **Independent Filmmaker Project**- interesting recorded workshops, panels, etc.
- **Directors Guild of America**- interviews with nominated directors
- **YouTube Creators Academy**- insightful tips and tutorials for content creators, especially (but not exclusively) on social media

# Practice Makes Perfect!

## Internships/Job Sources/Networking

### Internships

- **Television Academy Internship**
  - Summer Internship Program with the Television Academy and affiliated production companies (<https://www.emmys.com/foundation/internships>)
- **Academy Gold Program**
  - Summer Internship program offered by the Oscars and affiliated production companies (<https://www.oscars.org/academy-gold/about-gold>)
- **National Association of Television Program Executives (NATPE) Internship Program**
  - Internship program hosted by NATPE geared towards people interested in careers in narrative and broadcast television. (<https://www.natpe.com/foundation/internships/>)
- **Internships from the Chicago International Film Festival**
  - <https://www.chicagofilmfestival.com/about-us/internships/#1470783573417-3f043c9b-2990>

### Job Sources

- **Chicago Artists Coalition**
  - Job posting resource for creatives living in Chicago. Specified for companies looking for creative people to hire. (<https://chicagoartistscoalition.org/>)
- **Entertainment Careers.net**
  - Job posting website for jobs in all creative fields, geared towards entertainment (<https://www.entertainmentcareers.net/>)
- **UTA Joblist (AKA The Anonymous Production Assistant)**
  - Website for crew calls, job postings, and internships for film and television. (<http://www.anonymousproductionassistant.com/uta-joblist/>)
- **DePaul's Resume and Interviews Resource Center**
  - Free tutorials on how to write your resume and cover letter, and how to prepare for job interviews (<https://resources.depaul.edu/career-center/resumes-interviews/Pages/default.aspx>)

### Networking

- **Independent Film Alliance Chicago (IFA Chicago; formerly Stage 18)**
  - Community organization for independent filmmakers in Chicago. (<https://ifachicago.org/>)
- **OTV**
  - Non-Profit platform for intersectional series, pilots and video art, supporting Chicago artists in producing and exhibiting indie media, film, and tv (<https://www.weareo.tv/build>)
- **2112 Inc. Chicago**
  - Community Incubator focused on the development of entrepreneurs in film/video, and creative industry focused technologies. (<https://2112inc.com/>)
- **Journalism Mentors**
  - Free journalism mentorship with journalists across fields who have office hours with students (<https://journalismmentors.com>)