



2026 Film & Video Applicant Guide

How to Apply:

To apply to the film program, applicants must submit **one short film, no longer than 5 minutes** and answer a few short questions about the film. Above all, evaluators are looking for great storytellers. If you have strong narrative instincts, please apply—even if you're still learning the technical side of filmmaking. Video submissions may be any narrative format using any technique (e.g., video, animation, stop-motion, multimedia).

Video Submissions:

May be shot using any video-capable device. (Smart phones and tablets are acceptable.)

Must have been created AFTER March 1 of the prior year, and former OSAI students may not submit work produced at OSAI.

Film submissions must be a product of STUDENT work. Any film submission that has been written, shot, and/or edited by a professional will be disqualified.

To ensure a blind audition process, your name must NOT appear or be heard anywhere in the submission; therefore, credits should be omitted. If your name appears or is heard in the submission, you will be disqualified.

Your film submission must be no longer than 5 minutes and must comprise a single video. If you submit a sample of video work that lasts longer than 5 minutes, the evaluators will only watch the first 5 minutes of the work. And if you submit a sample comprising multiple videos, the evaluators will only watch the first piece, regardless of length.

Applicants may submit collaborative student work done for a class assignment; however, in order to submit a collaborative film, you must have primary creative responsibility for the material. If your submission is a product of collaboration, and your collaborators are also auditioning for the OSAI film & video program, only one of you may submit the project for consideration. If two applicants submit the same video, both applicants will be disqualified.



Video Upload Tips:

Video uploads are limited to 5GB.

Some phones—especially iPhones—save videos in formats that our application platform can't read, which can cause your file to upload backwards, upside down, or not at all. If your file won't upload, it is almost always because of the file type.

For videos, MP4 or MOV files are best.

If you took your audition videos on an iPhone, your phone may save it as HEVC (video) file, and these often won't upload correctly on our application platform. We recommend first converting it to MP4/MOV file, then uploading. See tips for converting your file/s below.

- Option 1: Use a converter website
 - Search for "HEVC to MP4" (videos).
 - Upload → convert → download → then upload to your application.
- Option 2: Use a computer
 - Move the file to a computer; videos usually convert automatically when moved to a computer.

Film Questionnaire:

Applicants will be required to answer the following questions about their film as part of the application:

- What was your inspiration for the film?
- What role did you have in creating the film? Did you have any help? What was the size of the crew and roles of the crew members?
- Describe the structure of your film. Did you plan ahead or structure after shooting? Did you follow any specific narrative structure?
- What kind of equipment did you use to create the film? Did you use any special techniques?
- Did you edit the film? If so, what sort of equipment and software did you use?
- What challenges did you confront while making this film and how did you overcome them?

Evaluation Criteria:

Storytelling – 45%

Did the applicant give thought to a narrative structure? Was the film's message clear and understandable? Is the subject and execution compelling? Does it make you want to keep watching?



Technique – 45%

Do the audio, cinematography, editing, and lighting contribute to or detract from the storytelling?

Creativity/originality/artistic voice – 10%

Did the film display the applicant's unique artistic voice?

Read general information about our evaluation process here:

<https://oaiquartz.org/application-selection-process>