OKLAHOMA ARTS INSTITUTE
QUARTZ MOUNTAIN

2027 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**.** Video submissions may be any narrative format using any technique (e.g., video, animation, stop-motion, multimedia).

Strong storytelling is the most important part of an audition film. Applicants should establish their characters and central conflict early and focus on developing a clear, engaging narrative. A simple story told thoughtfully and creatively is often more compelling than a technically sophisticated film without a strong narrative. Applicants with strong narrative instincts are encouraged to apply, even if they are still developing their technical filmmaking skills.

All submitted films must reflect the applicant's own original creative work. Applicants may not use artificial intelligence (AI) or other software tools to generate, alter, or enhance the creative content of their submissions. This includes AI-generated scripts, images, video, audio, or other creative elements, as well as AI-assisted editing or enhancements. Standard video editing software may be used for basic editing, such as cutting footage, arranging clips, and adjusting sound levels, but AI-powered features that generate or substantially modify creative content are not permitted. Because students will not have access to AI tools during the Oklahoma Summer Arts Institute at Quartz Mountain, it is important the audition process accurately reflects each applicant's independent storytelling abilities, creativity, and artistic vision.

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.

Film submissions must not contain AI-generated or AI-enhanced creative content. Applicants may not use artificial intelligence to write scripts, generate images or video footage, create voices or sound effects, or make creative editing decisions. Standard filmmaking and editing techniques are permitted, but all creative decisions and artistic execution must be the work of the applicant and/or their student collaborators.

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.

Guns, knives, and other weapons—including toy, replica, and prop weapons—are not permitted in audition film productions or submissions. This policy is intended to protect the safety of student filmmakers, actors, and crew members while encouraging creative storytelling that does not rely on weapons to establish conflict, danger, or suspense. Applicants are encouraged to develop compelling characters, creative conflicts, and imaginative ways of building dramatic tension without the use of weapons.

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 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%

Does the film establish a clear and compelling narrative? Are the characters, central conflict, and stakes introduced effectively? Does the story develop with purpose, making thoughtful use of time? Does the film engage the viewer and demonstrate the applicant's ability to communicate through visual storytelling?

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