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Film, B.A.

Have you ever dreamed of creating shows and movies like the ones that have entertained and inspired you? Cal Poly Humboldt is the perfect place to get started. Steeped in the traditions of independent filmmaking, students learn the fundamentals of fiction and non-fiction film production techniques through a production-based program using evolving digital technologies.

Experience Your Learning

Being a film major at Humboldt is the very definition of hands-on education. Students work with state-of-the-art equipment to create films and videos under the direction of instructors who have professional experience in the industry.

The four-part Filmmaking series begins by introducing students to the basic tools of making film and video, and culminates in a capstone course in which they pitch, develop, shoot, and complete a short film. Basic distribution materials are also developed.

In Writing for Film, students write short scripts and treatments for indie experimental, documentary, and narrative films using the three-act structure and storycraft. Developed scripts and treatments are offered to production courses.

Two hours of active learning are required each week for the Film Directing and Production Processes course. Students examine professional directing practices for the moving image, including production processes every director must master.

Students can choose an elective course in Darkroom Photography where they learn and practice various techniques for creating black-and-white images on film and bringing them to light in the dark room.

X Did you know?

- The annual Humboldt International Film Festival is one of the oldest student-run film festivals in the world.
- Humboldt County has served as the location for "E.T.," "Star Wars: The Return of the Jedi," "Birdbox," and "A Wrinkle in Time."
- "The Valley of the Giants," a 1919 silent film shot in Eureka, Arcata, and Korbelt was thought to have been lost until it was recently discovered in Russia's Gosfilmofond archive and returned to the United States.



Academics & Options

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Cal Poly Humboldt's Film curriculum integrates creative exploration and technical skill development with film theory and history. It's grounded in a liberal arts education that encourages ethical storytellers to explore the human condition in creative ways. Instructors are working professional filmmakers who enjoy sharing their experiences with students, whether it's working with industry pros on location, filming around the world as independents, or writing scripts that help create impactful cinematic stories. From concept to completed project, you'll learn it all at Cal Poly Humboldt.

Film Minor

Students are encouraged to have a minor area of study that complements their film interests, expands their skill set, enhances the depth of their culminating reel (i.e. portfolio), and advances their post-education professional employment opportunities. Interdisciplinary studies foster better critical thinkers and more active participants in social change. The combination of a science or social science minor and a film major empowers students to better disseminate their research to new and underserved audiences.

Get Involved

Events

Art+Film Talks Faculty Lecture Series: A series of talks by Art+Film Department Faculty & Staff as well as guest speakers. These informal presentations are held throughout the semester as a way for students to get to know the department and share the creative energy.

Humboldt International Film Festival 'Film Nights': Free Night of films from the HIFF Archives in the John Van Duzer Theatre, hosted by the students enrolled in Film 260 (Humboldt Film Festival) and the Humboldt Fest Student club. They are planned as prioritized events to strengthen positive student experiences as well as create more accessible opportunities for underrepresented students to build community on campus.

Scholarships

Albert and Mildred Van Duzer Theater, Film, Dance, & Music Scholarship: The scholarship, designated in memory of Albert and Mildred Van Duzer, is awarded to Humboldt students, giving preference to students majoring or active in the creative arts.

Careers

From script writing to cinematography to directing and editing, Cal Poly Humboldt's film program prepares you to take part in whatever part of this multifaceted industry interests you.

- Camera operator
- Cinematography
- Director
- Film criticism
- Film editing
- Lighting
- Producer
- Screenwriting/playwriting
- Sound production
- Visual effects



The beach is 10 minutes away, the forest is in your backyard. To be able to make your student films in that kind of scenery is great. It really adds to your production value."

Ethan Cardoza ('14, Film)