



PORTLAND STATE  
**FILM**

# School of Film **STUDENT HANDBOOK**

2023-2024

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# LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

We acknowledge the land which we occupy at Portland State University: "The Portland Metro area rests on traditional village sites of the Multnomah, Wasco, Cowlitz, Kathlamet, Clackamas, Bands of Chinook, Tualatin, Kalapuya, Molalla, and many other tribes who made their homes along the Columbia River creating communities and summer encampments to harvest and use the plentiful natural resources of the area" (Portland Indian Leaders Roundtable, 2018). To learn more about Portland's diverse and vibrant indigenous communities, please read [Leading with Tradition](#), a document created by the Portland Indian Leaders Roundtable.

## Resources:

Native American Youth and Family Center  
(NAYA)

[www.nayapdx.org](http://www.nayapdx.org) | 503-288-8177

Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde

[www.grandronde.org](http://www.grandronde.org) | 800-422-0232

Cowlitz Indian Tribe

[www.cowlitz.org](http://www.cowlitz.org) | 360-577-8140

Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians

[www.ctsi.nsn.us](http://www.ctsi.nsn.us) | 503-238-1512

Tribal Leadership Forum

<https://www.pdx.edu/tribal-government/>

Portland Two Spirit Society

<https://www.facebook.com/Portland2Spirits>

Native American Program,

Legal Aid Services of Oregon (NAPOLS) |

503-223-9483

Indigenous Nations Studies Program—PSU

<https://www.pdx.edu/indigenous-nations-studies/>

Major and minor offered.

Native American Student and Community Center—PSU

<https://www.pdx.edu/cultural-resource-centers/native-american-student-community-center>

American Indian Science and Engineering Society—PSU

[aises@pdx.edu](mailto:aises@pdx.edu)

<https://www.facebook.com/psu.aises/>

United Indigenous Students in Higher Education

[uishe@pdx.edu](mailto:uishe@pdx.edu)

<https://www.facebook.com/uishepsu/?fref=ts>

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# GETTING THE MOST OUT OF YOUR MAJOR

- MEET REGULARLY WITH YOUR PATHWAY AND FACULTY ADVISORS
- PLAN YOUR SCHEDULE WELL IN ADVANCE OF YOUR REGISTRATION DATES
- VISIT YOUR PROFESSORS IN OFFICE HOURS
- NETWORK WITH YOUR FELLOW STUDENTS
- TAKE COMPREHENSIVE NOTES IN CLASS
- ATTEND SCHOOL OF FILM EVENTS: SCREENINGS AND TALKS BY VISITING FILMMAKERS, SCHOLARS, AND FILM PROFESSIONALS
- SEE FILMS AT 5TH AVE CINEMA & PORTLAND ART MUSEUM
- APPLY FOR SCHOLARSHIPS AND STUDY ABROAD PROGRAMS
- LEARN YOUR WAY AROUND THE LIBRARY'S DIGITAL RESOURCES
- ATTEND COLLEGE OF THE ARTS (COTA) EVENTS FROM MUSIC, ARCHITECTURE, ART, THEATER, AND GRAPHIC DESIGN
- SECURE INTERNSHIPS
- SEE SCHOLARS, FILMMAKERS, AND ACTIVISTS SPEAK IN PORTLAND
- SUBMIT YOUR ESSAYS AND FILMS TO CONTESTS AND FESTIVALS



# ADVISING



Located in the Undergraduate Advising and Resource Center in Fariborz Maseeh Hall 360, film majors with fewer than 50 credits must meet with their [Design, Creativity, and Performance Pathway Advisor](#) by winter term of their first year at PSU to clear their [First Year Advising Hold](#). Advising is required of all film majors.

Once you earn 50 credits, you are assigned a faculty advisor in the School of Film. We do this after most students have completed their BA/BS, university studies FRINQ and SINQ requirements, or have transferred major-applied courses. It helps majors to talk to faculty about specific major requirements, internships, scholarships, and courses to plan their schedules. Faculty designed our curriculum, so have beneficial expertise.

Many of the faculty were first-generation college students and understand the challenges of navigating higher education. They are happy to help you get the most out of the opportunities that a large university presents. Register for courses each term as soon as your standing permits, as courses in the School of Film usually fill quickly.

# ADVISING

## Advisors for the Design, Creativity and Performance Pathway

### Staci Kiker (she/her)

Last two digits of ID number 00-24

Contact: Email [skiker@pdx.edu](mailto:skiker@pdx.edu) or phone (503) 725-2211

[Schedule an appointment with Staci](#)

### Paloma Harrison (she/her)

Last two digits of ID number 50-74

Contact: Email [paloma@pdx.edu](mailto:paloma@pdx.edu)

[Schedule an appointment with Paloma](#)

### Ian McCallum (he/him)

Last two digits of ID number 25-49

Contact: Email [ian35@pdx.edu](mailto:ian35@pdx.edu) or phone (503) 725-3353

[Schedule an appointment with Ian](#)

### Hilda Escalera Gonzalez (she/her)

Last two digits of ID number 75-99

Contact: Email [hescala2@pdx.edu](mailto:hescala2@pdx.edu)

[Schedule an appointment with Hilda](#)



Also available online are [additional notes on advising](#), [degree maps](#), and the School's [faculty directory](#). Go [here](#) to find your assigned Pathways advisor.



# CURRICULUM

In addition to meeting the general university BA/BS degree requirements, every film major will plan a program with pathway and faculty advisers that meets the minimum [requirements](#) for the major. Descriptions of Portland State Film's [courses](#), are online alongside a list of [elective courses](#) offered outside the school that fulfill our requirements. The Degree Planner ([BA](#)) and ([BS](#)) is another helpful resource.



## IMPORTANT CURRICULAR NOTES

- 1) Ideally, take your major in sequence: 100-level courses followed by 200-level, 300-level, and 400-level. The ideal sequence for lower-level core film courses is FILM 131, FILM 132, FILM 231, FILM 280, and FILM 257 or FILM 258. You should then begin your 300-level courses. The film history sequence, FILM 381, FILM 382, and FILM 383, can be taken in any order. FILM 131 and 132 are prerequisites for the rest of the courses in the major.
- 2) **FILM 131** introduces you to the language and practices of film analysis; this language is different from the terms and language used on film sets because it gives you the space to practice learning new ideas embedded in essays, books, and watching and films.
- 3) **FILM 132** does much the same as 131, but for media and film production; it teaches you the basic language, comportment, and technologies used in filmmaking as well as storytelling and production planning skill sets for film.

# CURRICULUM

- 4) In FILM 231 and FILM 280, you should expect smaller seminars focused on using the language and concepts of film analysis learned in FILM 131 to think about, describe, and explain the cultural, ethical, or aesthetic significance of film elements. These are writing intensive courses. FILM 231 is accepted as a WIC credit in your BA requirements.
- 5) You may take FILM 231 and FILM 280 concurrently with the 300-level film history sequence (FILM 381, 382, 383); however, taking them PRIOR to that sequence will give you more tools to be successful in your 300/400-level required major courses. You also may take your film history sequence in any order, but the ideal order is chronological (381, 382, 383) from the beginning of Western cinema in 1895 to current world cinematic practices.
- 6) FILM 257 Narrative Film Production I or FILM 258 Documentary Production I are prerequisites to the 300-level courses in film production. Many students take both courses and elect to go on to take NFP II, NFP III, DOC II, and/or DOC III.
- 7) PSU operates on a four-quarter system. Each quarter lasts 11 weeks. Students are expected to be on campus during the 11th week (finals week).





# CURRICULUM

- 8) For film majors who plan to take production courses, we require that you own a laptop computer that meets [these hardware and software specifications](#).

Examples of student production work can be viewed on the [School of Film's Vimeo channel](#).



- 9) Our production program focuses on nonfiction and fictional, narrative film production. Many students focus on either nonfiction or fiction, creating a course path in one area. Alongside FILM 131 & 132, FILM 257 Narrative Film Production I or FILM 258 Documentary Production I are prerequisites for all higher-level production seminars.
- 10) There are also a host of genre- and format-specific production courses and discipline-specific courses, including: VFX, Sound Recording, Sound Design (post and mixing), Experimental Film Production, Portfolio and Professional Development, Music Video Production, Editing and Advanced Editing, Directing Actors, Producing and Production Management, Cinematography, and Advanced Cinematography. The School of Film also offers a number of courses in Screenwriting, including short films, features, streaming media, hour-long dramas, sitcoms, and genre films.

# FACILITIES & EQUIPMENT

[The Equipment Office](#) is located in Lincoln Hall 123.

The film gear inventory is expansive and always growing. It includes, among many other items, Canon digital cinema cameras, LED and tungsten light kits, wireless lapel mics, shotgun microphones, tripods, audio recording systems (Zoom and Sound Devices), jibs, dollies, stabilizers, sliders, shoulder rigs, monitors, headphones, clamps, flags, diffusion, stands, and gels.

After signing the requisite agreement forms, students can use [our reservation system](#) to reserve equipment beginning Week 2 of each term.

The equipment is available for students currently enrolled in at least one production class. Gear is to be used to complete assigned projects.

<https://www.pdx.edu/film/equipment-policy>

- Lincoln Hall 121 is the Studio Classroom and is available for checkout.
- Lincoln Hall 215A is the Post-Production Pocket Lab and is available for checkout M-F during equipment office hours.
- Lincoln Hall 315 is the Multicam Studio and Laptop Classroom Lab which also houses a Whisper Room and podcasting mini-station.
- Lincoln Hall 331 and 211 are screening classrooms.
- Film students may also use the Mac computer lab in Fariborz Maseeh Hall 241.



# ACADEMIC RESOURCES

Need help managing your time, getting motivated, taking good class and reading notes, developing effective learning strategies, or completing an assignment?

Visit the [The Learning Center](#). Their tutors and academic coaches can help you on the road to student success. This is a free support service for all PSU students.

Need an accomodation to help you learn? Visit the [Disability Resource Center](#). This is a free support service for all PSU students.

## How to Talk to Professors

- Office hours are for you! Stop by or make an [appointment](#).
- Email questions and give us 48 hrs to reply.
- Ask about assignments, readings, and ideas in class.
- Read the syllabus for due dates, assignments, and schedules.



## 2023-24 Internship Coordinators

### FALL

- Jungmin Kwon: [jungmin.kwon@pdx.edu](mailto:jungmin.kwon@pdx.edu)

### WINTER

- Kristin Hole: [mberre@pdx.edu](mailto:mberre@pdx.edu)

### SPRING

- [Dustin Morrow](#): [morrow4@pdx.edu](mailto:morrow4@pdx.edu)

### SUMMER

- [Courtney Hermann](#): [clh6@pdx.edu](mailto:clh6@pdx.edu)



# ACADEMIC AND STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES

## LIBRARY RESOURCES

- [PSU LIBRARY FILM STREAMING SITES](#)
- [FILM STUDIES LIBRARY GUIDE](#)
- [COURSE RESERVES](#)
- [RESEARCH TOOLS AND COLLECTIONS](#)

## UNIVERSITY RESOURCES

- [PATHWAYS ADVISORS](#)
- [CAREER CENTER](#)
- [DISABILITY RESOURCE CENTER](#)
- [LEARNING CENTER](#)
- [ACADEMIC COACHES](#)
- [TUTORING](#)
- [GLOBAL DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION](#)
- [STUDY ABROAD PROGRAMS](#)
- [GRADUATE PROGRAMS IN FILM](#)



## STUDENT COMMUNITY RESOURCES

- [Native American and Student Community Center](#)
- [Pacific Islander, Asian & Asian American Student Center](#)
- [Pan African Commons](#)
- [PSU Food Pantry](#)
- [La Casa Latina Student Center](#)
- [Dreamers DACA Resources](#)
- [Foster Youth Resources](#)
- [Diversity and Multicultural Student Services](#)
- [Middle East, North Africa, South Asia Initiative](#)
- [International Student Services](#)
- [Resource Center for Students with Children](#)
- [Care Team](#)
- [Queer Resource Center](#)
- [Veterans Resource Center](#)
- [Women's Resource Center](#)
- [Center for Student Health and Counseling \(SHAC\)](#)
- [Student Legal Services](#)

### PSU'S BASIC NEEDS HUB

- HOUSING ASSISTANCE
- FOOD OPTIONS
- EMERGENCY FUNDS
- TECHNOLOGY ACCESS

Visit Smith Hall 435 or  
<https://www.pdx.edu/dean-student-life/basic-needs-hub>

# SCHOLARSHIPS AND FELLOWSHIPS

## SCHOLARSHIPS and FELLOWSHIPS

- [KOERNER CAMERA FILM SCHOLARSHIP](#)
- [COLLEGE OF THE ARTS DEINUM PRIZE](#)
- [FULBRIGHT AWARDS](#)
- [RHODES SCHOLARSHIP](#)
- [STUDY ABROAD—US STATE DEPARTMENT](#)

## FILMMAKER FELLOWSHIPS

- [SUNDANCE FEATURE FILM PROGRAM](#)
- [SUNDANCE OUTREACH AND INCLUSION PROGRAM](#)
- [TRIBECA FILM INSTITUTE FILM FELLOWS](#)
- [FILMMAKERS WITHOUT BORDERS FELLOWSHIP](#)
- [AUSTIN FILM FESTIVAL SCHOLARSHIP](#)
- [SFFILM FELLOWSHIP](#)
- [FILM INDEPENDENT ARTIST DEVELOPMENT](#)
- [ACADEMY OF MOTION PICTURE ARTS AND SCIENCE SCREENWRITING COMPETITION](#)

PSU's scholarship portal opens Oct. 1

<https://www.pdx.edu/student-finance/scholarships>

Contact your faculty advisor early for letters of recommendation and help applying.

Watch for announced School of Film scholarship and graduate school information sessions.



# PROFESSIONAL NORMS

Every space and institution has its cultural practices. A university is no different. Below are expectations your professors and peers have that will be helpful for you to know and begin to practice. In the School of Film, we strive for all our community members—professors, students, & staff— to adhere to a high level of professionalism and decency in our interactions.

- Seek help from faculty and advisors in office hours.
- Let your professor know if you're a parent and need to be 'on call' for your kids while in class.
- Please use polite email correspondence using your pdx email account, addressing your correspondent, and signing with your name.
- Request letters of recommendation, at minimum, three weeks in advance of their due dates and include all information needed to submit your rec.
- Take comprehensive notes in class!
- Come to class prepared for the day's lesson or discussion; have a plan for what you want from class.
- Arrive before class starts and stay to the end.
- Contribute to classroom discussions & talk to your professors in office hours if this is hard for you.
- Refrain from texting, talking, eating, surfing the web, and other distracting activities during class.
- Turn in neatly-prepared work, on schedule, according to the course standard.
- Show up for School of Film events (especially the events of the Spring Showcase).
- Consult the PSU Film website to access important information in a timely manner.
- Be proactive – check your syllabi and the school's and university's websites for answers to your questions before sending them to the faculty.



# NO BIAS, NO HATE, NO DISCRIMINATION, NO HARASSMENT

If you think any member of the PSU Film community has treated you with disrespect, please consider speaking with the community member one on one to resolve the conflict.

Sometimes you may not feel safe doing so because disrespect has crossed over to bias, discrimination, or harassment. If that's the case, please make an appointment to speak with the Director of the School of Film about your concerns. We are here to facilitate your education and to ensure all community members are treated with respect and empathy. After meeting with you and asking how you would like to proceed, the director will work with you to resolve the conflict and restore your trust.

Please make an appointment to speak with the Director of the School of Film if you think you have been harassed or actively discriminated against due to your race, ethnicity, age, national origin, religion, gender, sexual orientation, or disability by any member of our School of Film community.

Sometimes we need additional help to ensure the values of equity and inclusivity. [The Office of Global Inclusion and Diversity \(GDI\) at PSU](#) offers that help to students, faculty, and staff who have experienced discrimination, bias, or harassment. If you and the Director of the School of Film decide you need additional resources or help addressing discriminatory behavior, they will work with you and GDI. If you do not feel safe working with the director, please directly contact GDI so that they may listen to you and develop a plan. Bring a friend if you go to talk; it's always good to have a close ally by your side.

The [Dean of Student Life](#) has information about acceptable student and faculty conduct at PSU. This includes the [Portland State University Code of Student Conduct and Responsibility](#), as well as the [Portland State Faculty Code of Conduct](#) in relation to students.

# NETWORKING & PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT I

If you plan to work in the film industry, particularly freelance, it's never too early to work on your self-positioning or individual branding. A professional identity has become a necessity as people in the industry have shorter job tenures, companies have abandoned brand management, and tools for creating and communicating one's individual professional identity have become widely available.

The truth is, you have a public identity whether you were mindful about creating it or not. (For example, is your email address or outgoing voicemail intended for a professional audience?) Just by virtue of interacting with others, you have a public identity determined by what people think and feel about your professional self. Class participation and social media provide obvious opportunities to control your public identity, and marketing materials generated in support of your job search and career development demonstrate your professional persona.

It's a small world. Leave your professors and classmates with a positive impression of your work and thoughtfulness. You never know—someday you might need a recommendation letter for a graduate school application or scholarship, or a reference for a job or internship opening.



# NETWORKING & PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT II

Networking is a vital part of working in the film industry, and the process begins during film school. Among the many ways that majors might network while students in the School of Film:

- Enroll in FILM 450: Portfolio and Professional Development in the Spring of the year you graduate.
- Do an internship. Internship can be taken for credit toward your degree. Thirty hours of intern work is the equivalent of 1 credit. Review the [Film Internship Packet](#), which explains all of the internship policies and procedures before making an appointment with your advisor.
- Collaborate with peers on projects in and out of class.
- Ask your fellow students to grab lunch or coffee after class.
- Volunteer as crew on the work of upper division students.
- Attend School of Film events, like screenings and talks by visiting filmmakers.
- Attend film and media culture-related activities in the community.
- Join the [5th Ave Cinema](#) student staff and/or [volunteer at the Hollywood Theatre](#).
- Contact PSU sports media to find out about opportunities to shoot and broadcast PSU sports.
- Join [Sub-basement Studios](#) or [Portland State Student Media](#) and contribute to their media publications and projects.
- Speak with guest filmmakers that visit the program.
- Participate in, or at least attend, the spring term portfolio show, reception, and student film screening.
- Attend offsite events, like screenings at the [Center for an Untold Tomorrow](#) and [Hollywood Theater](#), film festivals, and events at [Koerner Camera](#) and [ProPhoto Supply](#).
- Join [Oregon Media Professional Association \(OMPA\)](#) to gain access to networking events, information about the local industry, and job boards.
- Join LinkedIn, a social network for professionals.



# STUDENT WORK OWNERSHIP

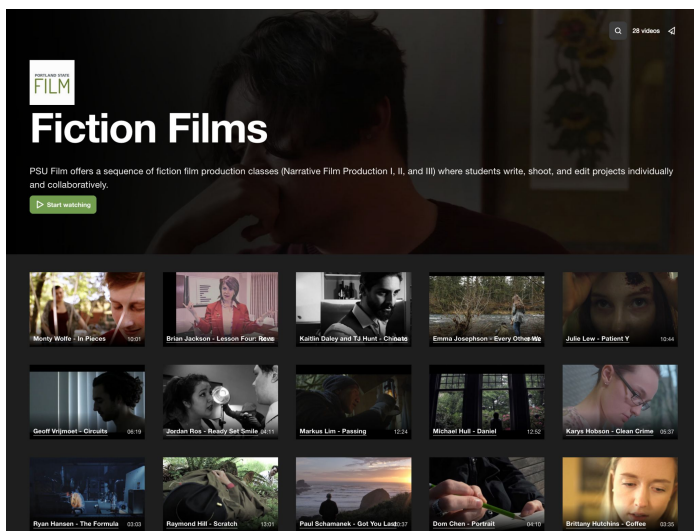
Students in the School of Film will retain all rights to any creative work or writing they generate while they are students. However, the School of Film reserves the right to use that work or writing in public exhibition and online in the promotion of the program and through the mission to share our students' work with the public. Any student who wishes that their work not be shared, or be removed from the School of Film's website, social media, or Vimeo channels, may send a request directly to the school at [psufilm@pdx.edu](mailto:psufilm@pdx.edu).





# STATEMENT ABOUT SCREENINGS

Material that we view or read in classes might be unsettling, such as representations of violence, discrimination, or prejudice, and such elements and their histories/context will be part of our discussions in classes. As a representational art form, film opens up conversations about such material, and does not necessarily endorse what is represented.



PSU FILM displays student work on SW 6th Avenue, in Lincoln Hall, on [Vimeo](#), [YouTube](#), and our [Spring Showcase](#) website.

# PORTLAND FILM RESOURCES

## PSU FILM SOCIAL MEDIA

- [INSTAGRAM](#)
- [FACEBOOK](#)
- [TWITTER](#)
- [VIMEO](#)
- SCHOOL OF FILM LISTSERV (EMAIL [PSUFILM@PDX.EDU](mailto:PSUFILM@PDX.EDU) TO JOIN

## PORTLAND FILM RESOURCES

- [PORTLAND FILM OFFICE](#)
- [OREGON FILM OFFICE](#)
- [OREGON MEDIA PRODUCTION ASSOCIATION](#)
- [MID-OREGON PRODUCTION NETWORK](#)
- [CENTER FOR AN UNTOLD TOMORROW](#)
- [PAM CUT](#)
- [REGIONAL ARTS & CULTURE COUNCIL](#)

## PORTLAND MOVIE THEATERS

- [CINEMA 21](#)
- [CINEMAGIC](#)
- [CLINTON STREET THEATER](#)
- [HOLLYWOOD THEATER](#)
- [LAURELHURST THEATER](#)
- [LIVING ROOM THEATERS](#)
- [MCMENAMINS THEATERS](#)
- [MORELAND THEATER](#)
- [NORTHWEST FILM CENTER](#)

## PORTLAND FILM FESTIVALS

- [REEL MUSIC FILM FESTIVAL](#)
- [PORTLAND MOTORCYCLE FILM FESTIVAL](#)
- [CASCADE FESTIVAL OF AFRICAN FILMS](#)
- [PORTLAND INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL](#)
- [CINE-LIT FESTIVAL](#)
- [POW FILM FEST](#)
- [PORTLAND ECOFILM FESTIVAL](#)
- [ODOC FILM FEST](#)
- [FILMED BY BIKE](#)
- [PORTLAND HORROR FILM FESTIVAL](#)
- [PORTLAND JEWISH FILM FESTIVAL](#)
- [PORTLAND QUEER FILM FESTIVAL](#)
- [HP LOVECRAFT FILM FESTIVAL](#)
- [PORTLAND FILM FESTIVAL](#)
- [PORTLAND GERMAN FILM FESTIVAL](#)



# COMMUNITY LEARNING AGREEMENT

PSU FILM seeks to form and maintain a learning community of individuals dependent on the learning and growth of the whole learning community. Our program requires an open-mindedness towards ideas and values which might be different from our own and a willingness to learn about racism, ethnocentrism, cultural prejudice, sexism, homophobia, transphobia, classism, and other forms of oppression. These and other structures of inequality shape the experiences of all people, including all of us.

As a member of the PSU FILM community, I commit to participating with my best efforts at making the program a satisfying learning experience for everyone involved. I aim to support the intellectual, creative, and personal growth of all our members, and agree to the following:

## **ASPIRATIONS, GOALS:**

- Cultivate a warm and collegial space where we take risks and are able to be vulnerable while holding each accountable with love and respect.
- Be respectful – of your own feelings and those of others, as well as of all races, cultures, sexual orientations, gender identities, religions, class backgrounds, abilities, body sizes and perspectives when speaking.
- Recognize your own and others' privilege – When entering a space, when speaking or not speaking be aware of privilege based on many forms of identity. At the same time, don't assume the identity of others.
- Be sensitive to challenging content – Our classroom provides an open space for the critical and civil exchange of ideas. Some screenings, readings, productions and other content in this course will include topics that some may find offensive and/or traumatizing. Instructors will aim to forewarn students about potentially disturbing content. PSU FILM encourages you to care for your safety and well-being. You can always leave class if you need to, and talk to your teacher and/or classmates to learn what you may have missed.
- Honor Confidentiality – What we share stays here. If you tell stories about this time, ask permission first or remove identifying information.
- Share from your own experiences – Your perspective is shaped by your tradition, beliefs, identities and life experiences. Speak from your heart using "I" statements to take ownership of what you say. The only person you can truly speak for is yourself.
- Honor silence and time for reflection – This also allows time for others to move up their speaking.
- Practice active listening – Try to listen without judgment, with the intent of understanding the speaker. Listen to understand, not to respond. As soon as you're thinking "That's good" or "I don't like that" or you're planning how you're going to respond, you are having a conversation in your mind and not listening to the speaker.
- Agree to disagree... but don't disengage – Listen with the intent of understanding, not to agree or to believe what is being said. Your presence adds value to our group process. You do not have to agree or believe anything shared; your job is to listen for understanding. Disagree with the statement, not the person if you must disagree.
- Acknowledge the liveliness of language – As an example, "you guys" may be intended as gender neutral but may not be received as such; the term "queer" can be offensive to one person and essential for another.

# COMMUNITY LEARNING AGREEMENT

- Move up, move up – If you usually don't share much, challenge yourself to share more; if you find yourself sharing more than others, challenge yourself to listen more.
- Suspend status – We are all partners in our quest for insight and understanding, and we each have different areas of expertise.
- Lean into discomfort, agree to be uncomfortable together – Where you are challenged is often where you have space to learn.
- Expect and accept non-closure. There is often no easy solution, and we can expect to remain in uncertainty and with the need to continue to dialogue and explore.
- Agree to give and receive grace. We are all learning together.

## CONTENT NOTICES:

- Reading, viewing, studying, writing about, and/or discussing media, their themes and representations, and associated social issues (formal and informal) can sometimes bring up unexpected emotions. Some course materials may contain offensive and/or potentially troubling information, language, images, soundtracks, or narration and may contain references to topics I or other program members find difficult or troubling. These topics may include (but are not limited to) trauma and illness; various types of violence and conflict, including sexual violence; institutional, structural, and relational racism, sexism, homophobia, transphobia, ableism, size-ism, and class oppression; nudity, sexual activity, non-heteronormative sexuality, explicit language, or other “mature” themes; political, philosophical or religious content that I may find frustrating or with which I disagree. Faculty will do their best to provide content notices in advance but may not always be able to anticipate concerns. I will be proactive in articulating my needs. PHYSICAL TRIGGERS: Screening materials may include strobing/flashing/flickering effects, quick cutting, “shaky cam” or other fast-moving visuals that can stimulate seizures or migraines in some individuals. If I am subject to these reactions, I agree to speak to faculty to make a plan for navigating them in class. If my work uses any of these techniques, I will do my best to announce this to the program prior to the screening.
- I also agree to identify my needs, care for myself, and communicate and seek advice and support when I need it – I can always leave class if I need to, and I can talk to a friend or faculty, meet with an Academic Advisor, or seek out the professionals at PSU's Student Health and Counseling Center.

## ADDRESSING CONFLICT:

- I, along with my program faculty, agree to do my best to address conflicts arising in our learning community through direct and honest conversation with all involved.
- If the situation or direct conversation feels overly risky, or if, after talking directly, the conflict remains unresolved, I will bring the issue to faculty.

# BEST PRACTICES FOR SAFETY ON SET

It's important to make safety a priority on your production at all stages, from pre-production to delivery. Professional productions will often have full-time safety managers, but on student films the task falls to all involved.

Lapses in safety can happen on a set very easily. Weather is closing in, or the light is disappearing, or an actor is scheduled to leave, or someone is distracted by their phone, or a crew is tired after working for 11 hours – many factors can provoke a momentary lapse in safety, and it only takes a moment for someone to get hurt.

So what can you do?

Perform a risk assessment for your production. With your collaborators, brainstorm as many possible ways in which someone might get injured, physically or emotionally, during the course of your production. Start with pre-production, then move onto the production stage, and then think about the post-production process. Once you have made a list of potential risks, plan to address these risks to prevent injury. You may even wish to use a standard Risk Assessment Form. Here is one designed specifically for film productions, from the Oxford City Council.

Risk Assessment generally involves the following steps:

1. Determine what kinds of hazards could be caused by your work.
2. Consider how likely those risks are.
3. Brainstorm effective practices to address those risks.
4. Make your entire crew aware of the potential risks and instruct them in practices to avoid them.

Here is an example:

HAZARD: a heavy C-stand is bumped and falls over

WHO IS AT RISK: anyone moving about on-set

CONTROL: sandbags weighting the C-stand so it doesn't tip, load placed over the high leg of the stand, load placed so that if it falls, the stand tightens and holds

SEVERITY OF INJURY: medium (bruising, twisted ankle, etc.) to high (head injury, cuts from broken lamps)

RISK OF INJURY: low-medium, depending on the size of the set

ADDITIONAL CONTROL MEASURES: maintaining an organized set; moving the C-stands aside in a staging area as soon as they're no longer needed; requiring closed-toe shoes on set

Traditionally, many people think that safety on a film set is limited to the production apparatus itself. Things like:

- Properly managing, storing and securing power cords.
- Wearing closed-toe shoes and non-baggy clothing at all times.
- Keeping gear away from water and out of direct sunlight.
- Properly setting up and securing tripods and C-stands.
- Using gloves when handling hot lights and other electrical gear.



# BEST PRACTICES FOR SAFETY ON SET

These are important safety measures and should be instituted on every set. But safety on a production goes far beyond the gear used on a set.

Consider a few examples you might not have thought of:

- You've been on set for many hours, and your crew has to drive home while extremely tired.
- You're using a prop weapon, and a passerby (or even a police officer) doesn't realize that the weapon is fake.
- You are recording in an abandoned building full of rusted nails, weak floorboards, dust and dirt, and your crew isn't aware of where all of the exits are located.
- You are making a documentary near a protest where you and your collaborators have no control over the size or behavior of the crowd.
- You are shooting a scene in which an actor is driving and giving a performance at the same time.
- You have a fight scene with two actors who have no training in stunt work or stage combat.

Think outside the box. Consider all aspects of your production. Exercise basic common sense. Don't submerge an actor in water. Don't use prop weapons in public spaces. Don't shoot on a rooftop, near railroad tracks, or by open flames. Don't suspend a light or camera or any heavy piece of gear over someone's head. If something seems foolish or potentially dangerous, that's probably because it is. If you see something on set that looks problematic, say something.

Other crucial parts of addressing safety on a production are the consideration of intimacy coordination, especially on productions that will require nudity, the simulation or discussion of sexual content, or intimacy from actors; and on productions that in any way may address issues of race, politics, sexual orientation, gender, and/or vulnerable communities.

EDIT Media has authored a downloadable guide to addressing intimacy coordination on a production, centered around what are called the Five Pillars. Pages 6-8 of that document will be of most use to student filmmakers. And the Intimacy Directors and Coordinators has also authored a comprehensive guide to intimacy coordination, available to download [here](#).

The work you will do around safety on your student projects will result in safer and more professionally-run productions, give you real-world experience in production safety protocols, result in happier sets and better-quality films, and contribute to an overall culture of safety at PSU's School of Film.

# CREDITS

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The land acknowledgement statement is modeled on the University of Portland’s statement and includes information from *Leading with Tradition: Native American Community in the Portland Metropolitan Area* created in 2017 by the [Portland Indian Leaders Roundtable](#).

All images depict Portland State Film students in their classes, at School of Film sponsored events, are stills from films created by Portland State Film students, or are on-set photos of student productions. Any inquiries related to the handbook should be directed to the Director of the School of Film at [psufilm@pdx.edu](mailto:psufilm@pdx.edu).

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