



## DIGITAL FILMMAKING

### **Meets Industry Standards**

The curriculum standards of the program have been guided by local television stations and production houses to meet their requirements for entry-level employees.

### **Collaboration Centered**

During the two capstone courses, Production Design students work with Writing/Directing students. They create the look of the film, scout locations, add special effects, mix surround sound, produce a marketing plan, and plan a film's exhibition.

### **Practice Business Techniques**

Filmmaking is more than just shooting and editing a production. It is also a business. Production Design students facilitate a film's look, schedule pre- and post-production teams, scout locations, organize costume designers, and prepare marketing graphics.

### **Professional Recognition**

- ◊ Students can list their credits on the Internet Movie Database after their short-form, episodic, and capstone productions.
- ◊ Qualifying productions may be broadcasted statewide on Rocky Mountain PBS.
- ◊ Enter the Heartland Chapter Emmy student competition.
- ◊ Students can produce outside paid commercial work.

### **Submit to Film Festivals**

Besides the WCCC Digital Filmmaking Film Festival, graduating students can submit their finished capstone productions to film festivals worldwide.

## **Program Overview**

### **Associate of Applied Science in Digital Filmmaking Production Design Emphasis**

**W**estern Colorado Community College offers the most intensive hands-on filmmaking training on the Western Slope. Students majoring in Digital Filmmaking can choose from two distinct emphases — either Writing/Directing or Production Design — and acquire a sound understanding of the narrative filmmaking process.

The Production Design emphasis allows students to hone their "behind-the-scenes" craft of narrative filmmaking. By the time they finish the degree, graduates will experience video editing and special effects compositing as well as designing the look and style of short-form and episodic films.

Students enroll in drawing and design courses the first semester and are taught by academically and professionally-experienced faculty. By the end of the first semester, students will have edited commercial and corporate video with industry-standard software.

Students learn the techniques and approaches used by famous editors and production directors. Training is grounded in the understanding of film language and analyzing and breaking down the

elements of a story and how it pertains to the design of a film.

In the program's previsualization course, students create not only the storyboards but plot camera and light positions. By semester's end, students use raw video footage provided by the Writing/Directing students to edit corporate and short-form narrative films. Writing/Directing students review these edited films so both emphases can exchange ideas on ways to make the movies better.

By the second year, students create 5.1 surround sound soundtracks. They will also learn special effects compositing such as green screen, matte painting, and set extensions.

In the capstone courses, Production Design students collaborate with Writing/Directing students to form production teams, scout locations, and work with costumes and makeup.

Students have a chance to see their work appreciated by audiences at a local film festival as well as possibly statewide on Rocky Mountain PBS. From there, students could go on to compete at the Heartland Chapter Emmy student competition.

### **All WCCC graduates are expected to demonstrate proficiency in critical thinking, communication fluency, and specialized knowledge & ethical reasoning**

1. Communication Fluency — Apply business communication using listening, verbal, written, and electronic forms that needed for entry-level employment.
2. Quantitative Fluency — Apply math and applied physics concepts for industry to meet job requirements.
3. Critical Thinking — Research, evaluate, synthesize, and apply information/data relevant to business, the sciences, and technical careers.
4. Specialized Knowledge — Demonstrate knowledge of terminology, symbols, business practices, principles, and application of technical skills.
5. Applied Learning — Perform the applied skill sets to fulfill the needs of entry-level employment.
6. Ethical Reasoning — Demonstrate personal and social responsibility as part of ethical professional behavior.





## AAS Digital Filmmaking - Production Design Program Requirements

A student must follow WCCC/CMU graduation requirements by completing 60 semester credit hours. See the "Undergraduate Graduation Requirements" in the catalog for additional graduation information. Students should work closely with a faculty advisor as they choose and schedule courses before registration. In general, WCCC/CMU's programs of study are based on two curriculum groups.

### **1. What You Will Study in This Major**

#### **Foundational Courses**

This series of courses is designed to prepare students for advanced study and give them a strong basic knowledge of the film production.

- FILM 115 – Cinema Design Tools
- FILM 125 – Production Drawing & Design
- FILM 135 – Cinema Editing Aesthetics
- FILM 145 – Commercial Video Editing
- FILM 155 – Commercial Audio Design
- FILM 160 – Cinema Previsualization
- FILM 175 – Short-Form Video Editing

#### **Core Courses**

These courses develop the complete skillset necessary for a professional filmmaking career.

- FILM 170 – Short-Form Video Editing
- FILM 220 – Cinema Audio Design
- FILM 240 – Digital Cinematic Special Effects
- FILM 250 – Episodic Video Editing

#### **Professional Courses**

These courses provide the business knowledge needed if a student wants to create their own professional filmmaking freelance business.

- FILM 165 – Cinema Production Design
- FILM 226 – Technical Capstone I
- FILM 260 – Freelancing for Creatives
- FILM 271 – Technical Capstone II

#### **Earn Certificates**

Along with an Associate of Applied Science degree, Digital Filmmaking students also earn three technical certificates.

- Production Design Elements
- Basic Production Design
- Intermediate Production Design

### **2. Essential Learning**

WCCC/CMU's Essential Learning courses provide the foundation of skills and information that cuts across all fields of study and the support for advanced concepts that students will later encounter in their majors.

These courses provide an opportunity for students to work with disparate ideas, a critical skill expected of all WCCC/CMU graduates that will aid them in solving the complex and unscripted problems they will encounter in their personal, professional, and civic lives.

#### **Attending WCCC**

Students attend core classes at the Bishop Campus, located a little over three miles from the CMU Campus. A shuttle is available. Essential Learning courses could be on both campuses. All WCCC students can use CMU facilities and services such as the student center, library, gym, and dining hall. They can attend sports and cultural events as well as sign up for student clubs and organizations.

#### **After Graduation**

A two-year degree allows the student to weigh options. After earning three technical certificates and an AAS degree, some students may want to enter the job market immediately, or others may want to start their own freelance business, or students can pursue another path.

#### **Another AAS Degree?**

Nothing is stopping the Writing/ Directing student from earning the Production Design AAS degree. Students who wish to pursue another associate degree need to check with Financial Aid to understand how their student loans could be affected.

#### **A Four-Year Pathway**

All WCCC AAS degree earners can apply for CMU's Bachelor's of Applied Science in Interdisciplinary Studies. Thirty-six credits from your AAS degree will transfer over. Students can then craft their four-year degree by selecting higher-level courses from any CMU department. Talk to an advisor or WCCC Student Services.

