



ULTIMATE CAREER GUIDE

how to land a job in
the **film** industry

ENTERING THE FILM & VIDEO PRODUCTION INDUSTRY

What skills are required to become a professional in the film and video industry?

Welcome to F.I.R.S.T. Institute's film and video production Ultimate Career Guide! If you have a passion for storytelling and a creative eye, a career in this field may be the perfect fit. The film and video production industry is constantly evolving, and new technologies and techniques are always emerging. But at its core, it's about bringing ideas to life and creating engaging, meaningful content. Whether you want to work as a camera operator, video editor, producer, or cinematographer, there are countless opportunities to pursue your dreams in this exciting and dynamic industry. If you're ready to embark on a rewarding and fulfilling career in film and video production, read on to learn more about the roles available and the skills necessary to obtain them.



THE **TOP 10** POSITIONS OUR GRADUATES PURSUE IN THE **FILM & VIDEO PRODUCTION** INDUSTRY.



1. CAMERA OPERATOR

Camera operators work closely with the director and cinematographer to achieve a project's desired visual style and aesthetic. Camera operators must have a strong understanding of composition, lighting, and camera movement and be able to operate various types of cameras. They are also responsible for setting up and maintaining equipment and ensuring that all footage is properly recorded and labeled.



2. VIDEO EDITOR

Video editors organize the footage captured during production to create a coherent story. Editors need to be fluent in industry-standard software such as Adobe Premiere, Final Cut, and Avid. They should work well under tight deadlines and be open to feedback from clients or producers. In some cases, editors may also be responsible for color grading, visual effects, and sound design.



3. LOCATION MANAGER

Location managers are responsible for finding and securing film and video production locations. They work closely with the director, producer, and production designer to identify areas that best serve the project's needs. They will also be responsible for coordinating with local authorities, businesses, and residents to ensure a smooth and successful shoot.



4. SPECIAL EFFECTS COORDINATOR

A special effects coordinator oversees all special effects for a film or television production. They work closely with the director, producers, and other department heads to ensure that the special effects appropriately support the story. They may also be responsible for budgeting, scheduling, and managing a team of special effects technicians and artists.



5. GAFFER

A gaffer is the head of the electrical department for a film or television production. The gaffer typically works closely with the director of photography. They are responsible for implementing the lighting plan and managing the electrical crew and equipment.



6. SCREENWRITER

A screenwriter writes the screenplay for a film, television program, or video game. A screenplay is the blueprint for a production. It dictates the dialogue, character actions, and plot. The screenwriter's job is to craft a compelling and cohesive story for a visual medium.



7. BROADCAST ENGINEER

Broadcast engineers are responsible for the technical aspects of radio and television programming. They manage the signal flow of the equipment to ensure the programming reaches its destination. They may work in various settings, including television and radio studios, transmission facilities, mobile production units, and live events.



8. FREELANCE VIDEOGRAPHER

Freelance videographers are independent contractors who create video content for clients. As a freelance videographer, it's helpful to be comfortable in a variety of styles to maximize earning potential. Freelance videographers may find themselves shooting commercials, music videos, wedding videos, training videos, and social media content. Freelance videographers are responsible for all stages of production, including planning, filming, editing, and delivering the final product to the client.



9. CINEMATOGRAPHER

A cinematographer, also known as a director of photography, works with the director to develop the visual language of a film or television production. Cinematographers make decisions about lighting, lensing, camera movement, and shot composition. The gaffer, key grip, and camera operators work with the cinematographer to execute the shots.



10. DIRECTOR

The director is the creative lead on a film or television production. They are responsible for guiding the cast and crew in bringing the script to life and making decisions about the visual and dramatic aspects of the project. They work closely with the cinematographer to plan and execute the visual style and closely collaborate with the production designer and other members of the creative team.

HOW TO CREATE A CAREER IN FILM AND VIDEO PRODUCTION.



Film is a multifaceted art form. It combines a variety of disciplines including photography, drama, music, and design. For this reason, there are many different types of jobs in the film and video production industry. While many companies employ full-time film professionals, there is also a large demand for freelancers and contractors.

STARTING OUT

The goal of most aspiring filmmakers is simple: to tell a powerful story. For most people, this doesn't come naturally. It takes knowledge, coaching, and practice to master this medium.

LEARN THE SKILLS FROM INDUSTRY PROFESSIONALS

The first step toward landing your dream job is getting a solid education from an accredited institution. With industry-standard technical knowledge, mentorship, and hands-on practice, you'll be ahead of the curve when you start looking for your first role within the industry.



LAND THE INTERNSHIP

Internships are extremely valuable to those looking to break into the film and video industry. Here at F.I.R.S.T. Institute, students who take advantage of internship opportunities have the highest probability of landing post-graduation employment.

EXPAND YOUR KNOWLEDGE ON THE JOB

Making an effort to continue your education after graduation demonstrates to employers that you are not just there for a paycheck. Although there may be more glamorous positions on a film set, accepting a job as a production assistant, junior editor, or even a B.T.S. photographer can help you acquire additional knowledge and skills that will lead to greater opportunities down the road.

WHERE DO I FIND THE BEST **CAREER OPPORTUNITIES?**



In today's world, you don't necessarily have to live in Hollywood to pursue a career in filmmaking and video production. Many large and medium-sized metropolitan areas offer ample employment opportunities. In addition, with the rise of remote work, many individuals in the field can find contracts for projects outside of their geographical location. It all comes down to what type of jobs you wish to pursue, how prepared you are for them, and your ability to leverage your resources.

CAREER DEVELOPMENT TOOLS

Many students who pursue a formal education benefit from the networking and career development resources that schools like F.I.R.S.T. Institute are able to provide. By reviewing resumes and portfolios as well as teaching job search strategies, F.I.R.S.T. Institute provides students with all the necessary tools to find entry-level employment in their chosen field.

The ability to promote oneself is the cornerstone of a successful career. Understanding the tools available to today's workforce will save you time and open the door to more opportunities. While the cover letter and resume are still important, there are additional assets that can make you more competitive in the marketplace, such as a business card, website, online profile, and a strong portfolio.

COVER LETTER & RESUME

Your cover letter explains who you are and why you are a great fit for the position you're applying for. And your resume proves it! This is where you can get your foot in the door, show professionalism, and set yourself up for a successful interview.

BUSINESS CARDS & PROMOTIONAL PIECES

A quick way to let others know you are a professional in your field is a business card. You might think they're a little old-fashioned, but business cards are still necessary for networking and getting your name out there. When meeting others interested in your work, you want to give them a unique and creative reminder of who you are. It will leave a lasting first impression and provide the individual with all the necessary contact information to reach you. Professionals want to work with other professionals; scribbling your name on paper and handing it to someone indicates a lack of preparation and organization. This industry is competitive, and people want to work with those they can rely on.



WEBSITES, ONLINE PROFILES, & PORTFOLIOS

All of your marketing materials, from your business card to your social media profiles, should lead back to your website. Your site allows others to learn about you and your story. It is a great place to show off all your work and generate leads for future opportunities. In addition, those who have had a positive experience working with you will likely share your website with their network.

Social media, online directories, and media hosting sites have changed the world as we know it. It has connected many professionals worldwide who would otherwise have never worked together. Spaces like LinkedIn are perfect for demonstrating your knowledge and interest in the film and video industry. Engaging in conversations and sharing ideas can allow others to see your value, which may result in job offers.

No matter how strong your website and online profiles are, if your portfolio is lackluster or nonexistent, you will not be competitive. Providing clients and potential employers with a powerful portfolio that demonstrates your skills, knowledge, and artistic vision is paramount to building a career in the film and video industry.

THE EDUCATION YOU **NEED TO SUCCEED!**



Gaining your education from F.I.R.S.T. Institute will prepare you with the tools to launch your career in the film and video industry.

With such a wide field to work in and so many options to choose from, the best way to start a career in the film and video industry is to get an education in the latest technologies and techniques.

The Digital Filmmaking & Video Production program here at F.I.R.S.T. Institute focuses on giving you the tools and personalized attention you need to succeed in this growing field.

As the global art industry continues to expand, other industries that employ film and video professionals are always looking for new talent.

This means that your skills will be in demand, but it also means that there will be more competition in the field.

As the job market follows its projected growth, employers are looking for only the most experienced and qualified candidates to work on their projects.

This is where your training and background become essential. Not only will getting an education prepare you for the practical and professional challenges ahead, but your confidence in articulating your skills will also grow. In addition, you will have a solid understanding of your industry, with the beginnings of a network already in place when you graduate.

Investing in your education is the best thing you can do to prepare for your career, learn the tricks of the trade, speak the language of your peers, gain real experience, and prepare your portfolio for success. Start your new career path with F.I.R.S.T. Institute today!

Warmest Regards,
F.I.R.S.T. Institute



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