



The UIL Young Filmmakers Festival

Participant Guide for 2023-2024

SUBMISSION DEADLINE- JANUARY 20, 2024

2023-2024

UIL Young Filmmakers Festival

Notice of Non-Discrimination: The University Interscholastic League (UIL) does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability, or age in its programs. See Section 360, Non-Discrimination Policy, UIL Constitution and Contest Rules. <https://www.uiltexas.org/policy/constitution/general/nondiscrimination>

The following person has been designated to handle inquiries regarding the non-discrimination policies:

Dr. Mark Cousins, University Interscholastic League Director of Eligibility and Education
1701 Manor Road, Austin, TX 78722
Telephone: (512) 471-5883
Email: policy@uiltexas.org

For further information on notice of non-discrimination, visit <http://wdcrobcolp01.ed.gov/CFAPPS/OCR/contactus.cfm> or call 1-800-421-3481 or contact OCR in Dallas, Texas:
Office for Civil Rights U.S. Department of Education
1999 Bryan Street, Dallas, TX 75201-6810
Telephone: 214-661-9600, Fax: 214-661-9587, TDD: 800-877-8339
Email: OCR.Dallas@ed.gov

WHO TO CONTACT WITH FILM QUESTIONS

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Participants

Only high school students eligible **under UIL rules** are eligible for the high school film contest.

Students producing the film must be currently enrolled (2023-2024 school year) and attending a UIL member high school. The entire production team must be enrolled full-time at the participating UIL member high school during the 2023-24 school year.

Only students producing the film (non-performers) must be listed on the official entry form.

- There is no minimum or a maximum number of contestants.
- Performers are not considered contestants if that is their only role in the project.
- Adult involvement in the project is limited to sponsors and onscreen talent.
- There is no amateur rule for this contest.
- Sponsors in the UIL State Student Film Festival shall be full-time employees of the school districts they represent. Their actual involvement in producing the film shall be in an advisory capacity only.

Contact [UIL Director of Eligibility and Education](#) if you have questions regarding student eligibility.

Conferences

Schools will enter in one of the following conferences.

- Conference 3A- Combined Conferences 1A- 3A schools only.
- Conference 4A - Conference 4A
- Conference 5A- Conference 5A
- Conference 6A- Conference 6A

Time Limits and Entries- any credits.

Time limits include credits and will be checked in prelims. Each school may submit **three (3) films** in each of the following four categories:

- Narrative- 3- 7 minutes maximum in length
- Documentary (this does not include Broadcast News or PSAs) 3- 7 minutes maximum in length

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- Computer/Digital Animation, in which the imagery is created by using a computer program)- 30 seconds to 3 minutes maximum in length.
- Traditional Animation, in which the imagery is created by hand, such as hand-drawn animation or stop motion which animates objects or materials manipulated by the filmmaker/s. - 30 seconds to 3 minutes maximum in length.

See [Film categories](#).

Eligible Material

Submitted films must be original works and are required to have clearances for music or other copyrighted material featured in the project. Students should be encouraged to find non-copyright sources for music, such as music released with a Creative Commons license. A log of any music used shall be kept on file at the school. See link example of the [music log](#). All music, images, titles, footage and other copyrighted material used in your submission **MUST be properly licensed**. You must have permission and/or the proper rights to all content submitted.

The administration of the producing school shall assure that the production does not offend the moral standards of the community. A signed "Community Standards and Copyright Compliance Form" signed by your Principal shall certify that the entries have been carefully examined and approved for presentation. Form is included in the online entry and due by the entry deadline.

Only those films produced for the current school year (2023-2024) will be considered for submission into the contest. Films from previous contest years *are not eligible* for competition. However, films that began production during the spring or summer months prior to the new school year (2023-2024), are eligible for the 2023-2024 UIL Film contest ***IF all the students producing (non-performers) the film are still eligible students under the current UIL rules. (e.g. A 10th grade student may start production of a contest film in summer of 2023 and enter their film as an 11th grader for the 2024 festival).***

Entry Procedures

- Schools will be asked to submit an Intent to Participate form by December 1, 2023. This form can be found online at www.uiltexas.org/film This is a survey and not an enrollment form. In other words, the intent to participate **is not required**.
- The entry form for submitting films will become active January 1, 2024. The form can be found at www.uiltexas.org/film

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- **FILM SUBMISSION DEADLINE IS JANUARY 20, 2024. Films must be submitted by the deadline to qualify. No late submissions will be accepted.**
- The date, times and venue for the State Awards are tentatively scheduled for February 28, 2024 in Austin. Check the UIL Film page for updates.

Evaluation

Films submitted to the Festival shall be previewed, critiqued and ranked by our adjudicators. **Originality, cinematic storytelling, and technical execution** are the basis of the scoring. Students will receive feedback from the judges.

Films should be the creative vision of the production team. As such, class projects which may end up as a longer piece than UIL time limits allow, should not be submitted as separate entries. A school's entries should be unique, representative of the individual teams.

Depending on the number of entries received in your category, advancing films will go through several rounds, culminating with a State Semi-final round to determine State qualifiers. Those entries advancing to State in each category will be screened and ranked first through sixth place at the State Festival. Medals and trophies will be awarded for first through third place, and plaques awarded for fourth through sixth place. Schools shall receive a written evaluation of the film via the Film Contest Portal for each level.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What does it mean by “producing team”?

The producing team are the official, UIL eligible students (non-performers) participants on the film entry. This includes, but not limited to, the following positions: writers, directors, producers, editors, designers, camera operators, technicians, animators...These students may *also* serve as performers in the film.

Is my school locked in to compete if I file an intent to participate?

No. This is merely an “intent” to participate. This will help us plan for acquiring judges and planning for the evaluation process.

Is there an entry fee?

No.

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Can my faculty advisor/sponsor help me write, edit or shoot the film?

They may assist you on set; in fact, that is strongly advised. They may give artistic and technical advice throughout the process only. They shall not write, edit, design or shoot the film. This is a 100% student film production.

When is eligibility checked?

Eligibility is checked at the time of **submission deadline**. The project is entered as a team representing the school. Ineligible students shall not be allowed to represent the school at the state finals.

What does it mean that there is no “amateur rule?”

Unlike athletic events in UIL, on-screen talent in the film contest can have professional film, TV or commercial credits.

Can our students work with my friends that go to another school?

Only as on-screen or voice talent.

Can I use my little brother/sister from middle school as an on-screen talent (performer)? What about adults?

Yes. Non-high school students or students from another school can participate as on-screen talent only. They may not be listed as official participants in the contest entry.

Will I need location permissions? Waivers? etc?

Schools should check with each location. Waivers from talent, etc. shall be the responsibility of the participating school.

May we use pre-generated materials software? No. However, the creation of virtual sets and animated elements from animation software that are **CREATED BY THE STUDENTS** are permissible. Check with the UIL office for clarification.

Any rules on language or content?

See Section 1036 (c)(1)(B) of the current UIL [Constitution and Contest Rules](#).

Does Mockumentary fall under narrative or documentary?

Narrative. Since a mockumentary is fiction, it will fall into the Narrative category.

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May I use stock footage?

Your film may contain LICENSED or *public domain* stock footage as needed for a documentary. **Stock footage in narrative and animation entries should not be more than 10% of the total running time. This will be checked in prelims.**

What will I need to prove I have permission to use the music and stock footage?

Receipts will need to be produced if requested by the State Contest Director. A music log should be maintained and kept on file at the high school. See Film [page](#) for sample music log. Your school is responsible for acquiring any and all clearances for any copyrighted music or images you use. The UIL cannot give opinions on copyright issues. All music, images, titles, footage and other copyrighted material used in your submission **MUST be properly licensed**. You must have permission and/or the proper rights to all content submitted.

Will the school receive any points towards Academic Championships?

Schools placing at State shall receive points that count towards the overall Academic Championship. Additionally, points from One-Act Play, Film and Theatrical Design shall count towards the overall State Theatre Championship. The points are equivalent to any group contest in Academics.

Can I view winning films from previous years?

Yes. Award-winning films from previous years may be found on the UIL Film page.

I am new to this contest. Are there any workshops or presentations I can view that could help me prepare?

Yes. There are UIL Film workshops throughout the year. Please check the UIL Theatre site for dates and opportunities. See document for listing of student activity conferences. View the UIL YouTube channel for past filmmaking sessions.

Does the University Interscholastic League hold the copyright for the submitted film?

No.

UIL FILM CONTEST RESOURCES

[Film Technology for All Budgets](#)

[Getting Started with the UIL Film Festival](#)

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UIL Student Activity Conferences 2023

This year's schedule includes four in-person conferences offering contest information, instruction and tips to help coaches and students prepare for the 2023 competition season. Sessions will be scheduled for all UIL academic contest areas. A full program of events at each site will be posted and updated on this page approximately two weeks prior to the conference.

September 6, 2023- UT- Permian Basin, Odessa

September 23, 2023 – University of Texas, Austin

October 21, 2023 – Prosper ISD. Walnut Grove High School

November 4, 2023 – Texas A&M University, Corpus Christi

For more information

<https://www.uiltexas.org/academics/student-activity-conferences>

UIL FILM WEBSITE

<https://www.uiltexas.org/film>

SEE YOU AT THE MOVIES!

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