

## 2023-2024: Institutional Plan Update

### **Online Curricular Quality and Compliancy.**

An essential function of the Los Angeles Film School is to ensure that online students are provided with an accurate and relevant curriculum that prepares them to succeed in the rapidly changing entertainment and media industries.

In collaboration with the Educational Leadership Team—including the Vice President of Education, the Director of Online Education, the Director of Academic Affairs, and the Director of Instructional Design—each online Program Director engages in ongoing curricular reviews and programmatic assessments. Data reports dictate conversations, revisions, and implementations in areas such as student success, failure rates, retake rates, drop rates, and graduation rates. Any curricular innovations, redesigns, and/or proposals are thoroughly reviewed by an internal Curriculum Review Committee, composed of education and non-academic stakeholders. This committee reviews course content and structure based on the school’s specific curriculum development standards, which are published in the school’s Faculty Handbook. All courses reviewed by the committee undergo quality checks to ensure that the course outcomes are clear and measurable and align with program-level outcomes, that the course includes an appropriate amount of coursework based on the course credit hour requirements, and that the resources and materials used in the course support the learning objectives. Emphasis is placed on instructor presence, direct engagement with students, and consistent course structure and formatting.

Additionally, yearly external curricular reviews are provided by each online Program Advisory Committee (with at least one distance education expert present per committee) to ensure that distance education programs and curricula meet acceptable standards, achievements, and outcomes.

### **Online Student Services**

Students enrolled in online degree programs have access to the same support services available to students on the school’s campus. These services are made available via multiple synchronous and asynchronous methods such as email, telephone, online video conferencing, online chat, and text messaging. Services are available during extended hours, including evenings.

### **Student Advising**

The Online Student Advisors serve as the primary point person for resolving issues that students may encounter during their degree program. The school accommodates working and non-traditional students by making student advising available during evening hours and via phone, email, and text message, as well as in person if possible.

## **Online Faculty Development and Assessment**

### **Faculty Training**

The Los Angeles Film School supports new faculty hires for online programs by providing an extensive training process designed to put faculty on a path of success. The process begins with an initial orientation conducted by a member of the Academic Affairs department. The Faculty are then enrolled in the school's faculty training course. This course provides new hires with extensive training in the technology needed for faculty success and the pedagogical and curriculum development strategies that are documented in the school's Faculty Handbook. Training topics are diverse and include the following primary areas of focus:

- Use of the school's Learning Management System
- The School's Library website and online resources that are available to faculty and students
- Use of communication and live presentation software such as Zoom and Vonage
- The Los Angeles Film School instructor policies and procedures published in the Faculty Handbook
- Knowledge of important legal considerations such as FERPA, ADA, and copyright compliance
- Developing curriculum assets using provided templates, including syllabi, learning outcomes, lesson plans or course plans, grading rubrics, and assignment instructions
- Active learning experience strategies
- Project-based assessment
- Written communication strategies for assignment feedback and student outreach

By completing the faculty training course, new faculty are able to experience the Learning Management System from the student perspective, which helps expand their awareness of the online student experience.

The online Program Directors are responsible for hiring faculty and ensuring faculty compliance with the school's onboarding and continuing education training. They are also responsible for continuously monitoring online faculty performance and student interaction. This ensures a high level of academic quality and student satisfaction.

### **Faculty Assessment**

The Program Directors ensure that faculty are fulfilling the expectations of their position through careful monitoring of the online "classroom" environment. Instructor performance is monitored by frequent observation of instructor activity in the Learning Management System (LMS) to ensure quality control. End-of-course student surveys also provide feedback on the course and instructor performance from the student's perspective.

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F I L M S C H O O L

"Student outcomes and achievements:

A few notable mentions for this **Emmy Award Season**:

The Los Angeles Film School is proud to announce a total of 50 alumni who have contributed to 50 projects which have received a remarkable 299 **Emmy nominations** for the 2024 awards. Notable highlights include alumni credited on the top two nominated series this year "Shōgun" (25 nominations) and "The Bear" (23 nominations), as well as recent **Spotlight** inductees."

"Among these noteworthy alumni, **Joshua Gitersonke**, a recent inductee of the class of 2024 Spotlight Academy, has been nominated for an individual Emmy for Outstanding Cinematography for a Reality Program. Gitersonke, known for his exceptional work as the Director of Photography on *The Amazing Race*, previously won an Emmy in 2019 for Outstanding Technical Direction, Camerawork. This year's Emmy nomination marks his 11th overall.

**Mehrnaz Mohabati**, also announced last week as an inductee of 2024 Spotlight Academy class, has been credited as an ADR Mixer on seven Emmy-nominated projects, including *Fallout*, *American Horror Story*, *Palm Royale*, *Ripley*, *The Other Two*, *The Righteous Gemstones*, and *Winning Time: The Rise of the Lakers Dynasty*. Moreover, Mohabati boasts an additional 30 credits in the Sound Department, with more than 30 more currently in post-production.

Two previous Spotlight Inductees, **Kyle Newacheck** and **Paquita Hughes**, were credited on Emmy-nominated series. Newacheck's work as a Director and Co-Executive Producer of *What We Do in the Shadows* holds eight Emmy nominations, including one for Outstanding Comedy Series. Hughes worked as a Key Assistant Location Manager on two Emmy-nominated series, *The Brothers Sun* and *Physical*.

Additionally, this **Grammy's** Season, four alumni contributed significantly to Grammy nominated projects including:

Recording engineers and mixers Hector Castro, Andrés Borda, and Jhair Lazo made significant contributions to GRAMMY-nominated albums by SZA, Carlos Vives, and Paramore. The three are graduates of The Los Angeles Film School and eagerly await Sunday's **2024 GRAMMY Awards** ceremony."

"Hector Castro is the recording engineer for SZA, who is the most GRAMMY-nominated artist of 2024. SZA's second album, "SOS," secured the singer an impressive nine nominations, including Album Of The Year, while her lead single, "Kill Bill," was nominated in both the Record Of The Year and Song Of The Year categories. A graduate of The Los Angeles Film School recording arts program in 2014, Castro exemplifies the high standard fostered by our institution and reinforces **our commitment** to nurturing exceptional talent in the entertainment industry.

Additionally, The Los Angeles Film School alum **Andrés Borda** was recording engineer and mixer for Carlos Vives' 2023 album, "Escalona: Nunca Se Había Grabado Así" which received a nomination for Best Tropical Latin Album. The album marks a 30-year journey back to Carlos' roots and to the milestone that established him as an ambassador of Colombian sound worldwide."