

# Frequently Asked Questions

1. Q: What Programs does Pittsburgh Filmmakers offer?  
A: Our curriculum consists of over 75 courses in the media arts. The major areas of study are our Certificate Programs: Film Production, Photography, and Digital Video. Both film and video programs include digital post-production; photography teaches both traditional and digital techniques.
2. Q: What is required to apply for admission to Pittsburgh Filmmakers?  
A: The only requirement for *entry level classes* is a high school diploma or GED. A high school senior may petition for admittance (please contact the Registrar for details).
3. Q: How many and how long are the semesters?  
A: There are three semesters per year. Fall and Winter/Spring semesters run for 14 weeks, September to December and January to April; Summer semesters run for 12 weeks.
4. Q: How long will it take to complete a Certificate Program?  
A: A Certificate Program will take a minimum of six semesters to complete, depending on a student's available time and resources. Completion of each Program requires a minimum of 12 courses, but there are no time constraints or minimum number of courses to be taken in any one semester. A student may take classes at his/her own pace.
5. Q: What is an "independent" student?  
A: An independent student is any student who registers for classes directly with Pittsburgh Filmmakers and either pays his/her own tuition and fees or is paid for by an approved third party (please contact the Registrar for details).
6. Q: Is tuition all I have to pay?  
A: There are also course fees attached to the majority of courses to cover in-class equipment use, materials, chemicals, facilities and rentals. In addition, a student must be prepared to pay for textbooks and other materials and processing charges not covered by course fees.  
*Please note that tuition and course fees are subject to change.*
7. Q: Is financial aid available? Are scholarships offered?  
A: Pittsburgh Filmmakers does not participate in Title IV financial aid programs, nor do we offer scholarships at this time.
8. Q: Is housing available?  
A: Independent students must research local areas for housing possibilities. We can supply a list of realtors and management companies.

9. Q: Does Pittsburgh Filmmakers have a job placement program?  
A: No, however, the curriculum includes internships that may be taken by advanced students either for credit through their home school or on a non-credit basis. Internships are valuable both in terms of gaining experience and in making contacts in the local arts community. (For specific information, please contact the Internship Coordinator.) We also post artist opportunities on our bulletin board.
10. Q: Does a Certificate Program have to be taken for college credit?  
A: No, these Programs may be taken on either a non-credit or "credit transcript" basis; most independent students opt for non-credit. Certificate Program students enrolled in college generally complete the Program with a mix of non-credit classes taken independently and for-credit classes taken through their home school.
11. Q: What is the difference between taking a course non-credit or credit transcript?  
A: There is no difference in the *content* of the course whether taken for transferable credit or on a non-credit basis. Courses taken on a non-credit basis are not acceptable for transfer to a post-secondary institution. (A student may decide to change the status of his/her courses from non-credit to credit transcript at a later date by paying additional fees.)
12. Q: Does Pittsburgh Filmmakers grant degrees?  
A: No, we are not a degree-granting institution. The courses taught at Pittsburgh Filmmakers may be applied toward a degree if the student is registered in a participating college or university program, or, if taken on a credit transcript basis, as transfer credit to a non-participating school. (Local universities participating with Pittsburgh Filmmakers include: University of Pittsburgh, Carnegie Mellon University, Point Park University, La Roche College, Duquesne University, Robert Morris University, Carlow University, and Seton Hill University.)
13. Q: What is Pittsburgh Filmmakers' tuition rate for transferable college credit?  
A: The cost is currently \$910.00 for a 3 credit /42 classroom-hour course.
14. Q: How do I register for classes at Pittsburgh Filmmakers if I am enrolled at a nearby university?  
A: A student attending a participating institution (see question #12) registers for classes at their home school. It is the student's responsibility to communicate with the appropriate personnel at their school to assure proper registration – please contact Pittsburgh Filmmakers' Registrar to obtain contact information for your school.
15. Q: May foreign students take classes?  
A: Students who reside outside the United States may study at Pittsburgh Filmmakers; however, we are not able to assist such students in acquiring a student visa.