

UCLA Extension Writers' Program Screenwriting Certificate Programs

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

- Certificate in Feature Film Writing (CF503)
- Certificate in Television Writing (CF504)

Q: If I enroll in the feature film certificate program, which courses are required?

Students new to screenwriting are required to take the following three courses:

X430A - Introduction to Screenwriting I

X430B - Introduction to Screenwriting II

X430C - Introduction to Screenwriting III

Students who have completed at least one feature-length screenplay may opt instead to take the following three courses:

X431.101 - Intermediate Feature Film I: Writing the Screenplay the Professional Way

X431.102 - Intermediate Feature Film II: Finishing Your Work-in-Progress; and

X431.57 - Intermediate Rewrite

There are exceptions and we strongly recommend speaking with an advisor for personalized guidance prior to enrolling.

Q: If I enroll in the television certificate program, which courses are required?

A: The Certificate in Television Writing consists of a total of 18 units (six 3-unit courses), including a sequence of three required courses, either in one-hour drama or half-hour comedy, with one of those being an intermediate or advanced-level course, plus three elective courses. The electives must include at least one additional television course focusing on writing or rewriting the one-hour drama or half-hour comedy script. There are, however, exceptions to the rule and we strongly recommend that you speak with an advisor for personalized guidance prior to enrolling.

Q. When do I have to begin taking courses for my certificate? Will required courses be offered every quarter?

A. You may begin taking courses at any time, however, the certificate period is 18 months, and if your course work is incomplete, you will be required to pay a renewal fee of \$50. If for some reason a required course is not offered in a particular quarter, please consult an advisor and a reasonable substitution will be made.

Q. I have taken screenwriting courses at another UC campus or at a college or university out of state. May I apply those units/courses to my certificate?

A. While courses at other institutions will help you attain advanced status, they are not a replacement for Writers' Program courses. Only courses taken in the screenwriting section of the UCLA Extension Writers' Program will apply to the certificate.

Q. I have taken Entertainment Studies courses at UCLA Extension. May I apply these to complete my elective courses in my certificate?

A. No. Courses in other areas of study do not apply.

Q. I have already taken screenwriting courses at the UCLA Extension Writers' Program. May I apply them to my certificate?

A. Yes, provided the courses: (1) meet the curriculum requirements; (2) were taken for a letter grade of "C" or better; (3) were taken in the past year. If they do not match required or elective courses, or if the courses are part of an outdated curriculum, the units may not apply. Consult an advisor to discuss your specific situation prior to enrolling in a certificate program.

Q. I have already taken screenwriting courses at the UCLA Extension Writers' Program, but did not take them for a letter grade. May I apply them to my certificate?

A. No. Only courses taken for a letter grade of "C" or better will apply.

Q. If I took previous Writers' Program courses as pass/fail or not for credit, may I petition to the status changed?

A. No. Once a grade or grading status is assigned, it is final.

Q. I have taken many screenwriting courses or have an MFA or a certificate in screenwriting through another program. Do I still have to take introductory courses?

A. No. You may begin at the intermediate level, provided you can meet the demands of the course. Please read the course descriptions thoroughly and consult an advisor if you have specific questions. If an instructor does not feel you've met the requirements for an intermediate course, you will be asked to drop the course.

Q. I've already taken all required courses plus electives (a total of 18 units) for a letter grade at UCLA Extension in the Writers' Program and have received a "C" or better in all. May I pay the \$150 certificate fee and receive my certificate?

A. Yes. However, you should consult with an advisor who will review your transcript. If you are eligible to receive the certificate, the advisor will process the order once the fee is paid.

Q. I've just enrolled in the certificate program and paid my candidacy fee of \$150. How soon can I enroll in courses?

A. You may enroll in courses immediately.

Q: Do I have to take all my courses for a letter grade?

A. Yes. You must receive a grade of "C" or better to earn the certificate.

Q. How soon should I sign up for my courses each quarter?

A. As soon as you receive the UCLA Extension catalog, or when the next quarter's course listings go live on the website (check website for schedule). Although you may sign up for any course up to the second class meeting, we advise certificate students to sign up early to ensure their spot in popular courses.

Q. Do I need to take more than one course per quarter to receive my certificate?

A. No. The certificate candidacy fee is good for 18 months and is renewable at \$50/year for a maximum of 3 (three) total years. If you take one 3-unit course per quarter, you will complete the certificate in 18 months. However, you may elect to take more than one 3-unit course per quarter if you wish to complete the certificate sooner. Please consult an advisor to determine if you can/should take more than one course per quarter.

Q. Can I take shorter (1-day, 2-day, 6 week) courses and apply them to my certificate elective requirements, as long as they add up to 18 units?

A. Courses that do not carry units (one-day courses) will not count toward the certificate. Consult an advisor regarding applicable shorter length courses which can be combined to meet a full length course requirement.

Q. What should I do if I'm not sure what course I need to sign up for next?

A. Please call an advisor for personalized curriculum guidance.

Q. How do I know which instructor will be best for me?

A. Please review the instructor bios which are listed in the catalog. Also, please consult the instructor teaching statements at www.uclaextension.edu/writers/instructors to see how different instructors approach the craft of screenwriting. If you still have questions, please consult an advisor.

Q. I've enrolled in the Certificate Program in Feature Film Writing but since paying the candidacy fee, have decided I would prefer to enroll in the Certificate Program in Television Writing. May I transfer my certificate enrollment?

A. Yes. You may transfer your candidacy to either of the two certificate programs. Please be advised that not all courses may transfer over. Consult an advisor for individualized guidance.

Q. I've started the feature film certificate but want to take television writing courses. Do they apply to my certificate?

A. Yes. Television writing courses may apply as electives for the Certificate in Feature Film Writing as long as they are taken for a letter grade.

Q. Can I take courses online for the certificate programs?

A. Yes. You may take courses online for both the Certificate in Feature Film Writing and the Certificate in Television Writing. However, only the Certificate in Feature Film Writing may be taken *entirely* online because not all television courses are offered online.

Q. When do I receive my actual certificate?

A. Once you have completed your coursework, **please contact us** so that we may review your transcript, set up your complimentary screenplay consultation, and process your certificate. You should receive your certificate within two weeks.

Q. What do I get with my free screenplay consultation?

A. Your free screenplay consultation includes the reading and review of a script of your choosing by one of our professional writer-instructors. The instructor provides individual feedback and gives guidance in maximizing your rewriting process. This includes a one-on-one meeting with an instructor in person, by phone, or by email, a written summary of suggestions, and verbal notes. The meeting will last approximately 90 minutes.

Q. I'm enrolled in the certificate program and am still taking courses; can I use my free screenplay consultation even if I haven't finished my coursework?

A. No.

Q. If I have finished my coursework, but am still working on my script, how long can I wait to use my free screenplay consultation?

A. Certificate students have up to one year after completion of coursework to submit a script for consultation.

Q. Can I use my free screenplay consultation on a script I wrote before I enrolled in the program?

A. Yes, you may submit any script you've written for the complimentary screenplay consultation. However, we suggest you use your most recent screenplay or one that you wrote in the classroom, as it will give you a better sense of your progress as a writer through the program.

If you have other questions not answered here, please contact:

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