

GOVERNING RULES & REQUIREMENTS

The following rules govern all short film submissions to the Orange & Blue Film Festival (“UF Film Fest” or the “Festival”).

General Eligibility Requirements

I. Collegiate Competition

- A. Submissions are open to short films created by student filmmakers (or “filmmaker”) currently enrolled, or enrolled within the past 10 months, at an accredited public university, accredited private non-profit university, or accredited community college in the state of Florida.
 - 1. Students enrolled in accredited public universities or accredited private non-profit institutions pursuing in-person master’s degree programs — including research, specialized, or professional tracks — are also eligible to submit.
- B. All films must have been completed while the filmmaker was enrolled in an accredited institution that corresponds to the competition (college or high school) and finalized within 18 months prior to the submission date.
- C. Each submission must comply with the maximum runtime requirement established for its respective submission category (see the section “Submission Categories”). Entries exceeding the stated time limits (as listed on the submission platform) will be disqualified. Exceptions to this requirement may be granted at the sole discretion of the University of Florida and the Orange & Blue Film Festival.

II. High School Competition

- A. Submissions are open to short films created by student filmmakers (or “filmmaker”) currently enrolled, or enrolled within the past 10 months, at an accredited public, private, charter, or magnet High School in the state of Florida.
- B. All films must have been completed while the filmmaker was enrolled in an accredited institution that corresponds to the competition category (college or high school) and finalized within 18 months prior to the submission date.
- C. Each submission must comply with the maximum runtime requirement established for its respective submission category (Narrative, Documentary, Animation). Entries exceeding the stated time limits (as listed on the submission platform) will be disqualified. Exceptions to this requirement may be granted at the sole discretion of the University of Florida and the Orange & Blue Film Festival.

Submission Requirements

- I. Platform & Requirements
 - A. All films (or “submissions”) must be submitted via the participating platform (FilmFreeway).
 1. Films must be uploaded natively on the platform OR as a Vimeo link
 - a) No other URL, password-protected streaming, or DVD submissions are accepted.
 - b) If uploading to Vimeo, please submit your link password on FilmFreeway upon your submission
 - c) If uploading to FilmFreeway, please note all MP4 and MOV files must be under 2G to be successfully uploaded to the platform.
 2. All films must be able to be downloaded as an mp4 or mov file at time of submission. Non-downloadable films may not be considered for selection.
 - a) If uploading to FilmFreeway, please ensure you choose “any festival I submit to can download” in your settings
 - b) If uploading to Vimeo, please ensure downloads are enabled
 - B. All submissions must be identified as student projects, and the filmmaker’s academic institution must be clearly listed on the project page at the time of submission.
 1. Submissions that are not accurately identified as student projects will be deemed ineligible for consideration. Submission fees are final and non-refundable under any circumstances.
- II. Submission Fees
 - A. Submissions must be accompanied by the applicable submission fee per entry.
 1. Please refer to FilmFreeway for the most up-to-date submission fees corresponding to each submission wave and season.
 - B. Submission fees are non-refundable under any circumstances.
- III. Foreign Language Film Requirement
 - A. Films containing dialogue in any language other than English must be fully subtitled in English prior to submission.
- IV. Conflict of Interest and RTV 3945 Eligibility Restrictions
 - A. Films that list, credit, or feature University of Florida students who are actively enrolled in *RTV 3945: UF Film Festival* and serving on the Orange & Blue Film Festival Programming Team involved in the selection process are strictly ineligible for submission and consideration.
 - B. Films that feature, credit, or list University of Florida students in an above-the-line (ATL) position who are actively enrolled in *RTV 3945: UF Film*

Festival and participating in a leadership role within the Orange & Blue Film Festival are strictly ineligible for submission and consideration.

Any submission that does not meet these Requirements cannot be considered for selection, judging, or screening at the University of Florida's Orange & Blue Film Festival.

Content Rules & Requirements

I. Content Ownership & Permissions Requirements

- A. Filmmakers are responsible for securing all necessary permissions and rights for the content included in their submission.
 - 1. All copyrighted elements—including but not limited to music, images, titles, and footage—must be appropriately licensed and cleared for use.
- B. By submitting a film, participants represent and warrant that they possess all required rights, licenses, and permissions for all materials included in their submission.
 - 1. The Orange & Blue Film Festival and the University of Florida assume no responsibility or liability for any copyright infringement or unauthorized use of materials within submitted films.
- C. Any submission found to violate copyright law or intellectual property rights may be disqualified at the discretion of festival leadership. The Orange & Blue Film Festival reserves the right to disqualify entries, cancel screenings, or revoke previously granted selections, laurels, and awards if a violation is discovered.
 - 1. The Festival reserves the right, at any time, to request satisfactory proof of rights, licenses, or permissions from any entrant. Failure to provide such proof upon request may result in the submission being declared null and void. Submission fees for any entry that is voided, nullified, or disqualified are non-refundable despite the discretion of the festival's leadership.

II. Content Warnings & Viewer Discretion Guidelines

- A. All selected films are subject to being accompanied by a content warning at the discretion of the Orange & Blue Film Festival.
 - 1. These warnings may address, but are not limited to: strong language, violence, sexual content, flashing imagery, or other mature themes.
- B. Content warnings are issued solely at the discretion of the Festival and are intended to inform audiences, not to restrict eligibility or influence judging outcomes.

III. Technical Requirements

A. Visual

1. All films must be available for screening in 1080p resolution or higher.

B. Sound

1. All sound and music must be clear and properly balanced
 - a) Including audio should not be limited to one channel (i.e. right or left)

Submission Categories

I.

Documentary	
A nonfiction film that presents factual information about real people, events, or issues.	
<i>Collegiate Competition</i>	<i>High School Competition</i>
Non-fiction documentary submissions must adhere to a total running time (TRT) not exceeding 17:00 minutes.	Non-fiction documentary submissions must adhere to a total running time (TRT) not exceeding 7:00 minutes.

- A. All documentary film genres are eligible for submission unless otherwise specified below. The following are not eligible for submission in any category:
 1. Student Journalism Features
 - a) Or any other piece intended as Television Broadcast programming
 2. Public Service Announcements (PSAs)

II.

Narrative	
A fictional or scripted story-driven film. (<i>Example: dramas, comedies, thrillers, romance, etc.</i>)	
<i>Collegiate Competition</i>	<i>High School Competition</i>
Narrative submissions must adhere to a total running time (TRT) not exceeding 20:00 minutes.	Narrative submissions must adhere to a total running time (TRT) not exceeding 12:00 minutes.

- A. All narrative film genres are eligible for submission unless otherwise specified below. The following are not eligible for submission in any category:
 1. Avant-Garde Non-Narrative Films
 - a) Hybrid or experimental works must primarily maintain a narrative structure to qualify

2. Social Content
 - a) Vlogs
 - b) Multimedia Podcasts
3. Music Videos
4. Branded Content

III.

Animation	
A film (fiction or nonfiction) telling a story primarily through frame-by-frame visual creation	
<i>Collegiate Competition</i>	<i>High School Competition</i>
Total running time (TRT) for films in this category must not exceed 7:00 minutes.	Total running time (TRT) for films in this category must not exceed 7:00 minutes.

- IV. The Orange & Blue Film Festival reserves the right, at its sole discretion, to allow reasonable flexibility in the total runtime of submitted films. The duration and application of such flexibility shall be determined exclusively by the Festival and are not subject to appeal.

Awards Categories & Judging Guidelines

Films selected for screening in one of the two competition categories (Collegiate or High School) are eligible for award consideration in accordance with the following guidelines.

- I. Award Categories
 - A. Collegiate Competition
 1. Collegiate Grand Prix
 - a) Awarded to the overall highest performing piece across all submission categories in the Collegiate Competition.
 2. Best Narrative Film
 - a) Awarded to the highest performing piece in the Narrative submission category in the Collegiate Competition.
 - (1) If the Grand Prix is awarded to the highest performing narrative film, this award is awarded to the next highest performing piece in the category.
 3. Best Documentary Film
 - a) Awarded to the highest performing piece in the Documentary submission category in the Collegiate Competition.

(1) If the Grand Prix is awarded to the highest performing documentary film, this award is awarded to the next highest performing piece in the category.

4. Best Animated Film

a) Awarded to the highest performing piece in the Animation submission category across BOTH the Collegiate and High School Competition.

(1) If a Grand Prix is awarded to the highest performing Animation film, this award is awarded to the next highest performing piece in the category.

B. High School Competition

1. High School Grand Prix

a) Awarded to the overall highest performing piece across all submission categories in the High School Competition.

2. Best Narrative Film

a) Awarded to the highest performing piece in the Narrative submission category in the High School Competition.

(1) If the Grand Prix is awarded to the highest performing narrative film, this award is awarded to the next highest performing piece in the category.

3. Best Documentary Film

a) Awarded to the highest performing piece in the Documentary submission category in the High School Competition.

(1) If the Grand Prix is awarded to the highest performing documentary film, this award is awarded to the next highest performing piece in the category.

4. Best Animated Film

a) Awarded to the highest performing piece in the Animation submission category across BOTH the Collegiate and High School Competition.

(1) If a Grand Prix is awarded to the highest performing Animation film, this award is awarded to the next highest performing piece in the category.

II. Additional Awards

A. Audience Choice Award

1. Awarded to the films that receive the most votes in both the Collegiate and High School Competition.

B. Catalyst Award

1. Awarded, at the discretion of the Orange & Blue Film Festival, to a film that inspires reflection or conversation by presenting a compelling perspective or story.

C. Distinctions

1. Awarded, at the discretion of the Orange & Blue Film Festival, to films that demonstrate exceptional achievement across the following categories:
 - a) Cinematography
 - b) Story & Screenplay
 - c) Video Editing
 - d) Sound Design
 - e) Production Design
 - f) Dramatic Performance
 - g) Visual Effects
2. All submissions, irrespective of competition level, will be considered for one or multiple festival distinctions or awards as determined by the Orange & Blue Film Festival.

III. Judging

A. Collegiate Competition

1. The Orange & Blue Film Festival's Collegiate Awards are determined by an independent panel of industry professionals who evaluate submissions through a blind judging process, without access to information regarding the filmmaker's affiliated institution.
 - a) These professionals represent a wide range of disciplines within the film and media industry, including directors, editors, writers, producers, and other practitioners with extensive professional experience.

B. High School Competition

1. The Orange & Blue Film Festival's High School Awards are determined through a blind judging process by a dedicated judging panel composed of members of the Festival's Programming Team and faculty from the University of Florida College of Journalism and Communications' Department of Media Production, Management, and Technology.
 - a) These judges bring academic expertise and professional insight to the evaluation process, ensuring that high school submissions are assessed with fairness, consistency, and a focus on creative and technical excellence.

C. Additional Awards

1. The Orange & Blue Film Festival's Additional Awards (except the Audience Choice Award) are determined by a judging panel composed of members of the Festival's Programming Team, in a blind process and under the supervision of the Festival's Director of Festival Programming and the Festival's Executive Director.
 - a) This process ensures that all supplementary recognitions are evaluated with integrity, consistency, and alignment with the Festival's overall standards of excellence.

D. Disclaimer

1. To be eligible to receive any award or distinction, the filmmaker (or an officially designated representative of the film) must be physically present at the Festival's official Awards Ceremony. Absence from the Awards Ceremony will render the entrant ineligible to receive or claim any award title, prize, or distinction, regardless of prior notification or nomination status.

TERMS & DISCLAIMERS

DEADLINE FOR ENTRIES

Entries for the Orange & Blue Film Festival (the “Festival”) may be submitted only within the official submission period specified in the current year’s Call for Entries (found on the festival’s FilmFreeway landing page). All submissions must be received by the published deadline. Any entry received after the deadline, regardless of the cause, shall be deemed ineligible, null, and void at the discretion of the Festival’s Executive Director. The Festival assumes no responsibility for late, lost, or incomplete submissions.

ELIGIBILITY

Eligibility is determined in strict accordance with the GOVERNING RULES & REQUIREMENTS. Entrants must meet all academic and institutional requirements specified therein to be considered for selection. The Festival reserves the right to verify eligibility at any stage of the competition and to disqualify any entry that fails to comply with the established requirements.

HOW TO ENTER

Entrants must submit their short film (“Film” or “Submission”) through the official submission platform designated by the Festival (currently FilmFreeway) and comply with all technical and administrative specifications outlined in the GOVERNING RULES & REQUIREMENTS.

Each Film must meet the maximum runtime applicable to its submission category and adhere to all upload, download, and formatting standards. Failure to comply will result in disqualification.

PERSONAL INFORMATION

To submit a Film, entrants must provide accurate personal information, including full name, academic institution, and a valid email address. This information will be used solely for the Festival’s internal administrative purposes, including communication regarding selection status, awards, or future submission opportunities.

Personal information will not be shared, sold, or disclosed to any third party not directly affiliated with the Festival or the University of Florida College of Journalism and Communications, except as required by law.

SELECTION AND NOTIFICATION

Films selected for competition (“Selections”) will be notified by the posted notification date (found on FilmFreeway) via the email address provided upon submission.

All award decisions shall be made in accordance with the GOVERNING RULES & REQUIREMENTS by the Festival’s judging panels, whose decisions are final and binding in all respects.

Students (“Filmmakers” or “entrant(s)”) whose films are selected for competition are encouraged, but not required, to attend the Festival at their own expense. The Festival is under no obligation to provide travel, lodging, or any financial assistance to selected entrants.

RULES FOR ENTRY

By submitting a Film, the entrant agrees that the Film does not violate any provision of the GOVERNING RULES & REQUIREMENTS and does not contain material that infringes upon the copyrights, trademarks, rights of privacy, publicity, or any other intellectual property or proprietary rights of any individual or entity.

Entrants further represent and warrant that they hold all necessary rights, licenses, and permissions for the content

included in their Film, including but not limited to music, images, and footage. The Festival and the University of Florida disclaim all liability for any infringement claims arising from submitted works.

The Festival reserves the right, in its sole and absolute discretion, to disqualify any entry that violates these terms, is deemed inappropriate, or fails to meet the established standards.

PRIZES AND AWARDS

The Festival recognizes Films through non-monetary distinctions and titles, such as “Grand Prix,” which do not constitute financial compensation unless explicitly stated. If a physical or monetary prize is provided, it is non-transferable, non-exchangeable, and not redeemable for cash.

To be eligible to receive any award or distinction, the filmmaker (or an officially designated representative of the film) must be physically present at the Festival's official Awards Ceremony. Absence from the Awards Ceremony will render the entrant ineligible to receive or claim any award title, prize, or distinction, regardless of prior notification or nomination status.

The probability of receiving an award depends on the number and quality of submissions.

Awarded entrants and their collaborators may be asked to participate in promotional or press-related activities as a condition of their award, and entrants agree not to discourage such participation.

All judging and award determinations shall be made in accordance with the procedures outlined in the GOVERNING RULES & REQUIREMENTS, and are final and binding.

RIGHTS GRANTED TO THE FESTIVAL

By submitting an Entry, the Entrant hereby grants to the Festival a royalty-free, fully paid-up, perpetual, irrevocable, non-exclusive, worldwide, and fully sub-licensable right and license to use, reproduce, modify, adapt, publish, translate, combine with other works, create derivative works from, distribute, perform, edit, and display such Entry (in whole or in part), including, without limitation, the names, likenesses, and voices of any persons, and the depictions of any locations embodied therein, and/or to incorporate it into other works in any form, media, or technology now known or later developed.

These rights include, without limitation, the right to exhibit the Entry at the **Orange & Blue Film Festival** and to use, broadcast, display, or otherwise communicate the Entry in any and all media, including but not limited to the Festival's, the **University of Florida College of Journalism and Communications'**, and the Festival's official partners' social or offline media/analogue communications channels, in perpetuity, without compensation, notice, or further permission to or from the Entrant or any third party.

By submitting an Entry, the Entrant acknowledges and agrees that the Festival shall have no obligation to use, display, or distribute any Entry submitted. Except for the rights expressly granted herein, all rights, title, and interest in and to the Entry, including copyright, shall remain solely with the Entrant.

GENERAL CONDITIONS & LIMITATION OF LIABILITY

By submitting an Entry, each Entrant agrees:

(a) To abide by these Terms, the Governing Rules & Requirements, and the decisions of the Festival, which shall be final and binding in all respects relating to eligibility, judging, and awards;

(b) To release, discharge, and hold harmless the Festival, the Festival's sponsor (the Department of Media Production, Management & Technology at the University of Florida College of Journalism & Communications), and their respective parents (the University of Florida), affiliates, subsidiaries, advertising and promotion agencies, and all respective officers, directors, shareholders, employees, agents, and representatives of the foregoing (collectively,

the “Released Parties”) from any and all injuries, liabilities, losses, or damages of any kind to persons (including death) or property arising, in whole or in part, directly or indirectly, from the Entrant’s participation in the Festival or any Festival-related activity; and from any and all claims, debts, demands, actions, causes of action, suits, sums of money, damages, and liabilities of whatsoever kind or nature, which have arisen or may arise as a result of the Released Parties’ exercise of the rights granted to them herein;

(c) To the use of their name, voice, performance, photograph, Film, image, and/or likeness for programming, advertising, publicity, and promotional purposes in any and all media now known or hereafter developed, worldwide and in perpetuity, by the Festival and its designees, without compensation (unless prohibited by law), further consent, notice, or approval, and to execute specific consent forms if requested by the Festival; and

(d) To hold the Released Parties harmless and indemnify them from and against any and all costs, expenses, and liabilities (including reasonable attorneys’ fees) incurred in connection with the defense of any claim or claims arising from participation in the Festival or from the Festival’s use of any rights granted herein.

By participating, the Entrant further agrees not to release, post, or distribute any publicity, announcements, or promotional materials referencing their submission, selection status, or participation in the Festival prior to the official public announcement of Selections, without the prior written consent of the Festival, which may be withheld in the Festival’s sole discretion.

AMENDMENTS AND INTERPRETATION

The Festival reserves the right to amend or interpret these TERMS & DISCLAIMERS, and the Governing Rules & Requirements, at any time without prior notice. All decisions by the Festival regarding eligibility, compliance, and interpretation shall be final, binding, and non-appealable.

ACCEPTANCE OF TERMS

Submission of a Film constitutes the entrant’s full acceptance of these TERMS & DISCLAIMERS and the GOVERNING RULES & REQUIREMENTS.

Entrants acknowledge that failure to comply with these provisions may result in disqualification without refund of any submission fee.