Wofford Denius UTLA Center for Entertainment & Media Studies

The Moody College of Communication Wofford Denius UTLA Center for Entertainment & Media Studies allows students with career interests in entertainment to live, study and intern in the entertainment capital of the world. Students spend a semester learning about the entertainment industry through classes and internships. The program is housed in Burbank, which serves as the University’s West Coast hub for teaching the business of film, television and electronic media.

Students benefit from excellent instruction in a small class setting, participation in internships directly related to their interests with access to leading industry professionals, guest speakers, set visits and the support of Wofford Denius UTLA Center staff and program alumni beyond their semester of participation. The mission is to expose students to the working world of the entertainment industry. Through a combination of internships with prominent companies, courses taught by professionals and guest lectures by prominent industry experts, students gain the skills and contacts to make a career in film, television, music or digital media possible.

Admissions and Enrollment

The program operates in summer, fall and spring semesters, welcoming students from all majors. Enrollment is limited to 45 students each semester. Visit the website for specific deadlines and FAQs.

Accommodations

Participants in the program are provided housing in a gated, extended-stay corporate housing facility, located within walking distance from the center, where classes are held. All undergraduate students participating in the program are required to live in The Oakwood – Toluca Hills Corporate Housing. Graduate students are not required to do so. Each apartment is fully-furnished with no pets allowed.

Financial Planning

Finances vary by semester for tuition, housing, transportation, meals, groceries, entertainment and miscellaneous fees. Students of UT Austin who receive financial aid through the Office of Student Financial Services may apply their awards toward the cost of the UTLA program.

Courses and Internship

Coursework includes:
- Development Process of Film and Television
- The Entertainment Industry: The Big Picture
- Inside the Music Industry
- New Media and Emerging Entertainment
- The Working Hollywood Writer (summers only)
- Entertainment Press/Public Relations
- Communication Internship

All students participating in the program are required to enroll in an internship course. This component of the program provides an ideal opportunity for learning about the entertainment industry in an experiential manner. Most students take the opportunity to explore one or more career interests and come away with a more nuanced understanding of the area of interest and a more valuable insight into future career paths, contacts and their professional and personal development.

Faculty and Guest Speakers

The program faculty are comprised of award-winning industry professionals who have also taught at other leading institutions. Many industry guest speakers are invited to meet with students and teach as their availability allows. Listed are only a handful of speakers who have contributed:
- Dick Askin, former chairman and CEO, Television Academy
- Dan Jinks, Oscar-winning producer, American Beauty
- Jordan Levin, CEO, Awesomeness
- Matthew Perry, film and television actor, Friends
- Tommy Schlamme, Emmy-winning director and producer in TV and film, The West Wing
- Lev Spiro, film and television director, Weeds, Ugly Betty
- Michael Zinberg, Emmy-winning TV director, The Bob Newhart Show, Hill Street Blues, The Good Wife
- Stuart Pollok, Lecturer, The Big Picture
- Drew Ferrante, Lecturer, The Working Hollywood Writer
- Paul Leonard, Lecturer, Editing
- Dick Askin, former chair of the Board of Governors of the Academy of Television Arts and Sciences
- Michael Donovan, Lecturer, Acting
- Rajat K. Kapoor, faculty member, California State University, Northridge
- David Gardner, Lecturer, Entertainment Press and Public Relations
- James Fino, Lecturer, Intro to New Media
- Blake Evans, Lecturer, Cinematography
- Jordan Levin, CEO, Awesomeness
- Michael Donovan, Lecturer, Acting
- Rajat K. Kapoor, faculty member, California State University, Northridge
- David Gardner, Lecturer, Entertainment Press and Public Relations
- Paul Leonard, Lecturer, Editing
- Blake Evans, Lecturer, Cinematography
- Diana Kereu, Lecturer, Development Process of Film and TV
- Paul Leonard, Lecturer, Editing
- Rick Parks, Lecturer, Writing for Features
- Stuart Pollok, Lecturer, The Big Picture

Financial Information

For more on admissions, deadlines, accommodations, finances, coursework, internships, faculty, speakers and FAQs, visit the Wofford Denius UTLA Center for Entertainment & Media Studies website at https://moody.utexas.edu/utla