



ANIMATED FEATURE FILM FAQs

Contact: Animation@oscars.org

1. When is the deadline to submit?

Animated feature films that qualify between January 1, 2026 – June 30, 2026, must submit all required materials by Thursday, September 17, 2026, no later than 5pm PT.

Animated feature films that qualify between July 1, 2026 – December 31, 2026, must submit all required materials by Thursday, November 12, 2026, no later than 5pm PT.

2. My animated feature is scheduled to be released at the end of the year. Do I need to submit by the November 12, 2026, deadline?

Yes. The required submission materials must be entered by the deadline. If the film is anticipated to complete a qualifying theatrical run after November 12, a theatrical booking confirmation document must be submitted by the deadline. Additional materials may be required for General Entry and Best Picture submissions if the film is being entered in those categories.

3. I plan to qualify my film by having a theatrical run in a qualifying metro area. How do I know if the theater is a qualifying theater?

A commercial motion picture theater is defined as a brick-and-mortar establishment that operates year-round and regularly screens first-run films for paid admission.

A theater must meet the following criteria:

- Regularly show new releases
- Charge admission
- Have regular non-specialized programming open to the general public
- Exploit and market films through regular listings and advertising
- Generally, run films for seven consecutive days, with multiple showings daily

4. What if my animated feature is a country's official entry for Best International Feature Film?

If an animated feature has been selected and deemed eligible as a country's official selection, the movie is also eligible to enter Best Animated Feature Film. An entry form for the Animated Feature Film category must be completed for consideration in this category.

5. Will my film be ineligible if it screens at schools and/or film festivals?

Public screenings at schools and film festivals do not affect the film's eligibility. Film festivals that utilize online screenings should have either a transactional paywall or a password-protected entry.

6. Once I submit for Best Animated Feature Film, is it automatically entered to compete for Best Picture and the craft categories?

No. Best Animated Feature Film is a specialty category with its own submission form. A General Entry form must be submitted to be considered for Best Picture and/or all other craft categories. A RAISE form must also be completed to enter for Best Picture consideration. Please note that the Music categories have separate application forms.

7. The entry form only allows for four possible nominees, but another person who contributed to the film deserves recognition.

There is a maximum of four designated nominees, one of whom must be the credited director who exercised directorial control, and the other(s) of whom must have a director or producer credit. In determining the number of producers eligible for nomination, a bona fide team of not more than two people shall be considered a single "producer" if the two individuals have had an established producing partnership as determined by the Producer Guild of America's Producing Partnership Panel.

8. What is the process for credited producers to be deemed award-eligible as a potential nominee?

To qualify as a producer nominee for a nominated picture, the producer must have been determined eligible by the Producers Guild of America's vetting process or successfully appealed so that a resolution may be reached prior to the nominations announcement.

9. Can I list an executive producer on the film as one of the designated nominees on the entry form?

No, individuals with executive producer credits are not eligible for awards. Similarly, persons with screen credits of co-producer, associate producer, line producer, produced in association with or any credit other than director or producer shall not receive nominations or statuettes.

10. I'm not sure whether my film is animation or live action.

An animated film is one in which characters or objects are given the illusion of life by having movement created for them by any human means. While the crucial movement of a live-action

motion picture is captured at speed, animation is the craft of human creation and manipulation of images to produce a performance from inanimate objects. At least 75 percent of the motion picture's running time, without opening or end credits, must include animation of the primary subject or subjects. The Animation Branch Executive Committee makes all final determinations of eligibility.

11. I submitted my film last year, but since then, I've added new material or re-edited it. Can I submit it again?

No. We do not accept works in progress; the version submitted to the Academy must be the final and definitive version of your film that qualified. Entries must have the necessary clearances for commercial theatrical exhibition.

12. Can my movie be entered if it is part of a series?

Only individual works are eligible. This excludes from consideration such works as multi-part or limited series, episodes extracted from a larger series, segments taken from a single "composite" program, and alternate versions of ineligible works.

13. Can I withdraw the movie from consideration after I have submitted it?

Yes. Tuesday, December 1, 2026, is the last day to withdraw a film from Academy Awards® consideration. Withdrawing and/or failing to complete the qualifying standards may risk future awards disqualification.

14. My film was broadcast on television outside the United States before it opened theatrically in the United States. Is it still eligible?

If the film received a theatrical release outside the United States before it was broadcast on television and if the television broadcast was only outside the United States, the film could still be eligible. Please contact animation@oscars.org for further information.

15. If any changes are made to my film after it is uploaded to the Academy Screening Room, can I replace the film with an updated version?

No. The version of the film uploaded to the Academy Screening Room must be the final and definitive version of the film and must be identical to the version that qualified, including the film's credits.

16. How much does it cost to upload an animated feature to the Academy Screening Room?

There is no cost to upload to the Animated Feature Film category. Animated Feature entries are required to be uploaded to the Academy Screening Room for voting purposes. This makes the movie available to voters in the Animated Feature Film category.

NOTE: There is a cost if you choose to upload to the *For Your Consideration* section (General Entry/Feature Film). This makes the film available to all voting members of the Academy.

17. Are closed captions required to be uploaded?

Yes. An English closed caption file must be uploaded. Please see the [technical specification](#) page for more information.

18. Do I need to provide a DCP?

Animated features are not required to provide a DCP to be considered. If the movie is one of the five nominees, a copy of the DCP may be requested.