



BEST PICTURE FAQs

Contact: AwardsOffice@oscars.org

1. What are the six U.S. qualifying cities where a film could have a one-week theatrical release qualifying run?

Los Angeles County, City of New York (five boroughs), the Bay Area (counties of San Francisco, Marin, Alameda, San Mateo and Contra Costa), Chicago (Cook County, Illinois), Dallas-Fort Worth (Dallas County, Tarrant County, Texas), and Atlanta (Fulton, Georgia).

2. What are the 50 top U.S. markets in which a film would need an expanded theatrical run in to meet the additional theatrical standards for Best Picture?

The top 50 U.S. markets are listed in alphabetical order below:

- | | |
|---|-------------------------------------|
| 1. Albuquerque-Santa Fe | 27. Miami-Ft. Lauderdale |
| 2. Atlanta | 28. Milwaukee |
| 3. Austin | 29. Minneapolis-St. Paul |
| 4. Baltimore | 30. Nashville |
| 5. Boston (Manchester) | 31. New York |
| 6. Charlotte | 32. Norfolk-Portsmouth-Newport News |
| 7. Chicago | 33. Oklahoma City |
| 8. Cincinnati | 34. Orlando-Daytona Beach-Melbourne |
| 9. Cleveland-Akron (Canton) | 35. Philadelphia |
| 10. Columbus, OH | 36. Phoenix (Prescott) |
| 11. Dallas-Ft. Worth | 37. Pittsburgh |
| 12. Denver | 38. Portland, OR |
| 13. Detroit | 39. Raleigh-Durham (Fayetteville) |
| 14. El Paso (Las Cruces) | 40. Sacramento-Stokton-Modesto |
| 15. Fresno-Visalia | 41. Salt Lake City |
| 16. Grand Rapids-Kalamazoo-Battle Creek | 42. San Antonio |
| 17. Greenville-Spartanburg-Anderson | 43. San Diego |
| 18. Harlingen-Weslaco-Brownsville-McAllen | 44. San Francisco-Oakland-San Jose |
| 19. Hartford & New Haven | 45. Seattle-Tacoma |
| 20. Honolulu | 46. St. Louis |
| 21. Houston | 47. Tampa-St. Petersburg (Sarasota) |
| 22. Indianapolis | 48. Tucson (Sierra Vista) |
| 23. Jacksonville | 49. Washington, DC (Hagerstown) |
| 24. Kansas City | 50. West Palm Beach-Ft. Pierce |
| 25. Las Vegas | |
| 26. Los Angeles | |

3. My film had a theatrical release outside of the U.S. Are we permitted to count any international markets as part of the Best Picture Expanded Theatrical Run?

A maximum of two distinct non-U.S. territories may be permitted with permission from the Academy. For approval, please contact AwardsOffice@oscars.org.

4. To satisfy the Best Picture Expanded Theatrical Run requirements, does my film need to complete theatrical release requirements in 10 additional markets?

If the film has already completed its General Entry theatrical qualifying run, that will count as 1 of the 10 markets required for the Best Picture Expanded Theatrical Run. The film will only need to complete theatrical releases in 9 additional markets. Please note that each market needs to be a distinct market from the top 50 listed above.

5. My film is being released at the end of the year. How does that impact the Best Picture Expanded Theatrical Run?

A film's Best Picture Expanded Theatrical Run must occur within 45 days, either before or after, the completion of the film's General Entry qualifying theatrical run. If the expanded theatrical run extends beyond December 31, 2026, it must still be completed either within 45 days or by January 22, 2027, whichever date would arrive earlier.

6. My film is being released after the final submission deadline. How does this impact my submission?

For films that have not been released by or have not completed a Best Picture Expanded Theatrical Run by the November 12, 2026, submission deadline, entrants must provide the following documentation confirming that the film will satisfy all release requirements:

- Booking confirmation of a General Entry qualifying theatrical run if one has not yet been completed.
- Booking confirmation of a Best Picture Expanded Theatrical Run, or a document detailing release plans, including specific dates, markets, and theaters. A letter signed by a theater representative is preferred.

Please send this documentation to AwardsOffice@oscars.org by November 12, 2026.

7. What is RAISE?

The **representation and inclusion standards** for Oscars® eligibility in the Best Picture category are a part of the Academy's *Aperture* efforts, an ongoing commitment to broadening the lens through which excellence is recognized. The standards encourage equitable representation on and off-screen to better reflect the diverse global population. RAISE stands for 'Representation and Inclusion Standards Entry' and is the platform developed by the Academy to facilitate the collection of confidential data and information required to implement the standards.

A film must submit a confidential RAISE form and meet TWO out of the FOUR standards to be deemed eligible for Best Picture consideration.

8. What if a film has more than three producers with a “producer” or “produced by” credit?

To qualify as a producer nominee for a nominated picture, the producer must have been determined awards-eligible by the Producers Guild of America for the picture or have successfully appealed the Producers Guild of America’s refusal of such eligibility.

Final determination of the qualifying producer nominees for each nominated picture will be made by the Producers Branch Executive Committee, including the right to name any additional qualified producer as a nominee.

9. Can I submit materials for PGA Mark Certification or Awards Eligibility determination to the Academy directly?

The PGA Mark Certification and Awards Eligibility process is handled solely by the Producers Guild of America. The Academy does not participate in the initial determination or arbitration process or collect and/or receive any of the materials submitted to the PGA. For questions about the PGA’s submission process, please contact awards@producersguild.org.

10. My film did not begin its submission process until after its qualifying run, and we did not submit to the PGA for Mark Certification by its release date. Do we still need to submit?

Yes, all films need to submit to the PGA to begin the process of determining if their producers are eligible. Films released from January 1, 2026, through June 30, 2026, must be able to provide proof of submission to the PGA for mark certification or awards-only determination no later than September 17, 2026. Films released from July 1, 2026, through December 31, 2026, must be able to provide proof of submission to the PGA for mark certification or awards-only determination no later than November 12, 2026.

11. What if my film is nominated for Best Picture but has not completed the required PGA vetting process before nominations were announced?

The nominees for the film would be listed in the official nomination announcement as “to be determined.” The producers must go through the PGA’s Awards Eligibility determination process for the Academy’s Producers Branch Executive Committee to finalize the official nominees.

12. If my film were to win Best Picture, who would receive an Oscar statuette?

The producers listed on the official nomination would each receive a statuette.

The releasing studio listed on the official submission form is eligible to request a replica statuette for display purposes only.

The financing company may request a replica statuette for display purposes if they have financed over 50% of the equity for the movie and any owner or employee of the company does not take a “Producer” or “Produced by” credit (unless that individual has received the PGA Mark).