



## DOCUMENTARY FEATURE FILM FAQs

Contact: [Documentaries@oscars.org](mailto:Documentaries@oscars.org)

### 1. When is the deadline to submit?

Documentary feature films that qualify between October 1, 2025 – June 30, 2026, must submit all required materials by Thursday, August 13, 2026, no later than 5pm PT.

Documentary feature films that qualify between July 1, 2026 – December 31, 2026, must submit all required materials by Thursday, October 15, 2026, no later than 5pm PT.

### 2. My documentary feature is scheduled to be released at the end of the year. Do I need to submit by the October 15, 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 October 15, 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. When is the qualifying period for documentary feature films that win a qualifying award?

For the 99th Academy Awards®, films entering by winning a qualified festival award must qualify between October 1, 2025, and September 30, 2026. Films entering by having a theatrical run must qualify between January 1, 2026, and December 31, 2026.

### 4. I plan to qualify my film by having a theatrical run in a qualifying metro area. How do I know 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

**5. What if my documentary feature is a country's official entry for Best International Feature Film?**

If a documentary feature has been selected and deemed eligible as a country's official selection for the 99th Academy Awards®, the movie is also eligible to enter the Best Documentary Feature Film category. A Best Documentary Feature form must be completed for consideration in this category.

**6. 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 pay wall or a password-protected entry.

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

No. Best Documentary 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 Music categories have separate application forms.

**8. 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 to be a single "producer" if the two individuals have had an established producing partnership as determined by the Producer Guild of America's Producing Partnership The Documentary Branch Executive Committee makes all final determinations of eligibility.

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

All individuals with a "producer" or "produced by" credit on films that are shortlisted will automatically be vetted by the Producers Guild of America. 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.

**10. 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.

**11. I'm not sure whether my film should be entered as a documentary.**

An eligible documentary film is defined as a nonfiction motion picture dealing creatively with cultural, artistic, historical, social, scientific, economic or other subjects. It may be photographed in actual occurrence, or may employ partial reenactment, stock footage, stills, animation, stop-motion or other techniques, as long as the emphasis is on fact and not on fiction. The Documentary Branch Executive Committee makes all final determinations of eligibility.

**12. 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.

**13. 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.

**14. Can I withdraw the movie from consideration after I have submitted?**

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.

**15. 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 [documentaries@oscars.org](mailto:documentaries@oscars.org) for further information.

**16. How much does it cost to upload a documentary feature to the Academy Screening Room?**

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

**18. 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.

**19. Do I need to provide a DCP?**

For the initial entry, documentary features are not required to provide a DCP. If the movie is one of the five nominees, a copy of the DCP may be requested.