



## ACADEMY AWARDS GENERAL ENTRY CATEGORY GUIDELINES, SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS AND FAQ

### SPECIAL NOTICE FOR THE 93RD ACADEMY AWARDS

Due to the unprecedented coronavirus/COVID-19 pandemic and the mandatory theater closures, films that had a previously planned theatrical release but are initially made available through commercial streaming, VOD service or other broadcast may qualify for awards consideration in the General Entry category. Details regarding the planned theatrical release are required for submission. In certain cases, proof demonstrating intent for a theatrical release, such as a theater letter/contract or an executed deal with a theatrical distributor, will be requested. Films that are unable to provide this documentation may appeal to the Awards Rules Committee for consideration.

Additionally films whose initial commercial release is nontheatrical must be made available on the secure Academy Screening Room member site within 60 days of the film's streaming/VOD release or broadcast. When theaters reopen in accordance with federal, state and local specified guidelines and criteria, and on a date to be determined by the Academy, this rules exemption will no longer apply and all films released thereafter will be expected to comply with the standard Academy theatrical qualifying requirements.

In order for those films to more easily meet theatrical exhibition requirements, the Academy will expand the number of qualifying theaters to include commercial venues in additional U.S. cities: 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]; Miami [Miami-Dade County, Florida]; and Atlanta [Fulton County, Georgia].

The film must meet all other eligibility requirements listed in **Rule 2 and Rule 3** in the **Complete Rules & Eligibility**, posted at: [www.oscars.org/oscars/rules-eligibility](http://www.oscars.org/oscars/rules-eligibility).

Finally, due to the shifting landscape surrounding the global pandemic caused by COVID-19, all matters of rules and eligibility for the 93rd Academy Awards are subject to change based on national guidelines, state-mandated government orders and Academy-determined best practices. The Awards Rules Committee will evaluate all matters of rules and eligibility. Additional adjustments to these rules and eligibility requirements may be required.

### GENERAL ENTRY DEADLINES FOR THE 93RD ACADEMY AWARDS

Dates also have shifted for the 93rd Academy Awards eligibility period and submission deadlines. The **eligibility period for General Entry** has been extended beyond the standard December 31 deadline: a feature film must now have a qualifying release date between **January 1, 2020 and February 28, 2021**. The **submission deadline for General Entry**, including Best Picture, Original Score and Original Song, is now **January 15, 2021**. January 29, 2021 is the last day to withdraw a film from Academy Awards consideration.

### GENERAL ENTRY SUBMISSION BASICS

To submit your film in the **General Entry** category, go to [submissions.oscars.org](http://submissions.oscars.org) to register and request access to the Feature Film categories. Once approved, you'll receive an automated email with instructions on creating an online Oscar Submission Form (OSF). **Please note that in order for your film to also be eligible for Documentary Feature, Animated Feature and/or Music, submissions in those categories must be completed.**

After finalizing your entry, upload the following materials on the submission site: • **Signed Oscars Submission Form (OSF)** • **Complete cast and crew credits** (the film's full opening and closing credits as they appear on screen). *If requested by the Academy, confirmation documents for films affected by mandatory theater closures – letters, emails, contracts or other documentation – demonstrating an intention for a theatrical release may also be uploaded on the site.*



Please upload materials to the appropriate tab ("Required Submission Forms," "Materials for Academy Screening Room," etc.) using the FILM TITLE in the file name (i.e. FANTASIA\_LegalBilling).

## GENERAL ENTRY FAQs

1. My feature had a planned theatrical release in 2020 that was canceled due to mandatory theater closures. How do I indicate this on the Oscars Submission Form (OSF)?

**In the "Release Information" section of the OSF, enter the dates of the planned theatrical release and the specific Los Angeles venue where your film was scheduled to play. Then enter information about the film's nontheatrical exhibition (streaming, VOD, etc.).**

2. I had planned to release my film theatrically but had not yet confirmed the venues or dates before the shutdown. What are my options?

**Please submit as much information as possible about your planned release, along with any documentation supporting your intent to release your film theatrically. Films that are unable to provide this documentation may appeal to the Awards Rules Committee for consideration.**

3. Is theatrical distribution outside of Los Angeles permissible? What about screenings at schools or film festivals?

**Features under consideration for General Entry may be released in commercial theaters outside of Los Angeles County (including other states or countries) and may play in schools and at film festivals without affecting their eligibility.**

4. What about same day and date VOD or streaming?

**VOD and/or streaming can occur simultaneously with the first day of the qualifying theatrical release but not before. (Please see SPECIAL NOTICE above for 93rd Awards exceptions.)**

5. Can I run a trailer on the Internet?

**Trailers are fine as long as the footage totals no more than ten minutes or ten percent of the film's running time, whichever is less.**

6. My film was broadcast on television (or other nontheatrical distribution) outside the U.S. before it opened theatrically in the U.S. Is it still eligible?

**If the film had a theatrical release outside the U.S. before it was broadcast in a nontheatrical format (such as television, streaming, or video-on-demand), and if the broadcast was *only* outside the U.S., the film could still be eligible. Please contact Credits Submissions with details.**

7. Does an HD-Cam or Blu-Ray meet the digital screening requirements?

**No. Only a Digital Cinema Package (DCP) meets our digital requirements. See above for more information on what constitutes a Digital Cinema Package.**

8. If my film is nominated for Best Picture, which individuals receive the statuette?

**The individuals must have screen credit of "producer" or "produced by" on the nominated film. See Rule 16, Special Rules for the Best Picture of the Year Award for more information.**

9. Rule 4, titled "Submission," says I need to send prints of the film to the Academy, and I need to sign an agreement. Should I upload or send that with the Oscars Submission Form (OSF) and credits?

**No, do not send DVDs or streaming links of the film when submitting the OSF for consideration in the General Entry category. You'll be asked to send a print with an acknowledgement of the Academy Regulations if the film receives a nomination(s). Other Awards categories do require DVDs of the film (or streaming access) with the entry form; please refer to the Rules & Eligibility for special rules for other categories.**

10. The submission site asks me to list some credits for the Oscars Submission Form (OSF), but you're also asking for complete screen credits or legal billing? What are those?

**Screen credits are the full cast and crew credits that appear on the film itself, from beginning to end. Studios often refer to the screen credits as legal billing, because there may be contractual agreements**



**about the appearance or location of a credit on the film. For the purposes of the Awards, we use the complete screen credits to verify the information on the OSF.**

11. I'm filling out the Oscars Submission Form (OSF) online, and it's asking me for the official booking or screening times of the L.A. County qualifying run. What if I don't know the screening times?

**If you don't know the screening times, enter "TBD" and contact the Submissions office no later than January 15, 2021 with the information. If you've confirmed there were at least 3 screenings daily, including one between 6:00- 10:00 p.m., you may write the phrase "multiple showtimes" in the Screening Times field.**

12. I'm filling out the Oscars Submission Form (OSF) online, but I don't see a field for music. I want the composer/songwriter to be considered for Awards; how do I submit songs or a music score for consideration?  
**To be considered for any of the Music Awards (Original Score and/or Original Song), a separate Music submission process must be initiated by one of the following: the composer or songwriter, an authorized representative of the composer or songwriter, or an authorized representative of the distributing studio. The authorized Music submitter must register on our submissions site (submissions.oscars.org) and request access to the Music category.**

13. My assistant filled out the form and made some mistakes. Will you make the changes?

**It is your responsibility as the filmmaker to make sure that all information on the Oscars Submission Form (OSF) is accurate. When you sign the entry form, you are agreeing that the information on the form is correct. We may contact you, or the person listed as the submitter on the OSF, if we see differences between what's on the OSF and what's listed in the film's complete screen credits. If you need to make any changes, please contact us.**

14. I submitted my film last year, but since then I've added different material and removed other material. Can I submit it again?

**No. We do not accept works in progress or re-releases.**

15. My film was originally released in another country, and/or the dialogue in my film is in a foreign language, not English. Shouldn't I submit it for the International Feature Film Award instead of General Entry?

**All entries for the International Feature Film Award must be submitted through the country of origin by a specially appointed committee. Individual filmmakers cannot submit films in the International Feature Film Award category. However, motion pictures from all countries may be eligible for the General Entry awards (Rule 2 and Rule 3), as long as they satisfy the requirements of the other applicable rules and contain English-language subtitles if released in a foreign language.**

16. What advertisements are required?

**An ad may be as simple or as elaborate as you wish. For the purposes of a General Entry submission, a theater listing or theater showtimes grid will meet this requirement.**

17. What is the Academy Screening Room and do I have to use it?

**The Academy Screening Room (ASR) is a members-only streaming platform, accessible on our submission site on the Upload Materials page. For General Entry films that had a qualifying Los Angeles County theatrical release, use of ASR is strictly optional. Films that did not release theatrically due to mandatory theater closures, however, are required to stream on ASR. Streaming on ASR allows Academy members around the world to access and view your film prior to voting.**

18. Is there a fee to submit a film for consideration?

**There is no entry fee for submission in the General Entry category. However, if you are submitting a film not released theatrically due to mandatory theater closures, you will be required to stream the film on our Academy Screening Room (ASR), at a cost of \$12,500.**

19. I noticed a Designated Nominees page on the Oscars Submission Form (OSF) for General Entry. Do I have to fill it out?

**The General Entry Designated Nominees page should only be completed if you have indicated (ticked the box) that your film has notable or significant visual effects and you have added credits for visual effects in the Credit Details section of the OSF.**



20. What type of information should I enter when registering a submission account?

**Always include the title of your film (working titles are fine), its length (feature or short) and your connection to the project (e.g., director, producer, distributor). Failure to supply these details may result in delays or a denial of approval.**

*Listed below are details and FAQs related to Feature Film eligibility criteria.*

## **DEFINITION OF A COMMERCIAL THEATER**

To be considered a commercial motion picture venue for Academy Awards purposes, a theater must meet the following criteria:

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

## **THEATRICAL REQUIREMENTS**

### **Digital Qualifications and Submission Rules**

Most of the Academy's Award categories allow for eligibility by means of digital presentation, as outlined in "Rule Two - Eligibility" in the Academy's "Rules & Eligibility."

Here is the language in Rule Two that applies to digital presentation:

All eligible motion pictures must be publicly exhibited publicly exhibited by means of 35mm or 70mm film, or in a 24- or 48-frame progressive scan Digital Cinema format with a minimum projector resolution of 2048 by 1 080 pixels, source image format conforming to ST 428- 1 :2006 D-Cinema Distribution Master - Image Characteristics; image compression (if used) conforming to ISO/IEC 15444-1 (JPEG 2000); and image and sound files packaged as Digital Cinema Packages (DCPs) in either "Interop" or "SMPTE DCP" formats. SMPTE DCP refers to SMPTE ST429-2 and related specifications. (Blu-ray format does not meet Digital Cinema requirements.)

The audio in a Digital Cinema Package (DCP) is typically 5.1 or 7.1 channels of discrete audio. The minimum for a non-mono configuration of the audio shall be three channels as Left, Center, Right (a Left/Right configuration is not acceptable in a theatrical environment).

The audio data shall be formatted in conformance with ST 428-2:2006 D-Cinema Distribution Master - Audio Characteristics and ST 428-3:2006 D-Cinema Distribution Master - Audio Channel Mapping and Channel Labeling.

### **What does this mean for filmmakers?**

The first thing that you will need is what is now called a Digital Cinema Package, commonly abbreviated as DCP. The SMPTE and ISO/IEC documents mentioned in the general rule are international standards that define the technical characteristics of the DCP. As a practical matter, you can rely on professional companies that specialize in converting projects to DCP to provide you with a DCP that will comply with these standards. Your original image capture can be whatever you want (film, digital video, CGI, and so on), but ultimately you will



need individual, "one per frame" digital image files for the compression step of the mastering process.

Once you choose a mastering facility, you may discuss with them the most efficient and cost-effective method of conversion for your project. Your finished DCP will be provided to you on a computer Linux-formatted HDD (hard disk drive) - typically a USB drive or **preferably** a universal 7200 rpm SATA drive in a CRU drive carrier.

### **OK. I have a DCP. What next?**

For your qualification screenings, as defined in Rule Two and the special rules for the various categories, you will need to find a commercial theater equipped with a digital cinema projector that meets the requirements outlined in Rule Two, as well as a digital cinema server that will play the SMPTE DCP you have received from your mastering facility.

In practice, there are only two types of Del-compliant digital cinema projectors that are acceptable for your qualification screenings. The first type uses DLP Digital Cinema technology licensed by Texas Instruments to projector manufacturers. Be sure your cinema has a true DLP Digital Cinema projector, one that has a pixel count of **2048 x 1080**, and not one of the industrial grade DLP projectors that typically have pixel counts of 1920 x 1024 with reduced color and other image performance characteristics. The second type of projector is the **Sony SXR Ultra HiRes Cinema "4K"** series intended for digital cinema applications.

There are several companies who manufacture digital cinema servers that meet the applicable SMPTE specifications, and will play DCPs that are mastered according to these specifications.

These companies include:

- Dolby Laboratories
- Doremi Labs
- GDC
- DYS

Be sure the server system in your cinema can play a SMPTE DCP as defined in Rule Two above. If you are not sure, you may confirm with the manufacturer that the server you plan to use is "compliant" with the applicable SMPTE digital cinema specifications.

And for up to date Digital Cinema goings on go to: [www.dcinematoday.com](http://www.dcinematoday.com)