

## SMFA Top Student Film Programs

Please see page 376 (the chapter on **Niches**) in the 4th edition of *Self-Management for Actors: Getting Down to (Show) Business* for how to use this list. There are many student film programs in Los Angeles and worldwide, of course, but the ones that continue to churn out the best footage, provide the most professionalism on-set, and turn out filmmakers who graduate and go on to create big things in the world of entertainment tend to be these.

Omission from this list does not necessarily signal a red flag, nor does inclusion on this list mean you're guaranteed a top-notch experience as an actor in a student film at one of these schools. Google everybody. Check IMDb-Pro. Get the name of the professor under whom the student filmmaker is studying! Because if anything goes wrong, that person will be your first stop.

### California

Chapman  
AFI  
USC  
UCLA  
Cal Arts  
LMU  
UC Berkeley

### New York

NYU  
Columbia  
Syracuse

### Massachusetts

Emerson  
BU

### Illinois

Northwestern  
DePaul  
Columbia College

### North Carolina

UNC School of the Arts

### Texas

UT Austin

Connecticut  
Wesleyan University

Remember, there are benefits to doing student films even if it's not with one of the "bests." You'll build relationships, you'll learn a lot, you'll help student filmmakers learn too, and you'll hopefully come away with on-brand footage that serves you as you head to the next tier!

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