

585 GUIDELINES AND APPLICATION

1. WHAT IS A 585 PROJECT?

A 585 is **Producing Thesis Portfolio** wherein an advanced and qualified Producing student will develop a project for future production. This feature-length project or TV pilot is packaged with all pertinent development, production, and marketing and distribution plans and is reviewed by a committee of producing faculty and industry producers.

The unit structure for 585 is two units for 585A (i.e., first semester), two units for 585B and 0 units for 585Z if a third semester should become necessary. Two semesters is the recommended time and at least two semester are required to fulfill your thesis requirements (4 units are needed). Additional (“Z”) semesters are considered for approval on a case-by-case basis but rarely granted. The outside time limit is four semesters. There are no exceptions.

The rough schedule is: The producer will secure rights, lock the script and begin scheduling in the “A” semester, complete all other materials and have the committee review them in the “B” semester.

2. 585 SELECTION PROCESS

Qualified students wishing to initiate a 585 project must find a mentor and submit a 585 proposal (see the end of this document) in the semester preceding the one in which they intend to start. Mentors must be from fulltime SCA producing faculty.

3. WHO IS QUALIFIED TO INITIATE AND CREATE A 585?

585 is a culmination project for students who have an emphasis in producing.

Students taking 585 will typically be in their final year. The prerequisites for initiating a 585 are listed below. Exceptions are sometimes possible, but must be approved in advance in writing by the 585 Coordinator.

- A. The Producer of a 585-fiction project must have completed 538 and must take 558 either before or while taking 585. The producer of a 585 television project must also take 572. Neither 558 nor 572 is a pre-requisite but are required courses for successful completion of 585.
- B. The producer of a 585 documentary should also take 531.

All 585 students must register and settle their fee bill by the University registration deadline in order to avoid the \$100/week late fee. This is usually the week before classes start — register on time!

TERMINATION OF 585 PROJECTS

SCA may cancel support for a project if:

1. There is egregious disregard for safety of personnel, property or equipment, disregard for the law, or violation of USC ethical standards or academic integrity.
2. Insufficient progress.

GRADING POLICY

585 is graded progressively. This means that at the end of any given semester, if the project is not complete, the student will receive a grade of In Progress (IP). At the end of the semester when the project is completed the student will be given a letter grade, which will be retroactively applied to the previous semesters.

CRITERIA FOR GRADING

Grades will be based on the following:

1. Ability to meet deadlines – 20% of grade
2. Quality of the work – 30% of grade
3. Final book and Final Review – 50% of grade

585 APPLICATION

Please submit the following application to your mentor and the 585 coordinator:

1. Name
2. List the producing classes you have taken at SCA
3. Please list any relevant work experience outside SCA
4. Please list your Production III class and position you held
5. Please tell us about the project you wish to develop for 585. This should include:
 - a. A synopsis of the main project you wish to focus on
 - b. Please include at least a one-page description
 - c. The name of the writer
 - d. The genre
 - e. Any rights issues
 - f. The status of the project (is it written, outlined etc.)
6. Please include in your proposal a detailed timeline for the completion of the work listed below
7. Also please include a log line of two other projects you would like to develop.

In 585 you will be responsible for:

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- A complete draft of the project and the supervision of a re-write. A bible if Television
- A full shooting schedule, budget, finance, and marketing plan & pitch deck