

Film Producer

Find the story, find the money, hire everyone and make sure the thing gets finished. The job nobody teaches in a single class.

TYPICAL PAY

\$90,360

a year, full time

PAY RANGE

\$46k to \$199k

starting to experienced

TIME TO QUALIFY

2 to 8 years

after high school

DEMAND

Good

job outlook

LICENCE NEEDED

No

anyone can do it

WHERE YOU WORK

Production offices, sets, location scouts, editing suites, financing m...

How you get there

- 1 High school** Grade 12
Run something: a school play, a fundraiser, a band's tour of two towns. Producing is organizing people and money around a creative idea.
- 2 Degree, or straight onto sets** 0 to 4 years
A film, media or business degree helps, and so does simply getting on set at 18 as a runner. Both routes are normal here.
- 3 Production assistant** 1 to 2 years
The universal entry job. Driving, paperwork, lock-ups, coffee, and watching how a whole production actually fits together.
- 4 Coordinator, then production manager** 2 to 4 years
You take over scheduling, crew paperwork, permits, insurance and the day to day of the budget.
- 5 Producing your own projects** Year 5 onward
Attaching a writer and a director, raising money, and carrying the thing from an idea to a finished delivery.

Pros and cons

- + No degree or license gate, you can start at 18
- + Skills transfer to any project-based industry
- + You decide what gets made, not just how
- No union floor under producing fees
- Projects die after years of work, regularly
- You are responsible when anything goes wrong

Good to know

The credit got so diluted they invented a stamp

So many people were given producer credits that the Producers Guild of America created a mark placed next to a name in the credits, awarded only to those who did most of the actual producing on that...

States compete for your shoot

Several states rebate a percentage of what a production spends inside their borders. That is why so much American film and television is shot in Georgia, New Mexico and Louisiana rather than in California.

Optional boosts

Line producer. Unit production manager. Creative producer. Executive producer.

Where these numbers come from

My Next Move: Producers and Directors (27-2012.00)
Producers Guild of America
American Film Institute Conservatory
National Endowment for the Arts

Numbers checked September 2026. Pay figures are typical full-time annual amounts in United States dollars, based on Bureau of Labor Statistics wage data and published pay scales. They vary by state, employer and experience. Tuition is for in-state students at public schools unless the card says otherwise. Sources, links and the click-through version: <https://career.help/us/careers/film-producer>



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