

**46th College Television Awards
2026-2027
Calendar**

August 1, 2025- July 31, 2026
Eligibility Period

September 29, 2026
Online Entry System Opens for Submissions

October 15, 2026, 5PM PST
Online Entry Submissions Deadline

October 27, 2026– November 10, 2026
Voting

November 19, 2026
Nominations Announced

November 24, 2026
Deadline for Errors & Omissions

April 2027- TBD
College Television Awards Ceremony

GENERAL INFORMATION

Since 1979, the College Television Awards have celebrated excellence in student-produced television content. What began with just two categories has evolved into a prestigious national competition, now drawing submissions from over 100 schools across nine categories. Since 2019, nominees have enjoyed an exclusive three-day program filled with opportunities to connect with industry executives, culminating in a high-profile awards ceremony. Highlights include networking with Foundation alumni and Television Academy leadership, curated field trips, panel discussions, and hands-on workshops with leading industry professionals.

The 46th College Television Awards nominees and winners will become part of the Television Academy Foundation's alumni family and have the opportunity to participate in year-round networking opportunities and events.

If you have any questions about how to complete your submission, please do not hesitate to reach out to CTASupport@TelevisionAcademy.com.

We look forward to seeing your work!

ELIGIBILITY RULES

- Eligible individuals must have been enrolled in an accredited college within the United States at the time of production and completion during *the **eligibility period of August 1, 2025 – July 31, 2026.*** Entrants must be enrolled in a course curriculum in which they receive a class credit. Faculty verification is required.
- Content previously submitted into the College Television Awards is not eligible.
- Eligible credits are Producer, Director and Writer, any of whom may make an entry. If a school does not allow students to make submissions, a festival coordinator or other faculty serving in a similar role is permitted to submit on behalf of the students. All eligible students listed as Producer, Director and Writer on the production credits must be listed on the entry. There will be no changing as-aired credits in order to give eligibility to an individual. A PDF upload of production credits are required with each entry. There will be no change of credits after the error & omissions deadline November 24, 2026.
- For submissions made into ***Drama Series, Comedy Series, Scripted Series, Animation Series, Nonfiction Series and Loreen Arbus Focus on Disability*** you will be asked to imagine your program as an episode in a series and write short synopses of two additional episodes that are required and will be reviewed as part of your submission.
NOTE: These two “imagined” episodes need not be produced, nor intended to be produced. The judges want to see where you would take your story.
- Any piece commissioned for commercial use is ineligible.
- It is a general principle of this contest that a single achievement is limited to a single bid for a College Television Award. This principle requires that every entrant place his/her achievement in only one category. If you enter your program into a category, you cannot also enter a segment from the same program in another category. Please note that the sole exception to this rule allows a program entered in the regular categories of the College Television Awards competition to additionally enter in the Loreen Arbus Focus on Disability category (providing it meets the criteria described in that category).
- The Television Academy Foundation is not liable for incorrect ballot listings that are the result of incorrect information on the entry forms. If an entry is made in the wrong category and the error is not discovered until it goes to the voters on the nomination ballot, it will be disqualified. If the Television Academy Foundation makes an error that leads to an incorrect categorization on the nomination ballot, a correction will be

issued. Ineligible entries will be disqualified at any stage of the competition.

ENTRY PROCEDURES

- **ONLINE ENTRY SUBMISSIONS: OPENS SEPTEMBER 29, 2026**
To enter go to: cta.televisionacademy.com
- **ENTRY DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSIONS IS OCTOBER 15, 2026, 5PM PST.**
- There is a 25.00 application fee per submission.
- Submission Video Upload; 20 GB limit.
- PSAs, commercials and advertisements (including school advertisements) appearing in your content must be deleted and replaced with 1-5 seconds of black.
- The following materials are required for each submission;
 - High-Resolution 300dpi headshot for each entrant
 - Bio for each entrant
 - One-minute promotional clip (mp4 or .mov • 1920x1080/Video should have split track audio);
 - High Resolution 300dpi Production Still & Title Card/Show Logo.
 - Exhibition of Rights Release signed by individual(s)/institution to be submitted by Faculty Advisor
- Entries made in a foreign language must include English subtitles. Foreign entries that do not include English subtitles will be disqualified.
- Pornographic, violent, defamatory, or offensive material, except in the context of news coverage or the documentary treatment of a nonfiction subject is ineligible.
- As a part of the online application, a Faculty Advisor verification email will be generated and sent to certify the Producer(s), Director(s) and Writer(s) were students at the time of production and completion. The faculty advisor is required to submit the Exhibition Rights Release form signed by the individual(s)/institution holding the rights. All materials must have full rights & clearances for promotion, including music. It is the responsibility of the applicant to ensure that the faculty advisor responds to the email prior to the entry deadline of **October 15, 2026, 5PM PST.**
- Entries that are incomplete, inaccurate, or missing required information or materials will be disqualified.
- If at any time your personal information should change, it is your responsibility notify:
CTASupport@televisionacademy.com

- **For entry questions:** CTASupport@televisionacademy.com
- **For video upload assistance:**
CTASupport@televisionacademy.com

VIDEO RELEASE

Each entrant agrees that any film, tape recording, screenshot or supplemental printed material that is furnished to the Television Academy Foundation in connection with an entry may be retained by the Television Academy Foundation for file, reference and archival purposes and may be viewed partially or in its entirety for judging purposes and within the 46th College Television Awards presentation. It is the responsibility of the individual uploading a video(s) that all elements listed on the entry are included and are complete at the time of video upload. All entries must be edited back-to-back (straight edits) with no post-production enhancements or internal editing, e.g., music or narration.

JUDGING

Nominees and Winners are selected by members of the Television Academy, who represent excellence in their field of expertise (e.g., producing, writing, directing, editing, etc.) There is the possibility of no award given. All decisions are final.

CATEGORIES

DRAMA SERIES

Award(s) to Undergraduate students whose specific screen credit is Producer, Writer and Director and whose functions support those credits

A Drama Series consists of three or more episodes in which the ongoing theme, storyline and main characters are presented under the same title and have continuity of production supervision. A single episode (entrant's choice) is to be submitted for judging consideration. In order for the judges to understand the series context of the submitted episode, plot summaries of two additional episodes (that may or may not have been actually produced) must be additionally submitted. Each episode summary is not to exceed 125 words.

Episode length may not exceed sixty minutes.

COMEDY SERIES

Award(s) to Undergraduate students whose specific screen credit is Producer, Writer and Director and whose functions support those credits

A Comedy Series consists of three or more episodes in which the ongoing theme, storyline and main characters are presented under the same title and have continuity of production supervision. A single episode (entrant's choice) is to be submitted for judging consideration. In order for the judges to understand the series context of the submitted episode, plot summaries of two additional episodes (that may or may not have been actually produced) must be additionally submitted. Each episode summary is not to exceed 125 words.

Episode length may not exceed sixty minutes.

SCRIPTED SERIES

Award(s) to Graduate students whose specific screen credit is Producer, Writer and Director and whose functions support those credits

A Drama/Comedy Scripted Series consists of three or more episodes in which the ongoing theme, storyline and main characters are presented under the same title and have continuity of production supervision. A single episode (entrant's choice) is to be submitted for judging consideration. In order for the judges to understand the series context of the submitted episode, plot summaries of two additional episodes (that may or may not have been actually produced) must be additionally submitted. Each episode summary is not to exceed 125 words.

Episode length may not exceed sixty minutes.

ANIMATION SERIES

Award(s) to Undergraduate or Graduate students whose specific screen credit is Producer, Writer and Animation Director and whose functions support those credits

An Animation Series consists of three or more episodes in which the ongoing theme, storyline and main characters are presented under the same title and have continuity of production supervision. A single episode (entrant's choice) is to be submitted for judging consideration. In order for the judges to understand the series context of the submitted episode, plot summaries of two additional episodes (that may or may not have been actually produced) must be additionally submitted. Each episode summary is not to exceed 125 words.

Episode length may not exceed thirty minutes.

NONFICTION SERIES

Award(s) to Undergraduate or Graduate students whose specific screen credit is Producer, Writer and Director and whose functions support those credits

Nonfiction Series include anthology nonfiction series; in-depth and investigational programs primarily comprised of documentary or produced nonfiction content; unified story and overall show arc; series which are substantively told with documentary elements or produced nonfiction content.

Reality Series include programs that contain consistent story elements driven by the actions of characters; competition elements that may give a prize or title, including game shows.

A Nonfiction or Reality Series consists of three or more episodes and are presented under the same title and have continuity of production supervision. A single episode (entrant's choice) is to be submitted for judging consideration. In order for the judges to understand the series context of the submitted episode, plot summaries of two additional episodes (that may or may not have been actually produced) must be additionally submitted. Each episode summary is not to exceed 125 words.

Episode length may not exceed sixty minutes.

COMMERCIAL, PSA OR PROMO

Award(s) to Undergraduate or Graduate students whose specific screen credit is Producer, Writer and Director and whose functions support those credits

A commercial, PSA or promo is eligible provided it is two minutes or less in running time.

NEWS

Award(s) to Undergraduate or Graduate students whose specific screen credit is Producer, Writer and Director and whose functions support those credits

For live (to air or tape), regularly scheduled (daily or weekly) newscast, and special editions of a regularly scheduled newscast tied to a breaking or hard news story. Entire newscast (not to exceed sixty minutes) must be submitted. * **News Feature Stories may be entered into the Nonfiction Series Category.**

SPORTS

Award(s) to Undergraduate or Graduate students whose specific screen credit is Producer, Writer and Director and whose functions support those credits

For live (to air or tape), regularly scheduled (daily or weekly) and special editions of a regularly scheduled sports broadcast. Entire sports broadcast (not to exceed sixty minutes) must be submitted. ***Sports Feature Stories may be entered into the Nonfiction Series Category.**

LOREEN ARBUS FOCUS ON DISABILITY

Award(s) to Undergraduate or Graduate students whose specific screen credit is Producer, Writer and Director and whose functions support those credits

The Loreen Arbus Focus on Disability Award recognizes a program that sheds light on people with disabilities by featuring a main character with a disability or helps emerging artists with a disability gain recognition. A single episode (entrant's choice) is to be submitted for judging consideration. In order for the judges to understand the series context of the submitted episode, plot summaries of two additional episodes (that may or may not have been actually produced) must be additionally submitted. Each episode summary is not to exceed 125 words.

Entry length may not exceed sixty minutes.