

Hello Film + Photography Students,

We want to welcome you to the GSA Film + Photography class of 2025! You've worked hard to get here and should be very proud of yourself! As young artists, you are just scratching the surface of the film and photography industries. They ebb and flow with changing technology, an emerging market, and a new crop of talented artists.

We don't expect you to be seasoned professionals—*learning is part of our program!* So, we have crafted a fantastic curriculum to make sure you are getting the enriching and engaging experience GSA has always strived for!

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## Equipment

GSA will provide the essential tools you'll need to succeed in the F+P discipline, including a Canon camera/lens kit and an Apple computer in our classroom to use for editing during studio time. That said, some students prefer to bring their own equipment because they are familiar with it and will continue using it after GSA. If this is the case for you, we would like to learn more about what you are planning to bring.

### WILL YOU BRING THE FOLLOWING EQUIPMENT TO GSA?

Please answer each section below, using the examples provided to guide you, or type "N/A" (Not Applicable) if you are not planning to bring that equipment to GSA. *Again, we'll have a digital camera for you that's capable of photo and video, so this additional equipment is optional.*

1. Digital photography camera (brand/model): Example - Canon Rebel T7i
2. Digital video camera: Example - Canon Rebel T7i (if it's the same camera as above)
3. Film camera (a traditional 35mm film photography camera, *not* digital):
4. All lenses available for each camera listed above (include focal length in mm and F-stop numbers for each): Examples - Canon 18-55mm F3.5-5.6, Canon 50mm F1.8, Canon 60mm F2.8 macro lens
5. Audio equipment (microphone, wireless LAV, Zoom audio recorder, etc., if any)
6. Lighting equipment (flash/strobe lighting, continuous lighting, etc., if any)

7. Other gear you may have and want to bring (such as tripod, gimbal, slider, etc.)
8. Laptop: *Some students may wish to edit on their own laptop, so let us know if you are considering this. Again, this is totally optional as we have enough computers in the lab. However, please be aware that use of a laptop will only be permitted DURING studio (and in your dorm room), but NOT around campus or in the student center. You will NOT be expected to edit your film or photos outside of studio.*
- o (If yes) Do you prefer to use your laptop during studio time?

## NOTES

- You may answer the questions above directly in this document or copy the “Equipment” section above into a new document. *Save your new file as, “Firstname\_Lastname\_Student Letter”.*
- Please send your completed document to [willcravensgsa@gmail.com](mailto:willcravensgsa@gmail.com) by **June 2nd, 2025**.
- *If there are any terms/lingo you see above that you aren’t familiar with, this is a good opportunity to look them up to get a head start!*

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## F+P Supply List

- Hard Drive: You MUST bring a portable hard drive with at least 1 Terabyte of space so that you can store your photo/video media and take your projects home with you. We recommend either purchasing a new one or bringing one that does NOT have anything stored on it as it may need to be erased/formatted for GSA use.
- SD memory card: We’ll have one SD card for photography and another one for film available for you, but please bring a 64GB (or higher) SD card as a backup. This will be helpful if you run out of memory space while shooting or there is an issue with the card we provide for you.
- Headphones for editing your film projects (earbuds acceptable, but headphones highly encouraged)
- Camera backpack: Please bring a padded camera bag large enough to hold a camera, lenses, and accessories to use on our field trips. Note: This should be a bag specifically designed for photo gear, not just a regular backpack. We recommend one with a side pocket that fits a water bottle. You can of course bring a regular backpack for everyday use in addition to the camera bag if you like.
- 35mm film camera: Bring a 35mm film photography camera (if you have one)
- Batteries, chargers, etc. for any equipment you bring
- Notebook and writing utensils
- Good walking shoes
- Sunscreen
- Rain jacket
- Hat
- Spending Money: Though housing, meals, and housing are covered by GSA, you might want a little extra money for GSA merch on-campus or purchases during field trips

**NOTE** – If you are unable to purchase any of your supplies due to financial reasons, please send GSA your detailed request IMMEDIATELY to [gsainfo@kentuckyperformingarts.org](mailto:gsainfo@kentuckyperformingarts.org). We’re happy to help!

For Photography, before GSA begins, please send James one picture that you have taken that is meaningful to you and one picture that someone else has taken that is meaningful to you. Make sure to send either .jpeg or .png files (this is the typical file format if you are pulling something from the Internet), with image size no larger than 1 megabyte. Name each image like this:

lastname\_firstname\_mypic

lastname\_firstname\_otherpic

Send these to: [james.kenney@wku.edu](mailto:james.kenney@wku.edu) by **June 2nd, 2025**.

Be prepared to briefly share your thoughts about these images with the rest of the class.

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Last, we ask that you please come prepared to work hard, embrace any challenges these art forms may present, maintain a positive attitude toward yourself and others, and have fun in the process!

***We've also included a brief message from our counselors-in-residence:***

GSA is an experience like no other with opportunities to make memories and be part of an arts community to cherish for a lifetime. In preparation for your time with us, please keep in mind a few important points for both your physical and mental health.

- Even though your brain might go into “summer mode” after wrapping up the school year, please know that the 3 weeks of GSA aren’t like a typical summer camp. Every day you will work and play hard and, along the way, be challenged and inspired!
- Because our days are full of activity, be sure to try your best to prioritize rest, healthy eating, and opportunities to recharge when you can. Quite honestly, we recommend making these priorities right now in preparation, so it’s a smoother adjustment.
- The GSA staff, faculty, and counselors are available to help if you ever feel out of balance while on campus. We’re your go-to people to help you find the best fit in our unique community and to help with any adjustments that are needed. Don't wait to reach out because we're there to help from Day 1!
- As it applies to you, don’t forget to bring any prescribed medication (we can help with reminders but do not administer) and know that we can help with coordination of telehealth therapy sessions (with your already established provider) while at GSA as long as it’s not overly disruptive to your studio schedule.

We very much look forward to working with you and are genuinely excited to get started!

All the best,

Will Cravens (*First & Second Session Film Faculty*)

James Kenney (*First & Second Session Photography Faculty*)