

Hello Film + Photography Students,

We want to welcome you to the GSA Film + Photography class of 2026! You've worked hard to get here and should be very proud of yourself! We have crafted a fantastic curriculum to make sure you are getting the enriching and engaging experience GSA has always strived for.

To feel well prepared when you arrive at GSA, we recommend you try out **Adobe Premiere Pro** and **Adobe Lightroom Classic** and learn a little bit about them before the program. There are tutorials in the Help section and many tutorials online (www.adobe.com/learn). If you do not have access to Adobe Creative Cloud through your school, we recommend doing a free trial and taking a few days to learn about those two applications, then cancelling the subscription before the refund period ends (usually 7 days). We also ask that you familiarize yourself with the **Exposure Triangle**. There are many resources online to learn the basics; here is one option (Aperture, ISO, and Shutter Speed sections) <https://studiobinder.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/09/Exposure-The-Ultimate-Guide-Ebook-StudioBinder-1.pdf>.

We don't expect you to know everything or to be professionals (*learning is part of our program!*), but learning what you can before GSA starts will save valuable studio time for working on your projects. We do ask that you come prepared to work hard, embrace any challenges these artforms may present, maintain a positive attitude toward yourself and others, and have fun in the process!

Equipment

GSA will provide most of the tools you'll need while at GSA Film + Photography, including a Canon camera, lenses, an Apple computer in our classroom, and Adobe software for editing your projects. You're also welcome to bring your own equipment that you may want to use, particularly any tripods, lights, lenses, etc. There are some items listed below that we expect you to bring with you to GSA for a successful experience.

F+P Supply List

- **Hard Drive:** You MUST bring a portable hard drive with at least 1 Terabyte of available space. 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. You will be editing your photo/video media directly from this drive and will use it to take your projects home with you.
- **Camera backpack:** We highly encourage you to bring a padded camera bag large enough to hold a camera, lenses, and accessories to use during our field trips and activities. This bag should be specifically designed for photo gear, not just a regular backpack. This is important because we have enough telephoto lenses for everyone, but they must be carried in an appropriate camera bag/backpack. We recommend one with a side pocket that fits a water bottle.
- **SD memory card:** We'll have one SD card for Photography and one for Film available for you, but please bring a 64GB (or higher) SD card as a backup if you have one. 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. We can provide them if you don't want to bring your own. (Wireless headphones can work, but they affect video editing, so wired headphones are encouraged.)

- Padlock: There are lockers near our computer lab if you want to use them, but you need to bring a lock.
- 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. We're happy to help!

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 excited to get started!

All the best,

Will Cravens (*Film Faculty*)

Jacob Wachal (*Photography Faculty*)