

ENTERING THE FILM INDUSTRY A NETWORKING GUIDE

MASTERING THE CONTINUAL JOB SEARCH

Networking

Finding gig work in the media industry can feel like a continual job search, but utilizing your network of peers can help you find the right gig that snowballs into the rest of your career.

As tech advances and industries change, networking remains the most important skill to invest in as a media practitioner. Get to know everyone, find out what they do, and make sure they know what you want to do – the connections you make in your classes and clubs now are the ones that will get you hired in the future. Start with your classmates and professors. Badgers stand out for their work ethic in Hollywood. Check out our network at <https://successworks.wisc.edu/networking/>

Working on Set

Be prepared to work as a **Production Assistant**, an entry-level role that provides versatile support for others on set. Once you get your foot in the door, making a good impression with a positive attitude and attention to detail is the best way to get called again for the next shoot. Learn everyone's name and focus on how you can make their lives easier. It is far less about what you know than how you can communicate responsively, effectively, and respectfully.

Start with **who you know** where you know. If you don't know anyone in the industry in your city, you can call a **union** (such as IATSE) every Monday at 7:00 am and let them know you would love to work as a **day player** if any productions need someone that week. A day player works for one day on a set, often substituting for someone who could not go to work that day.

You can also check job board sites like **Staff Me Up or Mandy.com**. When productions travel to shoot in certain locations, they will often hire crew in the area they're traveling through. Checking these sites habitually will help you stay on top of when work comes through your area.

Industry Locations

Be prepared to move and travel. While nearly every company needs video these days, most media lanta, GA, right now. Other cities like Chicago, IL and even smaller cities, such as Wilmington, NC and Minneapolis, MN, have lively industries that can launch your production experience. Looking at states that have tax incentives for the film industry can help tell you where the productions are.

Finding Creative Work in Ancillary Industries

What do you love beyond making movies? Every industry needs video - combining your passion for film with sports or politics, for example, could give your creative work a strong sense of purpose. What are you willing to stand on set enduring the elements for?