

Film and Video Editors and Camera Operators

SOC: 27-4030 • Career Profile Report

■ Key Facts

\$70,570 Median Salary	79,900 Employment	+3.0% Growth Rate
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■ Requirements & Salary Range

Education: Bachelor's degree

■ Automation Risk Assessment

Low Risk - 15.0% probability of being automated in the next 10-20 years.

This job is relatively safe from automation due to its creative, social, or complex problem-solving requirements.

■■ Work-Life Balance

6.3/10 - Good work-life balance

■ Personality Fit (RIASEC)

Higher scores indicate better personality fit for this career type.

Realistic	5.0/10	Investigative	5.6/10
Artistic	9.6/10	Social	7.4/10
Enterprising	6.2/10	Conventional	4.4/10

■ Top Skills Required

Communication skills, Computer skills, Creativity, Detail oriented, Hand–eye coordination, Physical stamina, Visual skills

✓ Strengths

- High Demand
- Flexible Work
- Continuous Learning

■ Challenges

- Burnout Risk
- Rapid Technological Change

■ What They Do

Film and Video Editors and Camera Operators are media production professionals who create **visual content for film, television, streaming platforms, advertising, and digital media**. They capture footage, shape narratives through editing, and apply technical and creative judgment to transform raw video into compelling stories. Their work blends artistic vision with precision technology across fast-paced production environments.

This career is well suited for individuals who enjoy visual storytelling, technical tools, and collaborating with creative teams to produce polished, engaging content.

What Do Film and Video Editors and Camera Operators Do?

These professionals handle different stages of the video production process, from capture to final cut.

Common responsibilities include:

- Operating cameras to record scenes, events, or interviews
- Selecting lenses, framing shots, and managing lighting basics
- Reviewing, selecting, and assembling raw footage
- Editing video and audio to create cohesive narratives
- Applying color correction, transitions, and visual effects
- Syncing sound, music, and dialogue
- Collaborating with directors, producers, and clients

Editors vs. Camera Operators

While often collaborating closely, these roles focus on different stages:

- Camera Operators: Capture footage using cameras, lenses, and stabilization equipment.
- Film and Video Editors: Shape the story in post-production by assembling and refining footage.

Many professionals develop skills in both areas, especially in smaller or digital-first productions.

Skills and Abilities Needed

Film and video professionals combine creative judgment with technical proficiency.

Core Professional Skills

Personal Qualities That Matter

Education and Training Pathway

Paths into this field are flexible and portfolio-driven:

- Postsecondary Education (common): Film production, media studies, communications, or related fields
- Hands-On Experience: Student films, freelance projects, or internships
- Portfolio or Demo Reel: Essential for showcasing skills and style
- Workshops and Certifications: Training on equipment and editing software
- Continuous Learning: Keeping up with evolving cameras and editing tools

Where Do Film and Video Editors and Camera Operators Work?

These professionals work across entertainment, media, and corporate environments:

- Film and Television Production Companies
- Streaming and Digital Media Platforms
- Advertising and Marketing Agencies
- News and Broadcast Organizations
- Corporate Media and Communications Teams

- Freelance and Independent Production Settings

Work schedules can be project-based with irregular hours.

How Much Do Film and Video Editors and Camera Operators Earn?

Earnings vary by role, experience, and project type:

- Entry-Level or Assistant Roles: Often earn hourly or project-based pay
- Experienced Editors or Camera Operators: Typically earn higher wages
- Specialized or Freelance Professionals: May earn more based on reputation and contracts

Income can fluctuate depending on workload and industry demand.

Is This Career Difficult?

This career is creatively and technically demanding. Professionals must meet tight deadlines, adapt to changing creative direction, and manage long hours during production cycles. The challenge lies in balancing artistic vision with technical constraints and client expectations.

Who Should Consider This Career?

This career may be a strong fit if you:

- Enjoy visual storytelling and media creation
- Like working with cameras, software, and creative tools
- Are comfortable with project-based work
- Collaborate well in creative teams
- Can handle feedback and revision cycles

How to Prepare Early

- Practice filming and editing short videos
- Learn composition, lighting, and storytelling basics
- Build a demo reel showcasing your best work
- Explore editing software and camera equipment
- Participate in film clubs, media classes, or online projects

Film and video editors and camera operators turn moments into stories, combining technical skill and creative vision to shape how audiences see, feel, and connect with visual media across platforms and cultures.

*Generated by StartRight • Data from U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics & O*NET*

Source: <https://www.bls.gov/ooh/media-and-communication/film-and-video-editors-and-camera-operators.htm>