

Perceptions of Accessibility at Pratt: A Survey of Student Filmmakers

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1. Research Goal:

The goal for this faculty fellowship is to assess and improve the accessibility of filmmaking practices for students in the Film/Video department at Pratt. I started by surveying students about their observations and experiences during each stage of the filmmaking process.

2. Progress Update:

In Spring 2024, I drafted and distributed a confidential survey to assess students' perception of accessibility of equipment, software, and student film sets. I also included questions regarding the generation and use of audio descriptions and captions. The survey was distributed to all B.A. Film majors as well as Film Minors.

While I did not reach my goal sample size (43 responses as opposed to 60), the data I've collected contains valuable insights into the student experience. I hesitate to draw conclusions from the data at this stage, as much of the qualitative data has not been categorized or sorted. However, there are clear takeaways from the audio description and captions survey questions. Thirteen (30%) of respondents reported *always* utilizing captions when viewing films or videos, and yet only one respondent (2.3%) reported *always* creating captions for their films. Additionally, 77% (33 respondents) reported never creating audio descriptions for their films. There is clearly work to do to ensure students consider visually and hearing impaired audiences, especially as these deliverables are mandated by distributors.

3. Plans for the Future:

Over the summer, I will analyze the findings of this survey in order to draft recommendations for practice as well as future research.

The survey data is helpful for narrowing the scope of my existing research questions and a solid foundation for further inquiry. Next semester, I plan to reach out to undergraduates in the Film/Video department again and recruit 5-10 students who are passionate about accessibility issues to volunteer for a single focus group. This additional opportunity to connect with students will allow me to gather more qualitative data and facilitate discussions of potential interventions and solutions.

Additionally, I will share findings from the survey with Film/Video faculty at the first faculty meeting of the Fall semester. I will invite feedback and recommendations from faculty, and integrate this data into my Fall planning. I'm particularly interested in partnering with faculty and staff to assess and respond to student requests

4. Evaluation Data:

METHODS

I emailed all students at Pratt pursuing a major or minor in the Film/Video department with a link to the survey. As an incentive, students were offered the opportunity to enter a lottery for a drawing of two \$150 Blick Art Materials gift cards. The survey was released in April 2024 and closed in May of 2024. Forty-three students completed the survey out of a possible 216 students, resulting in a 20% response rate.

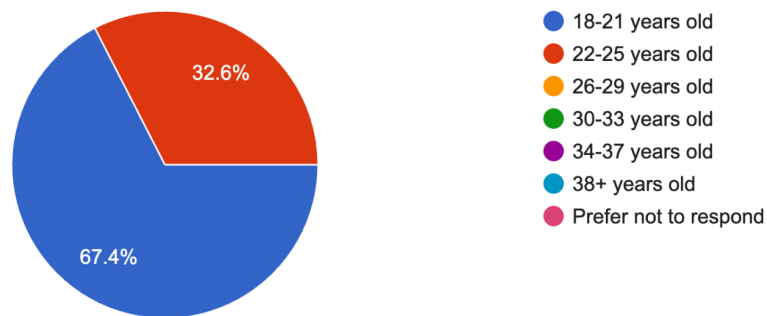
FINDINGS

The following charts present data from the survey conducted this semester:

DEMOGRAPHIC DATA

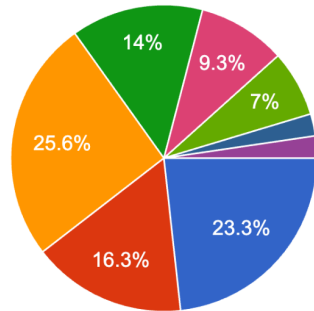
How old are you now?

43 responses



What best describes your current status at Pratt?

43 responses

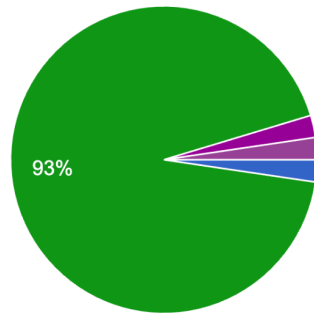


- Film B.A. Major - 1st year
- Film B.A. Major - 2nd year
- Film B.A. Major - 3rd year
- Film B.A. Major - 4th year
- Film B.A. Minor - 1st year
- Film B.A. Minor - 2nd year
- Film B.A. Minor - 3rd year
- Film B.A. Minor - 4th year

▲ 1/2 ▼

Which language do you primarily use when experiencing TV or movies:

43 responses

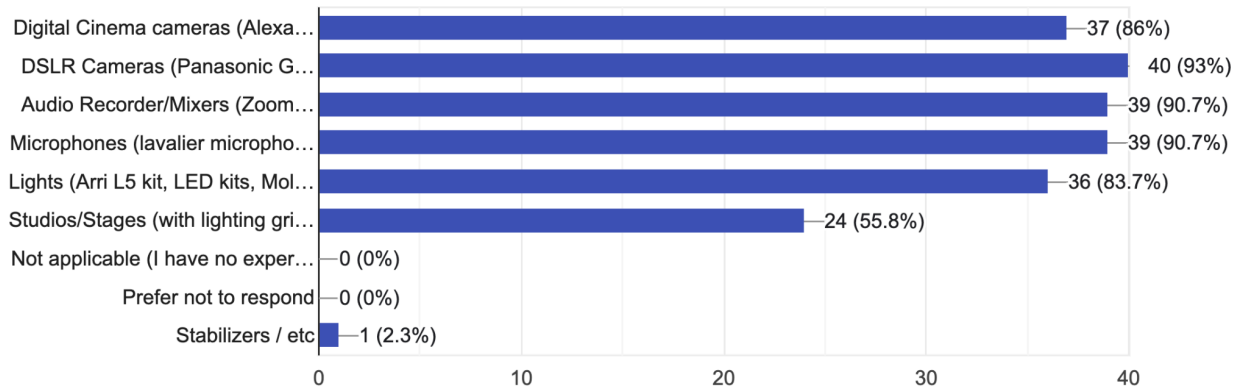


- American sign language
- Arabic
- Mandarin
- English
- French
- Spanish
- Tagalog
- Vietnamese

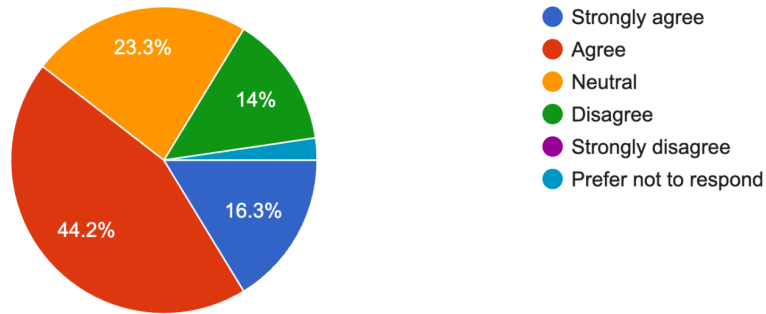
▲ 1/2 ▼

EQUIPMENT ACCESSIBILITY

Please select all of the following production equipment you are familiar with (check all that apply):
43 responses

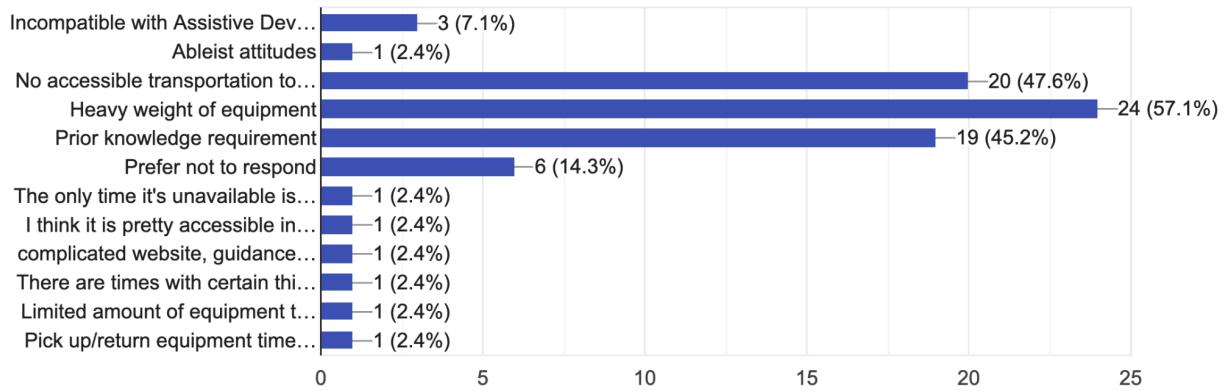


Based on observations and experiences with the selected production equipment, how much do you agree or disagree with the following statement: fil...ate prerequisites in Pratt's Film/Video Department.
43 responses



In what ways do you believe film equipment may be inaccessible? Please select all that apply.

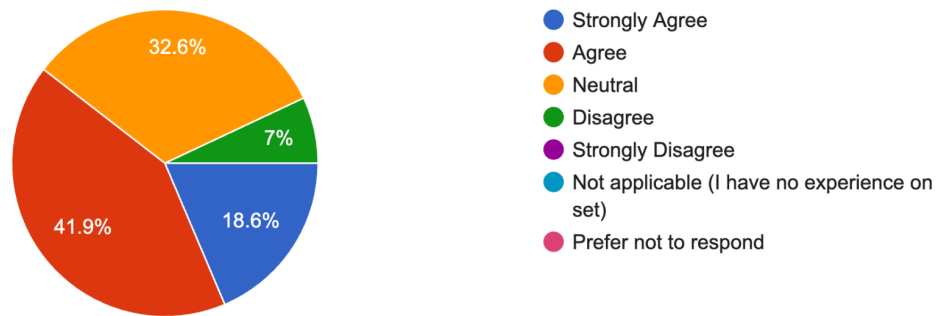
42 responses



FILM SET ACCESSIBILITY

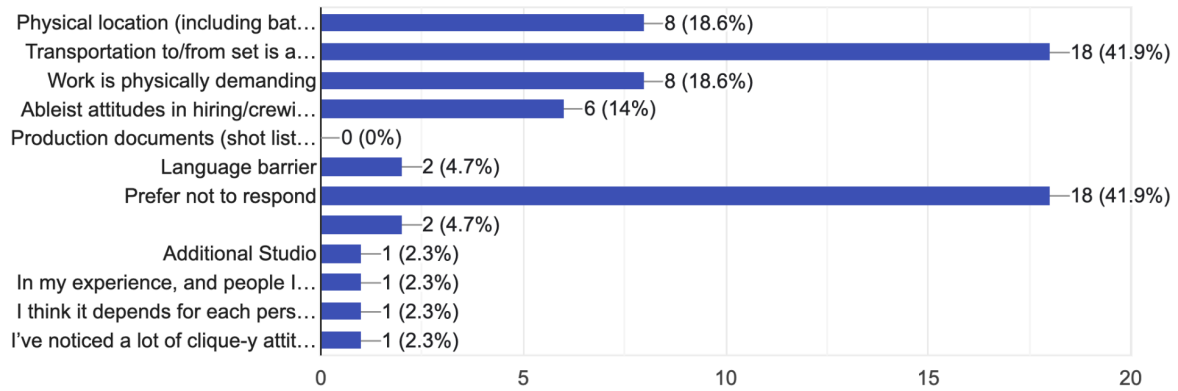
Based on observations and experiences, how much do you agree or disagree with the following statement: film sets are accessible to all film students in Pratt's Film/Video Department.

43 responses



In what ways do you believe film sets are inaccessible? Please select all that apply.

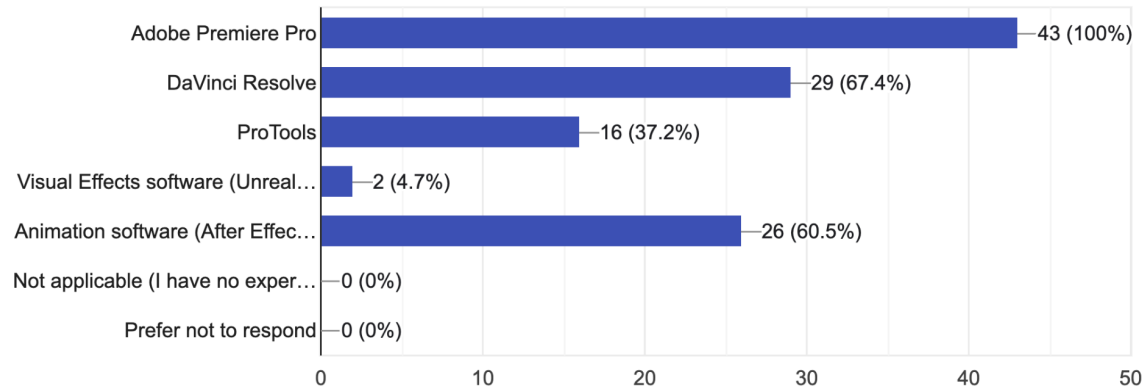
43 responses



POST-PRODUCTION ACCESSIBILITY

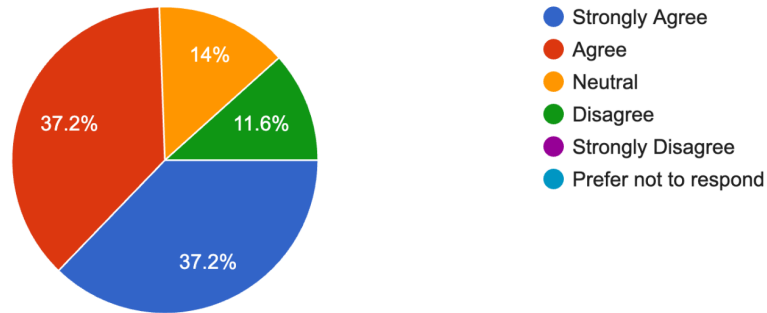
Please select all of the following post-production software you are familiar with (check all that apply):

43 responses



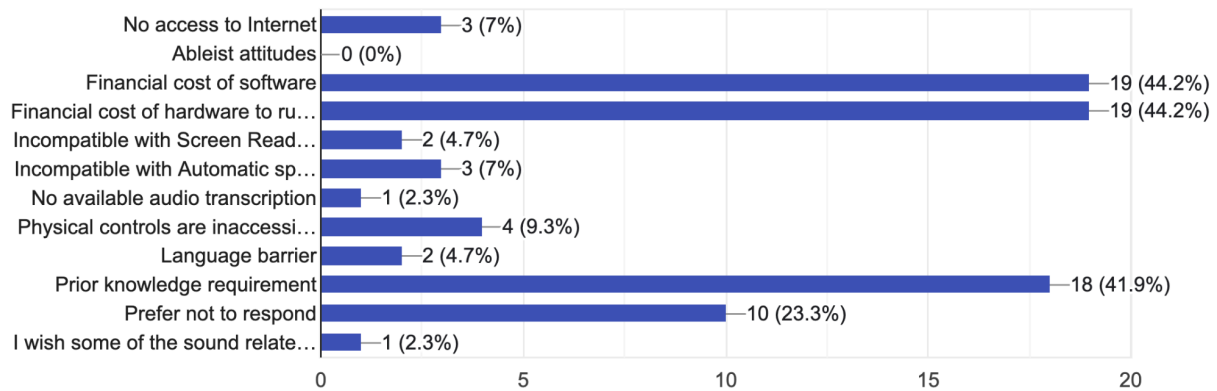
Based on observations and experiences with the selected post-production software, how much do you agree or disagree with the following statement:...e to all students in Pratt's Film/Video Department.

43 responses



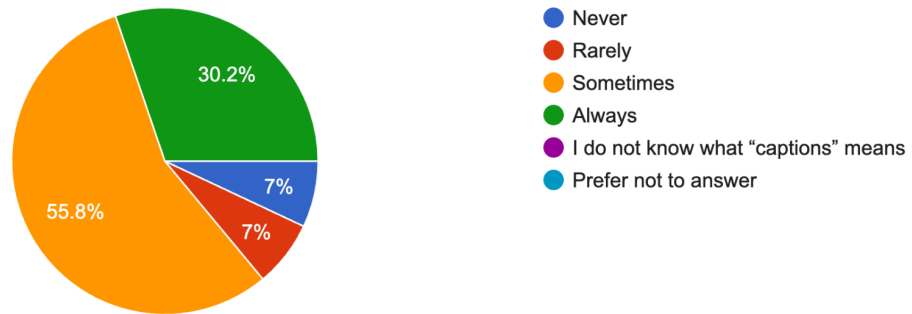
In what ways do you believe post-production software(s) is/are inaccessible? Please select all that apply.

43 responses



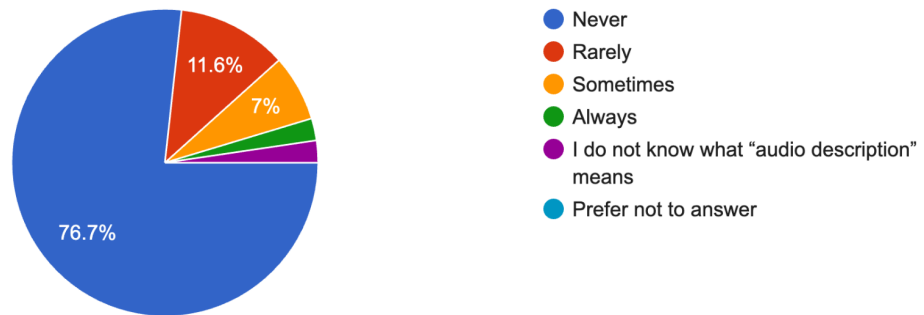
Do you utilize display captions when viewing films or videos?

43 responses



Do you utilize audio description when viewing films or videos?

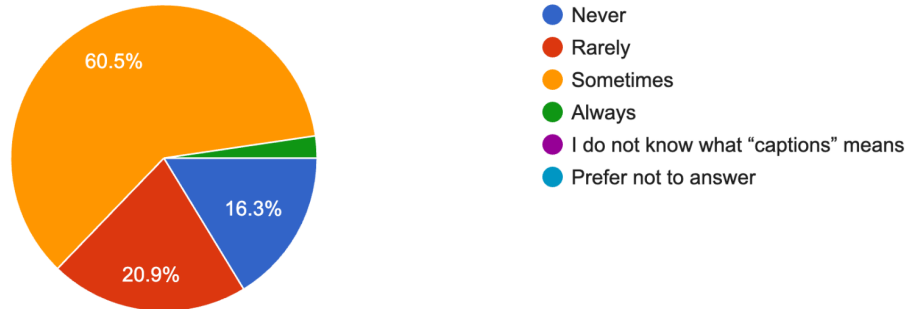
43 responses



AUDIENCE ACCESSIBILITY

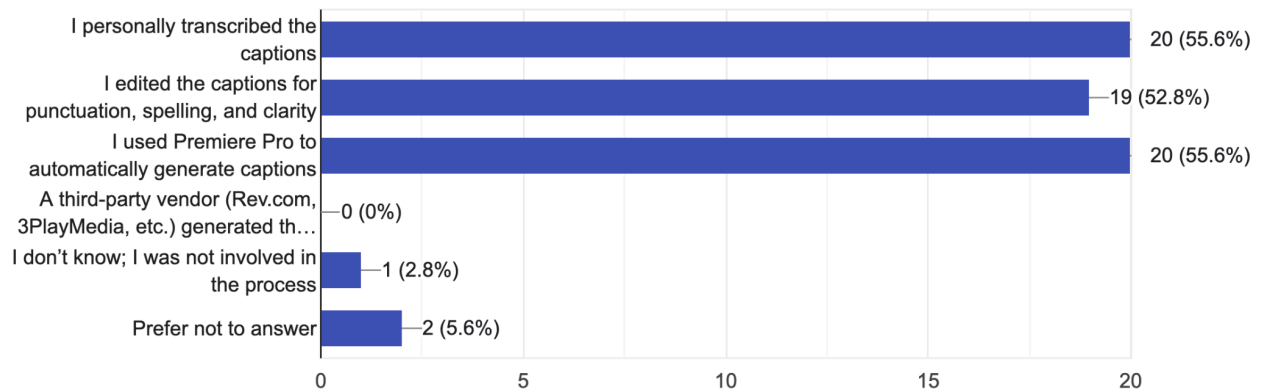
Do you create captions for your films?

43 responses



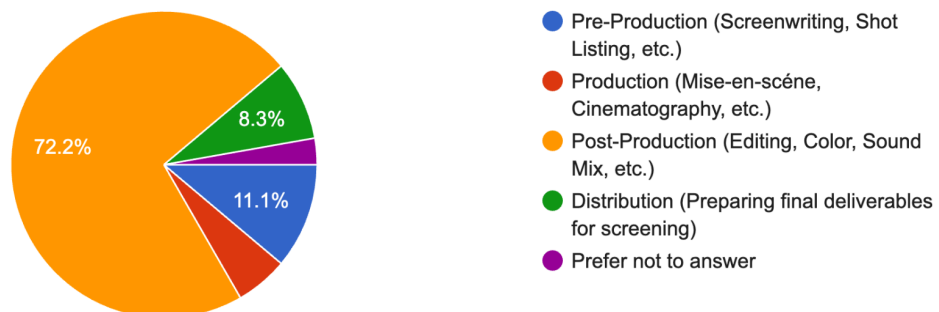
If yes, please check all that apply:

36 responses



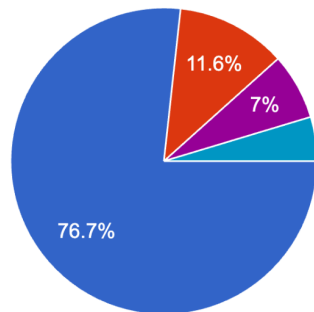
At what point in the production process did you plan and consider caption content and placement?

36 responses



Do you create audio descriptions for your films?

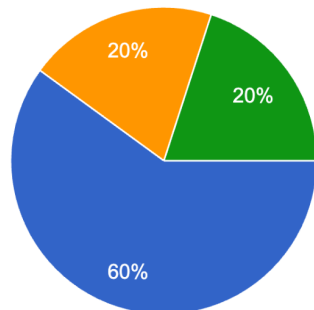
43 responses



- Never
- Rarely
- Sometimes
- Always
- I do not know what "audio description" means
- Prefer not to answer

If yes, who authored the audio description:

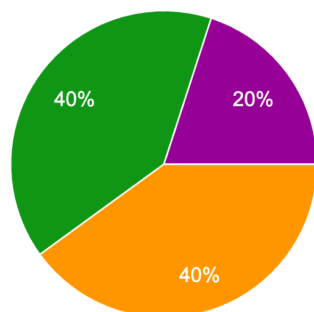
5 responses



- I wrote the script for the AD and recorded the audio description
- A third-party vendor (Rev.com, 3PlayMedia, etc.) created the audio description
- I don't know; I was not involved in the process
- Prefer not to answer

At what point in the production process did you plan and consider audio description content and timing?

5 responses



- Pre-Production (Screenwriting, Shot Listing, etc.)
- Production (Camera framing choices on set, etc.)
- Post-Production (Editing, Color, Sound Mix, etc.)
- Distribution (Preparing final deliverables for screening)
- Prefer not to answer

In addition to this quantitative data, students had the option of providing an open-ended comment in response to the above questions. This data is still uncategorized and will be analyzed this Summer 2024.