

## What does it take to become a **VIDEO EDITOR**?

Video Editors are generally responsible for editing and assembling recorded raw material into a suitable, finished product ready for broadcasting. The material may include camera footage, dialogue, sound effects, graphics and special effects. Putting raw video footage together using digital editing software, they cut video sequences effectively to ensure the scenes are seamless and flow logically. Inserting music and sound effects. Displaying creative skill in delivering recorded content, they are technically proficient individuals with sensibilities that allow them to properly convey a message.

### Skills & Knowledge

High school courses in arts, drawing and computer science are considered useful. Video editors possess a mixture of practical and creative skills; a good sense of timing and visual awareness; a high level of attention to detail; and the ability to work under pressure and meet tight deadlines. They need to be technically savvy, since they largely use computerised equipment and advanced video editing software in their work. Besides this technical acumen, the ideal digital video editor also has enough experience in film and video production to anticipate what directors and producers want out of their work. The success or ultimate failure of any video production lies in the hands of the video editor as the final production must be a coherent project that incorporates the storyline and do justice to the artistic director's vision.



### Training

Training is offered at registered training institutions. Formal training courses often cover the history and theory of film and video and a practical project, which

usually consists of a short narrative or experimental film. Completion of a practical project demonstrates knowledge and technical proficiency of the major areas of film and video production. However, some video editors typically learn the trade on the job and through apprenticeships in media and production houses, learning about all aspects of video production, including writing, editing, cinematography and directing. Industry experience, whether paid or unpaid, is crucial to honing skills and building a reputation

### Working Conditions

Video editors spend large amounts of time in front of several monitors in a closed office environment. Video editors sit for extended periods of time, often in dark rooms, in order to best view the images that have been captured for a project. Editors need good vision, hearing and emotional sensibilities. They can work long and unusual schedules, based on the availability of jobs and scheduling of projects. Shift work may be required if editing studios are booked at night.

### Job Prospects

Video editors work in many different industries, including film, broadcasting and advertising. The television industry is increasingly project-based, and as a result there has been a rise in the amount of freelance staff employed at all levels. Office hours apply mostly, but often, video editors work into the late morning hours as the pressure to meet deadlines is omnipresent. Many purchase their own software and computers and freelance, as salaried positions are scarce. Compensation varies, but those with established clientele tend to earn more.

You too can live your passion and qualify as a Video Editor. If you are creative, detail-oriented, deadline-driven and knowledgeable of IT and software applications, you are a good candidate.

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