

Rider University: Semester in L.A. | Spring 2027

Live, Work, and Network in the Entertainment Capital of the World

Program Description: Your Professional Gateway

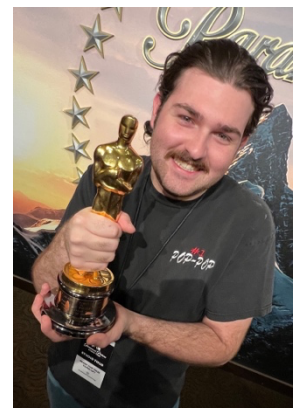
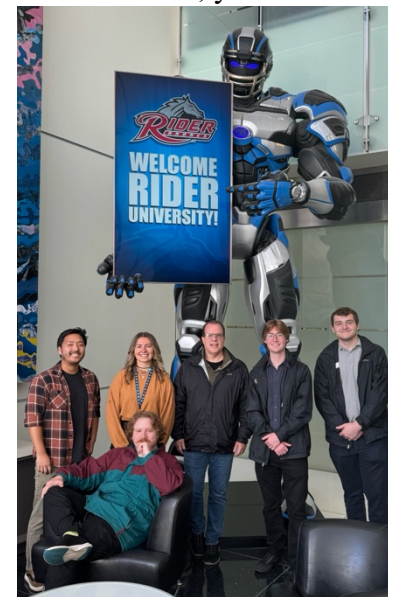
The **Rider University Semester in L.A.** is a high-impact, professional immersion program designed to launch you into your career. Based in Los Angeles, CA—the global epicenter of entertainment—this program serves as the definitive bridge between your academic studies and a professional life in the industry. While in Hollywood, you are more than a student; you are a working member of the entertainment community.



Multidisciplinary Opportunities

The entertainment industry is a vast ecosystem that requires a massive diversity of talent. Our program is intentionally open to a wide range of majors, creating a collaborative cohort that reflects the professional world:

- **Film & TV:** Directing, editing, screenwriting, and production.
- **Acting:** Specialized workshops and direct access to the L.A. casting scene.
- **Arts & Entertainment Industries & Marketing:** Learning the mechanics of talent management, distribution, and marketing.
- **Game Design & New Media:** Exploring the intersection of tech and storytelling in the world's digital creative hub.
- **Sports Media:** Engaging with the massive West Coast sports broadcasting and digital media landscape.
- **Music:** Gaining experience in music production, artist management, and the business of the recording industry.
- **Journalism:** Reporting on the industry, entertainment news, and digital storytelling.
- **Open to All Majors:** While these are the most common paths, the program is open to students from **any major** who are interested in the creative industries. If you believe your career goals align with a semester in Los Angeles, we encourage you to apply and discuss your vision with the Program Director.



The L.A. Advantage

The Ultimate Career Steppingstone

This isn't just a "semester away"—it is a bridge to your professional future. We provide the tools and industry "intel" required to successfully score an internship in L.A. From our **Resume Workshops** taught by industry insiders to access to **EntertainmentCareers.net**, we equip you with the same resources used by Hollywood professionals.

By leveraging these tools alongside our growing network of alumni and local contacts, our students have maintained a **100% success rate** in securing internships. Our students don't just "visit" L.A.; they often leverage these internships directly into full-time employment, building a resume that commands the attention of recruiters.



Active Mentorship & Resident Support

One of the most unique aspects of the Rider program is that you are never on your own. The Program Director and his wife live on-site in the same apartment complex to provide:

- **On-the-Ground Guidance:** From navigating the city to troubleshooting internship challenges, they are there in person to support you.
- **Alumni Networking:** We host private networking events where you can meet Rider alumni currently working in L.A. These "Broncs in Hollywood" are your first and most valuable professional contacts.
- **Industry Insiders:** Our guest lecturers are Emmy-winning writers, studio executives, and working professionals who provide real-world advice on how to break into the business.



Curriculum & Credit Requirements

Participants must be full-time students (minimum 12 credits).

Fall 2026 (Preparation)

- **FTV 231: LA Resume Workshop (1 Credit):** Conducted via Zoom starting late August. This ensures your resume is "Hollywood-ready" before Spring internship applications peak in late September.



Spring 2027 (The L.A. Experience)

- **FTV 395: The L.A. Media Experience (3 Credits):** A practical exploration of studio and indie workflows, distribution, and emerging tech. Includes guest speakers and industry journals. This isn't just another lecture course; it's a deep dive into the industry. You will track industry trends and meet the people currently shaping the business.
- **FTV 399: The Co-op Experience (9–12 Credits):** Your professional internship. You will devote **25–30 hours per week** to your internship. This provides significant work experience to support your professional development.
- **Acting Majors Only:** Enrollment in a specialized 3-credit **Film and Television Casting Workshop**. This intensive workshop focuses on the "business of the craft," audition technique, and a final showcase for West Coast agents and casting directors.



Note: Classes are scheduled on Saturday mornings, so they never clash with your internship hours.

Estimated Costs & Financial Aid

Expense	Semester in L.A.	Semester at Rider
Tuition	\$21,733	\$21,733
Program Fee	\$2,750*	\$0
Housing (LA Apt vs. Rider R&B)	\$7,750*	\$8,750
Food Estimate (Self-Catering)	\$1,400**	Included above
TOTAL	\$33,633	\$30,483

The Bottom Line: The L.A. experience typically costs about **\$3,150** more than a standard semester living on campus—a small investment for a lifetime of professional connections.

- **Financial Aid** can be fully applied to the L.A. program. For a personalized breakdown, contact **Amanda Young**, Associate Director of Financial Aid, at ayoung@rider.edu. Ms. Young has worked with the program since its inception and is an expert in helping students navigate this process.

** While our estimates have been spot on over the last 5 years, these are estimates and may be subject to change.*

****Food:** A meal plan is not included. In LA, students have their own kitchens.

The \$100/week is an average estimate for what students might spend on groceries per week.



Living in L.A.

Housing: Students reside at the **Ava Toluca Hills** in Burbank.

- **The Setup:** Fully furnished 2-bed/2-bath apartments (4 students per unit).
- **Amenities:** Full kitchen, housewares, TV/Cable, and high-speed Internet included.
- **Proximity:** Warner Bros and Universal are literally across the street. Disney, CBS, Nickelodeon, and hundreds of smaller production companies are minutes away.

Transportation:

- **Getting There:** Burbank Airport (BUR) is 5 miles away and highly convenient. LAX is 27 miles away but often offers cheaper cross-country fares. Driving cross-country is also a popular and fun tradition; the Program Director and many students often make the drive!
- **Getting Around:** Cars are highly recommended, though only about a third of students bring their own. Parking is available.
- **Public Transit & Rideshare:** L.A. has an extensive Metro/bus system. A **Student Tap or Metro Card (\$43/mo)** is a great value. Uber and Lyft are everywhere.



Ready to Launch Your Career? Apply for SEMLA Spring 2027

If you are ready to trade a Lawrenceville classroom for Hollywood and turn your academic foundation into a professional career:

Submit Your Application: Access the SEMLA Application by [CLICKING HERE.](#)



Deadlines:

- **Priority Application Deadline:** Friday May 15th
- **Final Application Deadline:** Friday June 5th

Questions?

Choosing a semester away is a big decision for you and your family. If you have questions about the curriculum, the internship search, or daily life in L.A., **check out the program FAQs below.** If further questions, please don't hesitate to reach out to:

Dr. Barry Janes *Program Director, Semester in L.A.* janes@rider.edu

FAQ: Rider's Semester in Los Angeles Program (SEMLA)

Frequently Asked Questions for Students & Families



1. Eligibility & Academic Planning

- **Who is eligible for SEMLA?** The program is primarily designed for **Seniors who will be their final semester** at Rider. However, students who will be first semester Seniors in the Spring are also encouraged to apply.
- **What is the GPA requirement?** Students must have a **minimum 2.75 GPA** at the time of application and registration to qualify for the program and the required Co-op credits.

- **How do I make sure I can graduate on time?** Because SEMLA often takes place during a student's final semester, academic planning is important. Students should consult with the Program Director and/or their Academic Advisor before applying to ensure that:

- All General Education (Gen Ed) and major requirements will be met.
- Any remaining requirements can be satisfied by the L.A. curriculum (FTV 395 and FTV 399).

- **Can I participate if I'm not a Film/TV major?** Yes! We welcome students from various disciplines, including Acting, Game Design, and Arts & Entertainment Industries Management, Marketing, etc., etc., etc., provided they meet the GPA and credit requirements and can fit the SEMLA courses into their degree path.



2. Program Schedule & Timing

- **When does the program typically run?** The program begins a bit earlier than Rider's typical Spring semester. Students generally arrive in Los Angeles on the **first Friday of January**. Internships typically begin the following Monday. The program concludes on the **second or third Friday of April**.
- **When should we book flights?** We recommend booking flights in the Fall once a student is accepted. While there is no organized group travel, students often connect during the Fall prep session to coordinate flying or driving across the country together.
- **What is the "Move-In" experience like?** Faculty will be on-site in L.A. to assist with apartment check-ins throughout arrival day. To help everyone settle in, the Program Director and his wife host a **Welcome Dinner** at their apartment on Move-In Day for all students, parents, and traveling companions. This is a great time to meet the "L.A. Team" face-to-face.



3. Financial Aid & Costs

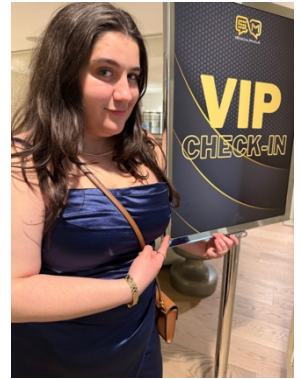
- **Can financial aid be used for the program?** Yes. Because the L.A. housing is officially considered Rider housing and students remain enrolled at the university, tuition and housing are billed directly through Rider. Therefore, your current financial aid package typically applies.



- **How are extra costs (flights, commuting) handled?** Financial aid awards can sometimes be adjusted based on increased costs and individual need. Because every situation is unique, we strongly recommend contacting our dedicated SEMLA financial aid advisor:

[Amanda Young](#) > Associate Director, Office of Financial Aid > 609-896-5360 | ayoung@rider.edu

Ms. Young has worked with SEMLA students since the program's inception and is an expert in navigating these specific costs.



4. Internships & Professional Support

- **How do students find internships?** We begin the preparation process the moment a student is accepted. While students are responsible for securing their own placements, we provide the following toolkit:
 - **Resume Workshops:** A one-credit workshop taught by industry professionals starting in late August.
 - **Industry Subscriptions:** Access to [EntertainmentCareers.Net](#) for internship searches.
 - **The Network:** Direct mentorship and networking leads from L.A.-based faculty and alumni.
- **What is the internship workload?** Students spend **25–30 hours per week** at their internships. We often encourage students to split these hours between two different internships to double their professional contacts and diversity of experience.
- **What if a student can't find an internship?** Since the program's inception in 2018, **100% of SEMLA students** have successfully secured one or more internships. Our "success rate" is a testament to the preparation students receive before they even land in California.



5. Housing & Daily Life

- **Where do students live?** Students reside at [AVA Toluca Hills](#) in Burbank. This is a beautiful, gated community with 24-hour security and a controlled-access kiosk for all visitors. It is in the heart of the studio district.
- **How do students handle meals?** Apartments feature fully equipped kitchens. Students are



responsible for their own grocery shopping and cooking. Several major grocery stores (Vons, Ralphs, Whole Foods) are within 1–2 miles. This is often a favorite "steppingstone" for students learning to manage independent adult life.

- **Is the housing "turnkey"?** Yes. Apartments are fully furnished and include kitchenware, housewares, towels, bedding and high-speed internet. Students only need to bring clothes and personal items.

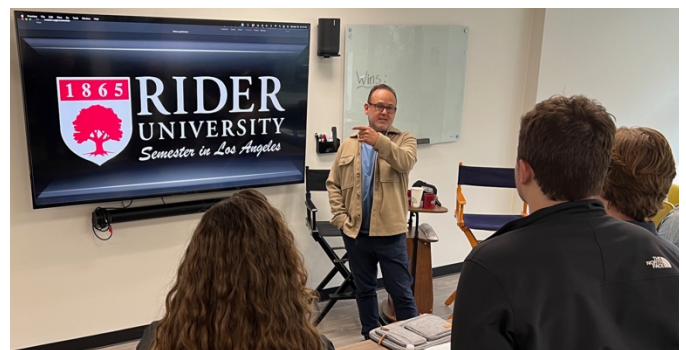
6. Safety, Mentorship & Health

- **Is there faculty support on-site?** Yes. The Program Director and his wife reside in the same complex as the students and are available **via phone or text** for emergencies. We maintain a close-knit community through regular group dinners, social events, and a group messaging app for real-time safety alerts and reminders.
- **Are there medical facilities nearby?** Burbank is a major medical hub. Several urgent care facilities and pharmacies are within a mile of the complex, and [Providence Saint Joseph Medical Center](#) is just two miles away.
- **Are Counseling and Mental Health Services available?** Yes. In addition to local providers, Rider provides all students with access to [UWill Mental Health and Wellness Services](#), offering free, immediate tele-therapy that works across time zones.



7. Transportation in Los Angeles

- **How do students get to their internships?** Students are responsible for their own transportation. While only about a third of our students bring their own cars, those who don't utilize:
 - **Public Transit:** The LA Metro is affordable (\$1.75 per ride) and accessible via a monthly student "Tap Card."
 - **Rideshare:** Uber and Lyft are ubiquitous in the Burbank area.
 - **Carpooling:** We help students in the cohort connect early to coordinate shared rides to major studios.
- **Is parking available?** Yes, for students who choose to drive or ship their cars, parking is available at the AVA apartment complex.



8. Beyond the Classroom

- **Do I have to be a Film/TV major?** No! The program is open to **Acting, Arts & Entertainment Industries, Game Design, Journalism, Sports Media, Marketing,** and more. The industry needs a variety of talents, and our cohort reflects that diversity.
- **What happens after the program?** SEMLA is a career launchpad. Many of our seniors leverage their internships and the professional experiences they gain in L.A. directly into full-time employment. While some students choose to return to Los Angeles as working professionals immediately after graduation, others find that their SEMLA experience makes them highly competitive candidates for major media and entertainment roles back East or in other global industry hubs. Whether you stay in L.A. or bring your talents home, the program provides the resume, the network, and the confidence to secure a career in the industry.

