

# PREPELLER

FULL SAIL NEWS & CULTURE



## FULL SAIL CELEBRATES 15 YEARS OF HALL OF FAME

PAGE 8



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# Visit Our Unique Campus

Our campus is one of those places you just have to experience for yourself. Come take a tour!

## Daily Tours

Monday - Friday 10AM - 5PM, Every Hour, Walk-ins Welcome

Join us for a walking tour of our tech labs, studios, backlot, Audio Temple, and learning spaces as one of our student guides gives you an overview of our degrees offered and what it's like to learn here.

## Behind the Scenes Tour

Monthly, RSVP Required

This fun, engaging tour is an in-depth look at what makes Full Sail different, from our campus and curriculum to student life and beyond. The tour includes a breakout session with educators in your chosen field and a live panel of grads, sharing their experiences and answering student questions. You'll also have opportunities to learn about financial aid, career development, scholarships, and more.



# Scholarships

Full Sail University offers a variety of scholarships for qualified students both online and on campus. For more details, contact an Admissions Representative at 800.226.7625. Financial aid is available for those who qualify. Check out our Scholarship Guide to evaluate your eligibility.

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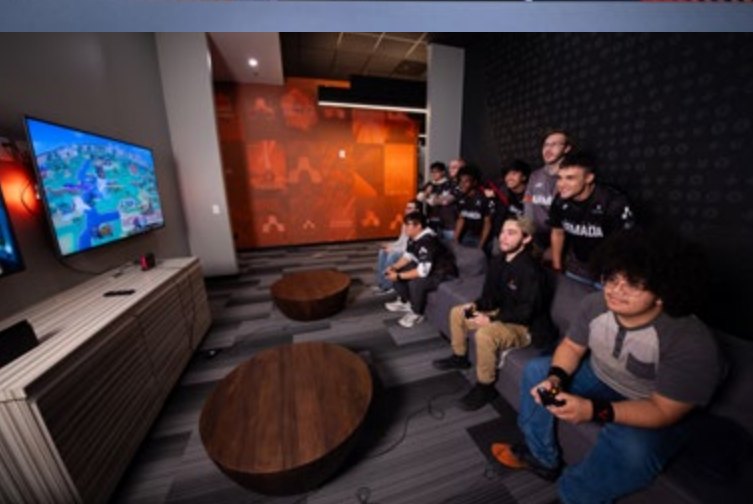
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# ARMADA HQ

## GAMING & ESPORTS CENTER OPENS ON CAMPUS

Full Sail recently unveiled Armada HQ, an on-campus gaming and esports center that all Full Sail students can use. In celebration of Full Sail's commitment to esports and passion to explore gaming's next frontier, the all-new campus facility features 45 gaming stations, a console gaming lounge, and a fully-equipped broadcast room.

Designed to reflect Armada's legacy, Armada HQ invites new students to join Full Sail's gaming and esports community while honoring

the students who laid the framework early on. A hallway lined with jerseys from notable Armada athletes and a mural of past events invites new students to learn the history of the organization while exploring their own role in its future.

While HQ will serve as the home site for Armada's Varsity competitive matches, it will also be home to community-focused events, LAN meet-ups, and workshops hosted by faculty and staff throughout the year.

## STUDENTS ASSIST GCX 2024 PRODUCTION

The Full Sail Armada community celebrated gaming and content creators, working as supporting staff during the GCX 2024 convention held at Universal Studios Florida. Armada students gained hands-on experience in event production, working across several areas of the two-day community expo.

Students and grads who volunteered to work the event — which benefitted St. Jude Children's Research Hospital — displayed their industry knowledge and professionalism working in roles in stage and talent management, tournament organization, and more for both GCX and esports tournament organizers Esports Foundry.

## GRAD'S CAREER BRINGS ESPORTS CHAMPIONSHIPS TO DAYTONA STATE COLLEGE

For Full Sail grad Sebastian Morales, joining Full Sail Armada started as a pastime while completing his bachelor's degree in Recording Arts. At the time, the aspiring musician and Marine Corps veteran was a casual gamer looking to be a part of a community while in school. Little did he know that this extracurricular activity would lead to an exciting career in collegiate esports.

Now the Esports Coordinator for Daytona State College, Sebastian has been able to help build up successful competitive rosters that are putting the junior college's varsity program on the map. The team has won two national championships under the grad's leadership in *Rocket League* and *Super Smash Bros. Ultimate*.







# CAMPUS LIFE

## at FULL SAIL UNIVERSITY



## EA'S MADDEN CHAMPIONSHIP SERIES COMES TO FULL SAIL

EA's Madden Championship Series recently returned to Full Sail University's campus for the MCS 25 Playoffs. Fourteen of the top Madden players competed on stage at the Full Sail University Orlando Health Fortress for a share of a \$1 million prize pool. After launching in the fall of 2024, the series made its way back to campus after the Kickoff Challenge in September.

Sixty students from degree programs including Show Production, Film, Recording Arts, Game Business & Esports, and Sportscasting gained real-world experience working behind the scenes across the three-day professional esports event.

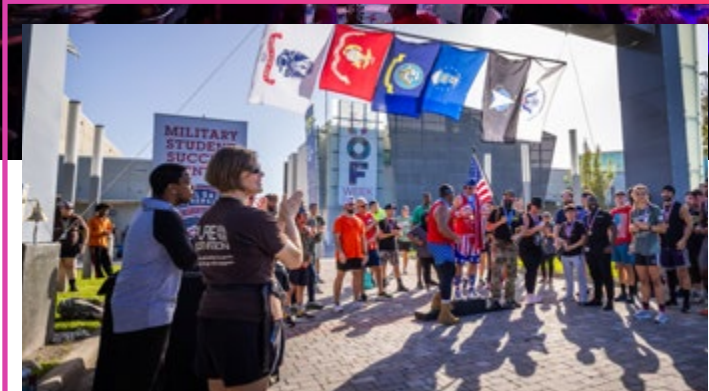
**“ IN MY 15-PLUS YEARS OF WORKING IN SPORTS PRODUCTION, I HAVE NEVER MET A TEAM MORE COMMITTED TO EXCELLENCE THAN THE ONE WE PARTNERED WITH AT FULL SAIL.”**

**Chad Bates**  
*Senior Manager, Creative Content for American Football*



## CAMPUS EVENTS CELEBRATE FULL SAIL'S STUDENT VETERANS

Last fall, Full Sail's Military Student Success Center honored and celebrated Full Sail's veteran and military-connected students by hosting a Veterans Day Run, Ruck, Walk 5K and a Veteran Thanksgiving Dinner on campus. At the 5K, students, faculty, and staff competed on a course that wrapped around campus. Winners in the Run, Ruck, and Walk categories received medals, with an additional medal awarded in the Most Patriotic category. At the Thanksgiving dinner, MISSION BBQ served favorites like pulled chicken, macaroni and cheese, green beans, and apple pie to 181 military-connected students and their families. Many attendees won raffle prizes, and additional prizes were awarded to the winners of a physical training contest.







# FULL SAIL HOSTS CAREER FAIR ON CAMPUS

Full Sail’s Career Development department hosted a Career Fair at the Full Sail Live venue, with more than 30 employers and 400 soon-to-be-grads and alumni in attendance. The event included industry presentations, workshops, open career advising, and more.

Employers such as Orange County Government, Royal Caribbean Cruise Line, and the Army, as well as companies in film, gaming, audio, and live events, had tables set up with staff representatives ready

to talk to attendees about potential job opportunities. Openings included writers, camera operators, audio engineers, graphic designers, web designers, and many more.

“I hope [attendees] walk away with the experience of actually seeing employers face-to-face,” said Jamey Hopper, the Employer Development Manager in Career Development. “It’s a rare opportunity... It’s one room, 30-plus employers. You make your opportunity when you go up and look them in the face.”



# THE FORTRESS HOSTS ALL-DAY GAMING FESTIVAL

Full Sail student organizations including Armada, the Asian-Pacific Islander Coalition, the Black Student Union, and more gathered together for a 12-hour Throwback Festival. The gaming festival featured livestreams, musical guests, and tournaments both on campus and virtually for online students.

Featured games included Hall of Fame inductee Caris Baker’s arcade-exclusive indie title: *Throwback! Jai Alai Heroes* and *Call of Duty*. Armada esports team collaborated with the Tabletop Games Club to hold Beyblade competitions, and during halftime, attendees were able to participate in an interactive D20 Deathmatch hosted by Bec Godsey.



# METAL & HONEY BRING FUNDRAISER BACK TO FULL SAIL LIVE

Full Sail University once again served as the venue for Trivium frontman Matt Heafy’s Metal and Honey Foundation fundraiser concert event. The live show, which supports the music therapy program at Orlando Health Arnold Palmer Hospital for Children, was streamed to thousands of viewers on Twitch, with a live audience joining the show in person at Full Sail’s Live Venue in Winter Park, Florida.

More than 20 students worked alongside Full Sail’s live event crew, who provided technical and logistical support for the event, including audio, lighting, video, graphics, and planning.



# PRIDE CLUB PARTICIPATES IN 2024 COME OUT WITH PRIDE FESTIVAL & PARADE

Full Sail’s Pride Club celebrated the LGBTQIA+ community with an afternoon dance party on Full Sail’s campus, then attended downtown Orlando’s 2024 Come Out with Pride Festival & Parade. To kick off the celebratory weekend, the Pride Club, in collaboration with several other Full Sail campus clubs, hosted a fun afternoon of dancing, snacks, and performances from several talented Full Sail students. Then, on Saturday, Full Sail students, faculty, and staff came out to Lake Eola and walked in the 2024 Come Out With Pride parade together in matching university-branded t-shirts, dancing along to music and passing out Full Sail swag.



# 3300+ CLIMBING CELEBRATES 10-YEAR ANNIVERSARY

To celebrate the 10-year anniversary of Full Sail’s student-run artist development initiative, 3300+ Climbing, current and former members gathered at the Treehouse for a night of fun.

“[At this event, we] commemorated 10 years of students working on behalf of artists in a variety of activities, such as branding, promotions, social media marketing, music video production, and much more,” explained program director Israel Vasquetelle. “The event included performances from a wide array of incredible talent, including

3300+ Climbing’s current artist Antonio Thornton as the headliner.”

The event also featured games, prizes, and a cake to celebrate the decade of work. All the while, students had the chance to network both with fellow students and the many grads that returned to commemorate the milestone. The event was scouted, decorated, hosted, and arranged by current students in 3300+ Climbing, offering them another opportunity to hone their event-planning skills.



# FULL SAIL CAMPUS HOSTS 2024 BSIDES ORLANDO CONFERENCE

In October, Full Sail’s campus hosted the BSides Orlando 2024 security conference. BSides Orlando provides career-focused support in the information security and cybersecurity fields. This was the fifth year the conference was held at Full Sail, and this year’s theme was “Chomp Your Own Adventure.”

The event had more than 800 participants in attendance, including many Full Sail students. With interactive workshops, breakout sessions, presentations, and networking opportunities throughout, topics included artificial intelligence, social engineering, ethical hacking, and penetration testing. Two students in Full Sail’s Cybersecurity degree program – Richard Bruno and Breanna Balchin – each received a \$5,000 academic scholarship.



# GRAD SHOWCASE



## GRAD HELPS IMPROVE ACCESSIBILITY IN *DIABLO IV*

Brock Davis wants everyone to be able to play video games. In spite of cerebral palsy, the Full Sail grad is making an impact on this front by working on accessibility for *Diablo IV*.

Brock earned a bachelor's degree in Media Arts and Game Development at the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater. He then completed Full Sail's Game Design master's program on campus. He joined **Blizzard Entertainment**

in February of 2021, first as an Associate Test Analyst on *Diablo II: Resurrected* before his promotion to Test Analyst for *Diablo IV*. His job is to ensure game updates are accessible to players with disabilities.

Brock's ultimate goal is "to make a difference in the gaming industry as well as to be an inspiration to other disabled people to say, 'If Brock can do this, so can I.'"



## GRAD HOSTS TELEVISION AND RADIO SHOW AT CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL

Full Sail Recording Arts graduate Anthony Grier works as a Broadcast Coordinator for **Seacrest Studios** at **Orlando Health Arnold Palmer Hospital for Children**.

At Seacrest Studios, founded by **The Ryan Seacrest Foundation**, Anthony hosts a closed-circuit TV and radio program frequently visited by A-list celebrities and television personalities.

The closed-circuit television show is broadcast directly to patient rooms throughout the hospital, so the children can easily watch and participate.

"It's great because sometimes I even forget that I'm in a hospital ... because of all the positivity that's going on," says Anthony.



## HALL OF FAME INDUCTEE'S POST-PRODUCTION TEAM NOMINATED FOR VES AWARD

Hall of Fame inductee Culley Bunker and the team at his studio, **Skulley FX**, were honored with a nomination for **Outstanding Supporting Visual Effects** in a Photoreal Episode at the **2025 Visual Effects Society (VES) Awards** for their work on "It Has to Do With the Search for the Marvelous," an episode of Apple TV+'s *Lady in the Lake*. For the episode, Skulley FX used a combination of traditional VFX strategies and AI tools to de-age the show's star, **Natalie Portman**, in flashback scenes.

"I have 20-plus years of experience with this, and a lot of these guys have been doing thousands and thousands and thousands of beauty shots [in film and television]," said Culley. "So, it's a little bit of recognition of that skill set and that experience and that artistry. And it was recognized as some of the best [beauty VFX] work that people have seen [over the past year]."



## 80+ GRADS ON EA SPORTS' *MADDEN NFL 25* AND *COLLEGE FOOTBALL 25*

More than 80 Full Sail graduates from areas of study including games, art and design, and music and recording were credited on **EA SPORTS'** tentpole releases *Madden NFL 25* and *College Football 25*. From team management and audio mastering to recording and motion capture, graduates contributed to both projects, many motivated by their love for football on the professional and college levels.

"The college experience and the professional football experience are completely different. And trying to make sure that we treated each one with the respect they deserve for their different environments was important," shares Hall of Fame inductee and EA Senior Audio Artist **Frank Scheuring**.

## VERONICA CONCHA REBELEON ENTERTAINMENT

As the Managing Director at Latin record label **Rebeleon Entertainment**, Music Business grad Veronica Concha works with Full Sail Hall of Fame inductee and Grammy- and Latin Grammy-winning record producer **Sebastian Krys** to help manage the label's artists, market their music, and produce a charity concert during **Latin Grammys** week.

"I'm looking forward to being there for my artists, to be able to spread their message and [help them] get to wherever they want to be."





GRAD WON **SEVEN DAYTIME EMMYS**  
AS A SOUND EDITOR ON ***SESAME STREET***



After 20 years at ***Sesame Street***, seven-time **Daytime Emmy** winner and Full Sail Recording Arts graduate Chris Sassano loves the unpredictability of his days as a Sound Editor – whatever happens, he knows it’ll be fun.

His responsibilities include music playback, where he handles the music for music videos. He also does sound effects playback, like thunder for Count Von Count and crash sounds when Super Grover falls from the sky. He’s also in charge of dialogue triggers, producing a dialogue sound file that a puppeteer will perform to.

He feels honored and humbled to have won seven Daytime Emmys for **Live Sound Editing** for ***Sesame Street***, but for Chris, it’s not about the accolades. He just loves what he does.

“There’s no better place in the world. That’s why I’m still there,” Chris says. “Because the puppeteers are the best people, the crew is the best. And it’s a family because everybody’s been there for so long.”

THIS GRAD HELPS PRODUCE  
**LANCE ARMSTRONG’S  
PODCAST, *THEMOVE***

Full Sail Digital Cinematography grad Gabriel Acuña Garnier never imagined himself being a podcast producer for world-famous cyclist **Lance Armstrong**. ***THEMOVE*** – a cycling -focused show – has been ranked as a top sports-focused podcast on **Apple Podcasts** and has been featured on the **Peacock** streaming service. Gabriel landed the job through Full Sail’s online career portal, CareerSync.

He does “everything besides the talking,” including setting up live video streams, switching cameras, and handling post-production. And what’s it like working with a big name like Lance Armstrong?

“He’s pretty much like the guy you see on TV,” Gabriel says. “He pushes you to be your best self. He treats people very well.”



THIS GRAD PRODUCES VIDEOS FOR  
THE **NBA’S SAN ANTONIO SPURS**

Full Sail grad Kevin Hall had no idea he’d now be working for the **NBA’s San Antonio Spurs**. Kevin earned a Film bachelor’s degree in 2017 and an Entertainment Business Master of Science – Sports Management Elective Track in 2024, both from Full Sail.

He freelanced as a videographer at the **Super Bowl**, the **NFL Pro Bowl**, and **EA Sports**. Kevin became a Digital Content Editor for the Spurs in 2021. He edits others’ work and shoots games, events, and player interviews. He also supports the **Austin Spurs Developmental League** team and **San Antonio FC** soccer club. Kevin has some advice for careers in sports and entertainment.

*“Always focus on yourself and your work. Don’t worry about trying to compete with others. When you’re passionate about your work, it is reflected in the quality of your output.”*



DUARTE FIGUEIRA, DIRECTOR OF A&R  
FOR **UNIVERSAL MUSIC LATINO**

Full Sail grad Duarte Figueira knew he wanted to help artists from a young age. As a teenager, the Portugal native helped start reggae, dancehall, and hip-hop group **Fyah Box Sound**. To improve his English skills and learn more about the American record business, he enrolled in Full Sail’s Music Business bachelor’s program in 2014.

“As an international student, I felt included, supported, and just part of a big family,” he shares.

He eventually connected with Full Sail University Hall of Fame inductee **Sebastian Kryz**. The two launched **Rebeleon Entertainment** and won several **Latin Grammys**, working with **Luis Fonsi**, **Elvis Costello**, **Feid**, and **Karol G**. He now works as the Director of A&R for **Universal Music Latino**.

*“For me, it’s still that joy of music being people’s soundtrack to their lives and helping them in moments of sadness, making them happy in moments of joy.”*

**CHANCLER HAYNES**  
FILM EDITOR

Film graduate Chancler Haynes frequently works as an on-set music video editor for **Taylor Swift**. He’s been nominated at **MTV’s VMAs** for his editing work on “*Bad Blood*,” “*Anti-Hero*,” and “*Look What You Made Me Do*,” and he won the **2024 VMA for Best Editing** for “*Fortnight*.”

*“Every video I work on with Taylor Swift is super fun because she comes up with brilliant ideas in the story process, and making the video is just a matter of bringing her ideas to life. She’s always really excited once she sees things play out in the edit.”*







# 15TH ANNUAL INDUCTEE CLASS



## MARTINA BOZIC

Vice President of Football Partnerships  
**SPORTFIVE**

/// CREDITS ///

NWSL / MLS / IMG Academy



## JASON CITRON

CEO & Co-Founder  
**DISCORD**

/// CREDITS ///

Discord / Openfeint



## ALEJANDRO GARCÍA-TUÑÓN

Senior Director, Head of Co-Development  
**SIDE**

/// CREDITS ///

Gears of War / Guitar Hero / Magic Leap



## JONATHAN MAYER

Founder, CEO, Music Director  
**SPIDER FARM PRODUCTIONS**

/// CREDITS ///

Spider-Man / The Last of Us / Call of Duty



## KATRINA MENA RICK

Senior Creative Producer  
**DISNEY LIVE ENTERTAINMENT**

/// CREDITS ///

Fantasmic! / Happily Ever After / ¡Celebración Encanto!



## AARON B. KOONTZ

Writer, Producer, Director, CEO & Founder  
**PAPER STREET PICTURES**

/// CREDITS ///

Paper Street Pictures / Revival / Shelby Oaks

# HALL OF FAME 15

## Induction Ceremony

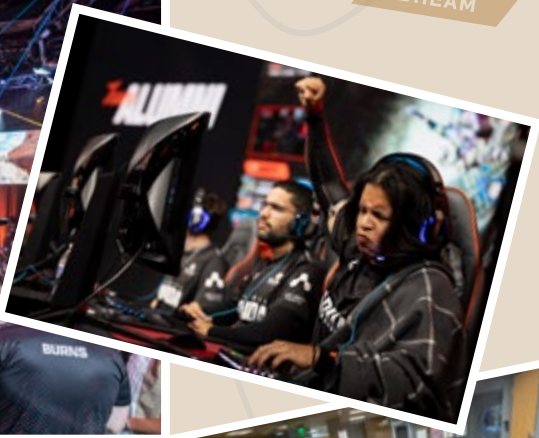
The climax of Hall of Fame 15 week was the induction ceremony where the six newest inductees — Aaron B. Koontz, Alejandro García-Tuñón, Jason Citron, Jonathan Mayer, Katrina Mena Rick, and Martina Bozic — accepted their awards.

Each inductee gave heartfelt speeches of pride at their accomplishments and gratitude for the family and friends who supported them along the way. “I am incredibly honored to stand here as a Full Sail Hall of Fame inductee,” said Martina Bozic. “This moment is an absolute dream come true. And if there’s one thing I know, it’s that everything starts with a dream.”

The week concluded with a student block party at the outdoor stage, where students enjoyed the good vibes on campus after another successful Hall of Fame Week.







## FULL SAIL CELEBRATES GAMING AND ESPORTS

During Full Sail University's recent Hall of Fame Week, the community came together to celebrate their collective love of esports, video games, and tabletop games. Throughout the week, attendees enjoyed ample opportunities to nerd out and connect with peers at events including Hall of Game: Homecoming 2025, a 24-hour game jam, a live D20 Deathmatch, and the unveiling of the new Armada HQ. Students also got the chance to dive deep into the game industry at various panels and presentations led by Full Sail graduates and industry experts.



## CAREER NETWORKING

Throughout Hall of Fame week, alumni and soon-to-be-grads had ample opportunities to network, most prominently at the Career Fair held at the Full Sail Live venue. Attendees got the chance to interact with many potential employers including Walt Disney World and Apple, ask questions, and put their hats in the ring for several open positions.

Additionally, students and graduates could attend various sessions throughout the day on subjects like growing your freelance business, advice for crafting a resume, and how to network if you hate networking.

## TECH EXPO

An exciting part of Hall of Fame 15 was the Tech Expo. Representatives from companies such as Sony, Canon, and Apple filled the Orlando Health Fortress to show off the latest and greatest tech equipment. The Tech Expo featured presentations, new product demonstrations, and clinics across many industries including video, production, audio, gaming, design, and simulation. Additionally, many of the exhibitors hosted breakout sessions to share more in-depth knowledge.



## STUDENT ACTIVITIES & EVENTS

Hall of Fame 15 had many fun activities for attendees. The Creative Experience took place in the Backlot on campus offered various booths where students could get airbrush tattoos, sit for a caricature, perform karaoke, create bookmarks and friendship bracelets, color, and contribute to a giant Hall of Fame-themed paint-by-number mural over the course of the week. An array of food trucks kept attendees well-fed, hydrated, and caffeinated throughout the week of activity.

A Dungeons and Dragons: D20 Deathmatch was held at the outdoor stage, where students enjoyed the immersive TTRPG experience, complete with costumes and giant foam dice that players would roll out into the audience. Students also had the chance to compete in a cosplay contest, with winning categories like Best in Show, Anime, and Television and Film.

## PANELS & PRESENTATIONS

During Hall of Fame 15, more than 150 educational panels, presentations, and workshops were offered to attendees. The variety of session topics included what's happening in the game industry, crisis management in media, a fireside chat with Hall of Fame 15 inductee and Discord CEO Jason Citron, and the future of smart cities. Presenters included past and present Hall of Fame inductees, Full Sail faculty and staff, and various industry experts — giving audiences a plethora of perspectives and professional experiences to learn from.

Alumni enjoyed presentations and panel-led sessions specifically catered toward graduates of Full Sail, including topics such as how to pivot mid-career. Many of the sessions and festivities were livestreamed on Full Sail's Hall of Fame Live YouTube broadcast.





# FULL SAIL NEWS



## Full Sail Celebrates **100K Grads**

Since 1979, thousands of Full Sail students have completed degree programs in areas like music and recording, film, emerging technologies, business, design, and more. At Full Sail's graduation ceremony on July 3, the university celebrated its 100,000th graduate: Isabel Miller, who studied film during her time at Full Sail.

"From day one, Full Sail's mission has been to support our students' dreams while propelling our graduates into their future careers of choice," said Garry Jones, the President of Full Sail University. "I'm honored to look back across our 45-year journey in service to our students and alumni, and I'm humbled as we continue to stand in service to our educational community."



## Full Sail Makes **TheWrap** 2024 List of **Top 50 Best US Film Schools**

Full Sail University was named to the list of the **Top 50 Best Film Schools** for 2024 by **TheWrap**, a film industry magazine. The publication noted Full Sail's Film bachelor's program and highlighted its accelerated pace, access to production spaces, and student diversity.

**TheWrap** partnered with Screen Engine/ASI to create a survey and score each institution on different factors, including graduation rates, student-to-faculty ratios, and notable alumni. Other film schools on the list included New York University, the University of Southern California, and the University of California, Los Angeles.

## **Billboard** Names Full Sail a **2024 Top Music Business School**

Full Sail's music business degrees prepare students for the industry through hands-on projects, and **Billboard** magazine recognized the university's efforts by including Full Sail on its 2024 list of Top Music Business Schools.

The schools on **Billboard**'s list are selected based on "industry recommendations, alumni information provided by honorees from our multiple power lists, information requested from each school, and nearly a decade of reporting on these programs."

**Billboard** mentioned Full Sail's industry speakers, workshops, and hands-on **Artist Development Initiative** as some of the curriculum's highlights.

Full Sail was included on the 2024 list alongside institutions like the Berklee College of Music, New York University, Howard University, and more.



## Full Sail Named **Top Game Design School** by **Princeton Review**

Full Sail University was recognized by **The Princeton Review** as one of the best colleges for game design. The university's undergraduate and graduate areas of study in **game design** earned Full Sail a spot on the 2025 list of "Top 50 Game Design Programs: Undergrad" and "Top 25 Game Design Programs: Grad".

## Full Sail Named a **2024 Top Film School** by **MovieMaker** Magazine

Film industry magazine **MovieMaker** included Full Sail on its 2024 list of the 30 Best Film Schools in the US and Canada. The magazine's list recognizes schools that "offer top-notch equipment, experienced faculty,

and abundant networking opportunities." **MovieMaker** highlighted Full Sail's hands-on production opportunities, networking events, and high-tech facilities, including Studio V1, the university's virtual production studio.



## **WWE Shoots Content for Netflix** at Full Sail

Full Sail University recently lent its virtual production studio, Studio V1, to its longtime partners at **WWE** to film segments for their **Netflix** series **WWE RAW Classics**, a countdown of the most unforgettable moments in the series' 30-year span, as well as for the **Road to WrestleMania** series.

Hosted by WWE superstar Big E, RAW Classics shares the history of RAW with audiences old and new as the series has moved to Netflix in 2025. The first round of production took place on campus in August. More than a dozen Full Sail students and graduates worked alongside faculty and the creative team at WWE in lighting, audio, camera, and production assistant roles on set.



# Graphic Design USA Lists Full Sail as Top Design School

**Graphic Design USA**, a go-to news source for the creative community, has recognized Full Sail University in its 2024 list of **Top Design Schools**. This year's list honors 50 institutions and programs enriching students with the skills necessary for entering the industry. Full Sail's graphic design and **digital arts & design** areas of study, along with the **Media Design** master's program, have been listed alongside other top institutions such as Carnegie Mellon University School of Design, the Pratt Institute School of Design, and Yale University School of Art.



## Full Sail Grads on **Graphic Design USA** 2025 **Students to Watch** List

Design industry magazine **Graphic Design USA** recently released their yearly list of Students to Watch. The list identifies “top students ready to burst onto the design scene” who grew personally and professionally in their design programs.

This year, Emelia Knarr (Media Design MFA, 2024) and Sean Matthew Prayuda (Digital Arts & Design, 2024) were named in the magazine's list.

Emelia wants to use her master's degree to work in character or environment design for movies, exhibits, props, or comics. She's inspired by digital archives from museums, fan-made media, and the work of Keith Haring, Skottie Young, and Frida Kahlo.

Sean is currently working as a graphic designer for an online education provider; he's also created graphics for several nonprofit organizations. He's inspired by movies and video games with distinctive styles.



# Full Sail Named a **2025 Top Online College** by **Newsweek**

Full Sail University offers a number of online degree options based on the school's real-world, hands-on approach to learning. This year, Full Sail's online degrees were honored with a spot on **Newsweek** magazine's 2025 list of **America's Top Online Schools**.

The rankings highlight colleges that offer online undergraduate and graduate degrees. The research for the list was based on surveys from individuals who pursued online learning, and the schools are ranked “based on organization, [student] support, price, reputation, success, recommendations, practical relevance, and overall satisfaction.”

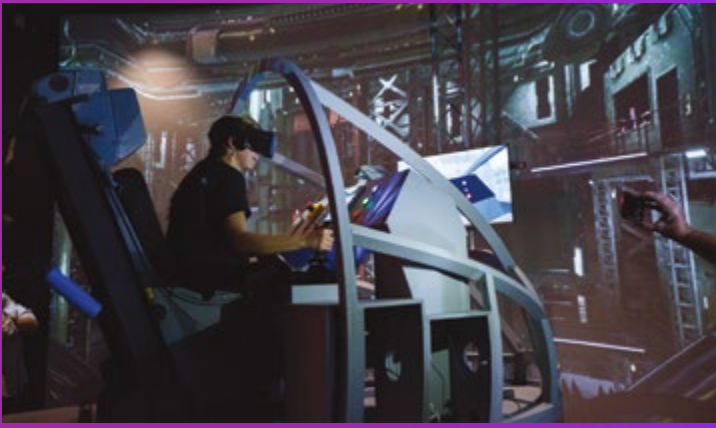
Full Sail appeared on the list alongside institutions like New York University, Cornell University, and the University of Illinois Chicago.



## Full Sail Campus Hosts **EA Madden NFL '25 Pro Bowl** Head to Head Challenge

The Full Sail Live venue hosted the **EA Madden NFL '25 Pro Bowl Head to Head Challenge** in January as part of NFL Pro Bowl Week in Orlando. Four Pro Bowl players – Derwin James (Chargers), Brian Thomas Jr. (Jaguars), Micah Parsons (Cowboys), and Justin Jefferson (Vikings) – and eight content creators competed in the **Madden NFL 25** competition, with the AFC squad winning 22-13. Several Full Sail students and grads also worked alongside the **EA Sports** production team.

“Partnerships with world-class brands like EA who can offer our students real-world experience and involvement on signature projects like this is part of Full Sail's DNA,” said John Saboor, Executive Director, Head of Partnerships at Full Sail.



## Full Sail Named One of **Orlando's 10 Technology Leaders**

**Orlando** magazine recognized Full Sail's efforts to stay at the leading edge of tech education by including the university on its 2024 list of **10 technology leaders** in the Orlando area. **Orlando** noted that Full Sail's technology areas of study – including **artificial intelligence, cybersecurity, simulation and visualization, and gaming** – made the university stand out among tech leaders in the area.

The magazine also highlighted Full Sail's campus labs and facilities, including the Full Sail University Fitness Technology Lab Powered by Echelon Fit, the Full Sail University Healthcare Technology Lab Powered by AdventHealth University, Studio V1: Virtual Production, and the Full Sail University Orlando Health Fortress.



# Award Spotlight

## The Grammys:

**60+ GRADS CREDITED ON NOMINATED PROJECTS**

At the 2025 Grammy Awards, 62 grads were credited on 77 nominated projects in 51 categories, with seven grads nominated for their own Grammys in 11 categories. When the winners were announced, Full Sail grads Stuart White and Colin Leonard both won individual Grammys for their engineering work on Beyoncé's hit genre-defying album *Cowboy Carter*, which won Album of the Year and had a historic win in the Best Country Album category. Grad Dominique Jones, aka DOE, won in the Best Contemporary Christian Music Album category for her album *Heart Of A Human*. Additional Full Sail grads worked on winning projects in categories like Best Rock Album, Best Country Duo/Group Performance, Best R&B Album, and Best Latin Pop Album.



## The Latin Grammys:

**MULTIPLE FULL SAIL GRADS CREDITED ON NOMINEES & WINNERS**

Full Sail grads helped make 2024's Latin Grammy nominees stand out from the crowd. This year, 30 Full Sail grads were credited on 55 nominated projects in 28 categories, and five graduates were nominated across nine categories for their own Latin Grammy statuettes. When the winners were announced, grad Felipe Tichauer received a Latin Grammy for his work as Mastering Engineer on Jota.pê's *Se o Meu Peito Fosse o Mundo*, which won Best Engineered Album of the Year. Grads also worked on nominated projects like "Monaco" by Bad Bunny, *Mañana Será Bonito (Bichota Season)* by Karol G, *García* by Kany García, and more.

## Primetime Emmys:

**195+ GRADS ON THE YEAR'S BEST TV SHOWS**

More than 195 grads contributed to 184 nominated projects (like *Shōgun*, *The Bear*, and *Only Murders in the Building*) in 103 categories at the 2024 Primetime Emmy Awards. Twelve graduates were nominated for their own statuettes, including Marion Spates (Overall Visual Effects Supervisor, *Avatar: The Last Airbender*), Daniel Kresco (Score Mixer, *Black Mirror*), Mark Hailstone (Sound Effects Editor, *Shōgun*), and Oscar winner Gary A. Rizzo (Re-recording Mixer, *The Beach Boys*). Grads also worked on nominated shows like *Ripley*, *Fallout*, and *Ahsoka*.



## The Game Awards:

**335+ GRADS CREDITED ON NOMINATED PROJECTS**

The Game Awards celebrated the best in game development, innovation, and storytelling at their 2024 award show, where more than 335 Full Sail graduates were credited on 40+ nominated projects in 23 categories.

Twenty-nine graduates from computer animation, game design, and recording arts contributed to 10 winning projects across 12 categories, including Game of the Year and Best Game Direction (*Astrobot*), Best Multiplayer and Best Ongoing Game (*Helldivers 2*), Games for Impact (*Neva*), Best Simulation/Strategy Game (*Frostpunk 2*), and Best Esports Game (*League of Legends*).



## Academy Awards:

**45+ GRADS ON 2025'S OSCAR-NOMINATED PROJECTS**

Forty-seven Full Sail graduates were credited on 18 nominated projects in 21 categories at the 2025 Academy Awards. Best Picture nominees *Wicked* and *The Substance*, as well as winner *Anora*, all had Full Sail grads in the credits. Alumni also worked on movies like *Nosferatu*, *A Complete Unknown*, and *The Wild Robot*, which were nominated in categories like Best Cinematography, Best Sound, and Best Animated Feature. In addition, Full Sail grads Nancy Nugent Title and Gary A. Rizzo were both nominated for their own Oscar statuettes. Gary earned his nomination for his contributions as a Re-Recording Mixer on *The Wild Robot*, while Nancy received a nod for her role as a Supervising Sound Editor on *Wicked*.

