Video Editing Software Tips

There are numerous ways to edit your video once it is recorded. Cornell’s video streaming service, **Kaltura**, has some basic video editing functionality. **Panopto**, which is primarily used for self-serve lecture capture, also has some basic video editing functionality. However, if you are planning on adding titles, transitions, or cutaways to your video or having multiple audio tracks, consider using a stand-alone video editing application that will reside on your local computer. There are many different video editing applications with a wide range of functions, price points, and learning curves. How much time, effort, and money you want to spend will largely be a function of how much you want to learn and master the art of video editing.

It is important to keep in mind that editing video can require a relatively powerful computer. Before purchasing any video editing application, install a trial/free version to make sure it will run efficiently on your system. Where possible, try to test it by actually editing a video similar to those you plan to create.

Mac Software

**Quicktime**, the video player built into Mac OS, also has some very basic editing features. It does not allow complex editing, but it can be used to trim videos.

**iMovie** is also built into Mac OS. It is relatively easy to use and can be used to create transitions, titles, and even basic multi-track editing.

**Final Cut Pro X** is a professional video editing application that runs on Macs. You can test [Final Cut Pro X](https://www.apple.com/final-cut-pro/) for free, but a license costs around $300. The interface is similar to iMovie but with many more advanced features.

PC Software

**MovieMaker** comes preloaded on some versions of Microsoft’s operating system. It can also be [downloaded from Microsoft](https://www.microsoft.com/en-us/p/movie-maker-10-free/9mvfq4lmz6c9?activetab=pivot:overviewtab) for free. It is a good, basic video editor that allows for simple multi-track editing, titles, transitions and basic effects.

Software for both Mac and PC

There are numerous applications that work on both PC and Mac. The applications below are a few of the available options.

### Full Featured Applications

**Adobe Premiere** is probably the most common professional video editing program in use. Cornell does provide a license to the Adobe Creative Cloud for free in some cases, but not usually to faculty or staff unless their position requires extensive media creation. That said, Adobe does provide an educational discount. For information on Cornell’s program see [Adobe Licensing Summary](https://it.cornell.edu/software-licensing/adobe-licensing-summary).

**DaVinci Resolve** is a full featured video editor that has both free and paid versions. The free version is full featured and has almost all the same functionality as the pay version. Unless you plan to become a full-time professional video editor, the free version should be more than sufficient. As with all professional video editors, learning to use it effectively will require some time. For more information, visit [Davinci Resolve](https://www.blackmagicdesign.com/products/davinciresolve/).

**Camtasia** is a feature-rich application that can not only create and edit video but also has some more advanced online tutorial creation tools. On a basic level, it is relatively easy to use. It can be tried for free but costs about $170 with an educational discount. For more information, visit [Camtasia](https://www.techsmith.com/video-editor.html).

### Basic Applications

These video editors have been recommended from various sources for their ease of use and functionality. All of them allow basic multi-track editing as well as title and transition creation.

* [Adobe Premiere Rush](https://www.adobe.com/products/premiere-rush.html)
* [VSDC](http://www.videosoftdev.com/)
* [HitFilm Express](https://fxhome.com/hitfilm-express)
* [WeVideo](https://www.wevideo.com/)