

Recommended Video Formats and Settings

Acceptable File Formats

Video recordings may be submitted in the following file formats:

flv, asf, qt, mov, mpg, mpeg, avi, wmv, mp4, m4v

Recommended File Formats

Please refer to your video camera's user manual or specifications to determine the video format recording options.

Use of a digital camera or video camera that supports the following is recommended:

| Video File Type | Common File Extensions | Video Codecs | Media Player Support* |
|---|------------------------|--------------------------------------|--|
| AVI – Audio Visual Interleave | .avi | wide variety; DivX, MJPEG are common | Supported by variety of media players including Windows Media Player |
| QuickTime Content | .qt, .mov | H.264 | QuickTime |
| MPEG-4 | .mp4 | MPEG-4 AVC/H.264 or MPEG-4 ASP | QuickTime, Windows Media Player |
| WMV – Windows Media Video | .wmv | WMV | Windows Media Player |
| * These video formats are supported by a number of media players. Only the more common players are listed here for reference. | | | |

Recommended Media Format

Because it is best to upload a video in its original format, the recording settings should match the recommended format and resolution. This way the digital file created when you record will meet the suggested specifications without any additional effort or conversion on your part.

- **Bitrate:** To ensure your video meets the file size requirements, we recommend a video bitrate of 256Kbps. Candidates seeking to increase the visual quality of their video clips may use higher bitrate settings, but please be aware that this will result in a larger file which may exceed the file size requirement or be more difficult to upload.
- **File Size:** The target file size is 200 MB to 300 MB or less.

Note: The ePortfolio system file size limit is 500 MB. You may need to use a video conversion tool to compress your video into a smaller file size to facilitate its upload. A technical guide that outlines this process is available at www.nbpts.org/national-board-certification/candidate-center/eportfolio-submission/.

- **Resolution:** To achieve the target file size, be sure to set the proper resolution before you start recording. Commonly used lower resolutions like "320 x 240" and "640 x 480" will yield the best results. Higher resolutions and "HD quality" will produce file sizes too large to be conveniently uploaded and should be avoided.
- **Frame Rotation:** We recommend shooting video in landscape aspect ratio.
- **Frame Rate:** We recommend shooting in or encoding to 24 (23.98), 25, or 30 (29.97) fps. 30 fps is common.
- **Pixels:** Non-square (anamorphic) pixels are handled automatically.
- **Deinterlace:** Interlaced videos are handled automatically.
- **Keyframes:** Keyframes can be set to automatic on device.

Additional Resources

Please visit www.nbpts.org/national-board-certification/candidate-center/eportfolio-submission for other helpful resources, including technical guides, video tutorials, and Frequently Asked Questions.