

Film industry roles 1 AC:

Who Is First Assistant Camera and What Do They Do?

The first assistant camera (also called the 1st assistant camera, 1st AC, first AC, or focus puller) has one main job: they sit next to the camera during filming and operate the lens's focusing ring. The role of the focus puller is to keep the right subject in focus throughout each scene.

Pulling focus is considered one of the hardest jobs on set—the first AC not only has to get the shot in focus, they have to keep the shot in focus. For example, if an actor walks from the background to the foreground, the first AC has to calculate exactly how much to pull the focus in order to keep the actor sharp in the focal plane. A good focus puller can keep the actor in focus during multiple takes, even if the actor doesn't move at quite the same speed each time.

The first AC is also in charge of maintaining and organizing all camera equipment and accessories on set—cleaning camera lenses and setting up and taking down the camera each day, so that it's ready for the next day of filming.

Film industry roles 2nd AC

Who Is 2nd Assistant Camera and What Do They Do?

The second assistant camera (also called the 2nd assistant camera, 2nd AC, second AC, or clapper loader) works the “clapper board,” the slate that marks the beginning of each take, keeping footage organized for the post-production team. The second AC keeps the information updated on the slate—for instance, which roll, scene, and take is being filmed—and claps it in front of the camera. Additional tasks that the second AC owns on set include:

- Support the first AC during rehearsal by watching where actors move during scenes and placing focus marks on the ground in tape. This lets the first AC know where to pull focus while filming.
- Keep a report of every shot, including individual camera settings. This ensures that during subsequent takes and reshoots, the footage looks consistent.
- Help the first AC maintain and organize camera equipment and, if the movie is being shot on film, loading film stock into the camera.