

Low Light Events

Recommendations for shooting Indoors events such as dances, indoor homecoming events and ceremonies.

Meter Mode

Beginner: Program mode




Experienced: (Canon users **AV**, **TV** or **M**, Nikon users **A**, **S** or **M**)

Manual mode, using the fastest possible shutter speed to stop action such as 1/300-1/500

Lens: Wide angle to medium lens work best for this type of assignment

ISO: 400 if using a flash 800, 1600 or even higher in some environments. In gyms and arenas with better light and 1600 or 3200 sometimes marked as H1, H2 or H3

White Balance:  **AWB**

Flash white balance if using a flash or Auto if not using a flash.

Notes: In most cases while covering a dance a flash is almost a necessity. If using a flash using the TTL setting will give you the best results, as this is an auto setting. However using the manual mode will allow the photographer to use a slower shutter speed such as 1/30 this will add much more depth and natural light in the images. This is called dragging the shutter and it's a great way to improve flash images. If your camera has a red eye reduction feature that may also be helpful in darker situations.

Group Photos

Recommendations for shooting formal and informal groups

Meter Mode

Beginner: Landscape mode




Experienced: (Canon users **AV**, or **M**, Nikon users **A**, or **M**)

AV mode or Manual mode with the goal being getting the smallest aperture possible such as f/5.6 f/8 or f/11. This will allow for the greatest amount of depth of field. Its important to make sure group shots have the greatest amount of focus so the first row and the last row of faces will be sharp and in focus.

Lens:

A good wide-angle 16mm-35mm depending on the size of your group. A wide lens is almost always needed for shooting larger groups.

ISO: 400 for group shots outdoors, and higher ISO such as 800 or 1600 if shooting indoors keep in mind using a lower ISO will provide higher quality of images, in most cases using a flash indoors would be a better option to help reduce the grain.

White Balance:  **AWB**

Flash white balance if using a flash AWB in other cases.

Notes: The main goal in getting good group shots is to use a small aperture to increase the depth of field. Take time to pre plan your shot, whether using a flash or natural light be sure to do a test before the shoot so you'll have a better idea of your final exposure. Make sure you can see all the subjects faces as you work on placement. Often if the photographer can get slightly higher than the group by using a step ladder your images will show more faces. Always explain to the group you'll be taking many images this will increase the chances you'll get more eyes open. Using a tripod can help steady the camera.

Portraits

Recommendations for shooting formal, informal & feature portraits, headshots, quote headshots and full body shots.

Meter Mode

Beginner: Portrait mode



Experienced: (Canon users **AV**, or **M**, Nikon users **A**, or **M**)

In Manual Mode make sure to meter the light off the subject face for the best possible aperture and shutter speed setting. Avoid spotty sunlight when possible.

Lens: Here the chose depends on the the type of portrait your looking. a wide angle lens for a portrait of a football player show the team crest the player may be standing on while a medium telephoto lens can be the best option for a headshot.

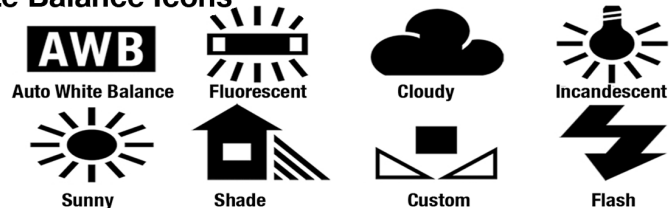
ISO: 100, 400. Select the best ISO for the light conditions. For outdoor use 100, indoors select 400 or 800, you will have to experiment with the best ISO for the light in which your working in.

White Balance: **AWB** 

Auto in most case will work fine but indoors Incandence setting is used for areas with house hold bulbs and Fluorescent setting is used for the areas tube or pig tail type bulbs.

Notes: Selecting the (Canon users **AV**, or **M**, Nikon users **A**, or **M**) will allow you to select the aper and control the depth of field. If you want an out of focus background choose a wider aperture such (such as f/2, f/2.8, f/4). In most cases an out of focus background for portraits is preferred. Using a tripod in lower light can help steady the camera.

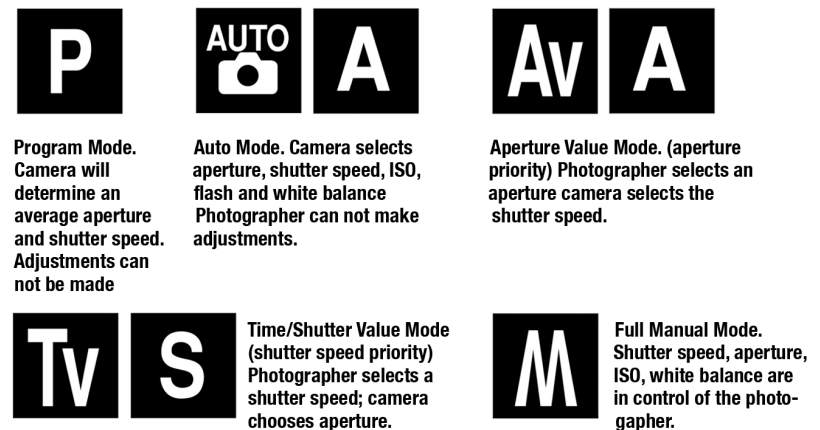
White Balance Icons



Pre-Program Exposure Mode Icons (the more basic camera functions)



Exposure Mode Icons (the more advanced camera functions)



Exposure Tips: Understanding exposure is the foundation of good photography, first you must gain an understanding of the role light plays. **Light** is the first factor of exposure and the first element you should notice as you shoot an image. Once you've seen the light select the best **ISO**, in bright light, select 100-200 in overcast light select 200-400 in low light select 800-1600. From that point, you'll choose an **Aperture** (f-stop) or **Shutter Speed**. Depending on what your shooting. If shooting sports action, you'll need a faster shutter speed, 1/250-1/500. If you goal is shooting a group shot the aperture will be most important, selecting f/5.6, will insure the first two rows of people in focus, f/11 to get 5 rows of people in focus.