COURSE SYLLABUS

Adobe Illustrator Course Online

Learn how to draw and edit vector graphics in Adobe Illustrator at your own pace. This course explores both foundational and advanced features, including the Pen tool, effects, layers, masks, and more. It is ideal for creating logos, icons, and other vector graphics.

Group classes (Live Online) and onsite training are available for this course. For more information, email partnerships@vdci.edu or visit: https://vdci.edu/courses/adobe-illustrator-course-online



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Course Outline

Section 1

Drawing with Basic Shape Tools

- Drawing Ovals & Perfect Circles
- Creating Precise Shapes
- Setting Fill & Stroke Color
- Using the Eyedropper to Copy Formatting
- Navigating a File: Zooming & Scrolling
- Outline & Preview Views

Shape Controls

- Rounded Rectangles
- Polygon Tool & Triangles
- Star Tool
- Scaling Corners & Strokes

Line Tools, Variable Width Strokes, & Rotate Tool

- Line, Arc, & Spiral tools
- Width tool & Variable Width Strokes
- Rotate tool
- Flipping Horizontally

Building Complex Shapes with Basic Shapes

- Using the Direct Selection Tool to Move Individual Points
- Using the Pen tool to Remove Anchor Points
- Deleting Anchor Points
- Joining

- Aligning
- Working with Groups

Section 2

Pathfinder

- Comparing Pathfinders
- Pathfinders vs Shape Modes
- Live Compound Shapes

Image Trace

- Image Trace
- Converting Hand-Drawn Sketches into Vectors
- Adding Color with Live Paint

Social Media Graphics with Type, Photos, & Vectors

- Importing Photos
- Sample Colors with the Eyedropper Tool
- Adding Type
- Adding Vector Shapes
- Using the Curvature Tool to Curve Lines
- Working with Multiple Artboards
- Saving Illustrator Files That Contain Linked Photos

Exporting as JPEG, PNG, & SVG

- Exporting SVG Files
- Exporting Multiple Artboards with “Export for Screens”
- Exporting Parts of a File Using “Assets Export”

Section 3

Drawing with the Pen Tool: Straight Lines

- Drawing Straight Lines with the Pen tool
- Offset Path

Drawing with the Pen Tool: Curves

- Drawing Curves with the Pen tool
- Anchor points & direction points

Drawing with the Pen Tool: Corners & Curves

- Drawing Corners & Curves with the Pen tool
- Changing a Curve to a Corner with the Anchor Point Tool

Color Swatches & Gradients

- Using Color Swatches
- Creating Gradients

Section 4

No Smoking Sign

- Tracing Over an Image
- Working with Template Layers
- Basic shape tools
- Grouping objects

Join, Average, & Aligning Points

- Join Command vs Join Tool
- Average Command
- Aligning Anchor Points

Strokes: Dashed, Dotted, Gradients, & More

- Using the Width Tool for Strokes on Shapes
- Rotating Copies
- Gradient Strokes
- Radial Repeat
- Creating Dashed & Dotted Strokes

Patterns

- Creating & applying patterns
- Scaling, Rotating, & Moving patterns
- Editing Patterns

Section 5

Clipping Masks

- Making a Clipping Mask
- Adding Things Into a Clipping Mask
- Adding a Stroke to the Clipping Mask

Masking with Type

- Using Type as a Clipping Mask
- Putting Photos into Type

Blending Objects

- The Blend tool
- Blending Options
- Adjusting the Spine

The Appearance Panel & Multiple Strokes

- Adding Multiple Strokes Using the Appearance Panel
- Adding Strokes to Objects vs Groups
- Adding an Offset Stroke

Section 6

3D Text

- Adding a 3D Effect to Type

- Render with Ray Tracing
- Rendering Resolution

3D Revolve: Making a Soda Can

- Adding a 3D Revolve Effect
- Adding a Label Design onto the Soda Can
- Adjusting the Lighting

Putting a Design into a Mockup Photo

- Using the Mockup Feature with Your Own Photo
- Blending the Design into the Mockup

Recoloring Artwork

- Creating Color Variations using the Recolor Feature
- Pulling Colors from a Photo
- Creating & Using a Color Group

Generate Vectors with Adobe's AI (Artificial Intelligence)

- Having AI (Artificial Intelligence) Draw Vectors for You
- Using Adobe's Firefly AI in Illustrator