COURSE SYLLABUS

AI Design Certificate Program

Master Adobe Creative Suite, Figma, AI image generation, and AI-assisted app development in one program, finishing with a design portfolio, a UX case study, and three deployed web applications.

> Group classes (Live Online) and onsite training are available for this course. For more information, email partnerships@vdci.edu or visit: https://vdci.edu/certificates/ai-design-certificate-program-online



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Course Outline

This package includes these courses

- Adobe Photoshop Bootcamp Online (18 Hours)
- Adobe Illustrator Bootcamp Online (18 Hours)
- Adobe InDesign Bootcamp Online (18 Hours)
- Graphic Design Portfolio Bootcamp Online (30 Hours)
- Figma Bootcamp Online (12 Hours)
- Figma Advanced Course Online (6 Hours)
- UI Design Portfolio Bootcamp Online (30 Hours)
- UX Design Foundations Course Online (12 Hours)
- UX & UI Design Bootcamp Online (114 Hours)
- AI for Graphic Design & Multi-Model Workflows Course Online (30 Hours)
- AI Coding Tools & App Development Course Online (60 Hours)
- AI Design Portfolio Development Course Online (90 Hours)

Adobe Photoshop Bootcamp Online

Retouch and color-correct photographs, combine images into seamless composites, and build graphics for web, video, and print using Photoshop's professional editing toolkit.

- Retouch photographs and build graphics for digital, web, video, and print
- Adjust color, brightness, and contrast to correct and enhance images
- Isolate specific areas of an image using selections and layer masks
- Work non-destructively with adjustment layers, Smart Objects, and smart filters
- Remove and replace backgrounds cleanly
- Apply Generative Fill and Generative Expand to extend and repair images
- Process raw files in Camera Raw for maximum image quality

- Create visual effects with filters, shadows, and blend modes

Adobe Illustrator Bootcamp Online

Draw and edit vector graphics in Adobe Illustrator, from logos and icons to patterns and typography, and export them correctly for any medium.

- Create icons, logos, patterns, and typographic artwork as scalable vector graphics
- Master the Pen tool using guided tracing templates
- Build complex shapes from simple ones using Pathfinder and shape-building tools
- Work with appearance attributes, effects, layers, and masks
- Produce rich color artwork with gradients, blends, and custom swatches
- Convert raster artwork to vector with Image Trace
- Explore color directions quickly using Generative Recolor
- Export and package files correctly for web, digital, and print

Adobe InDesign Bootcamp Online

Design professional multi-page layouts in Adobe InDesign and prepare print-ready files, building a book, magazine spread, brochure, menu, and business card along the way.

- Build layouts that combine text, color, and graphics across multiple pages
- Import, thread, and style text with paragraph, character, and nested styles
- Control multi-page documents with parent pages and baseline grids
- Define and apply color consistently throughout a document
- Design short and long-form pieces: brochures, business cards, menus, magazines, and books
- Apply professional typesetting techniques, including hyphenation and justification control
- Package files and export print-ready PDF/X for commercial output

Graphic Design Portfolio Bootcamp Online

Build a job-ready graphic design portfolio of eight professional projects, refined through critique and published as a portfolio website.

- Apply the elements and principles of design to real-world briefs
- Develop eight portfolio pieces spanning identity, editorial, collateral, and digital work
- Design brand identity systems, including logos and supporting assets
- Combine typography, layout, and color into cohesive compositions
- Give, receive, and act on design critique
- Deepen your grasp of formal and conceptual design thinking
- Refine work to a professional standard through iteration
- Publish a curated portfolio website with Adobe Portfolio

Figma Bootcamp Online

Design and prototype user interfaces in Figma using frames, auto layout, components, variants, and smart animations, then prepare your work for developer handoff.

- Design UI and UX layouts for websites, apps, and digital products
- Build responsive screens for mobile, tablet, and desktop using auto layout
- Work on grids and export production-ready image assets
- Create reusable components and variants to keep files consistent
- Build interactive prototypes that move between screens and states
- Add motion with smart animate
- Share styles and components through team libraries and design tokens
- Document designs and share files for developer handoff

Figma Advanced Course Online

Add realistic interactivity to Figma prototypes with variables, modes, and conditionals, and build design systems that scale to light and dark themes.

- Use Figma's advanced prototyping features to model real product behavior
- Work with variables and variable modes
- Add conditional logic so prototypes respond to user input
- Organize complex files with sections
- Build light and dark modes from a single variable collection
- Structure design systems with primitive and semantic layers

UI Design Portfolio Bootcamp Online

Learn UI design concepts and best practices, then build a portfolio of responsive website and mobile app designs in Figma.

- Apply UI design concepts, conventions, and best practices
- Design websites and mobile applications in Figma
- Work with color, typography, layout, and spacing as a designer, not a technician
- Use common interface patterns and components appropriately
- Wireframe before committing to visual design
- Design responsively across screen sizes
- Develop portfolio projects that demonstrate UI capability

UX Design Foundations Course Online

Learn the end-to-end user experience design process, from research and personas through information architecture, wireframing, and usability testing.

- Understand what user experience design is and how it differs from UI design
- See how UX designers work and collaborate across a product team
- Follow the UX design process from research through iteration
- Apply research methods including user interviews, observation, and heuristic evaluation
- Produce core UX deliverables: personas, journey maps, and scenarios
- Structure information architecture and user flows
- Sketch and wireframe through an iterative design process
- Document and present design work and the reasoning behind it

UX & UI Design Bootcamp Online

- Conduct user research through interviews, surveys, competitive analysis, and usability testing
- Create personas, journey maps, user flows, and information architecture to guide design decisions
- Design wireframes, responsive layouts, and polished UI projects for web and mobile interfaces
- Apply usability principles, accessibility standards, and common UI patterns to improve user experiences
- Build interactive prototypes and iterate on designs based on feedback, usability findings, and project goals
- Document your process in a portfolio-ready UX case study that demonstrates user-centered design thinking

AI for Graphic Design & Multi-Model Workflows Course Online

Use Adobe Firefly, Midjourney, DALL-E, and Google Imagen to generate and refine professional design assets, with the prompt engineering and licensing knowledge commercial work requires.

- Generate and refine images across Firefly, Midjourney, Leonardo, DALL-E, and Google Imagen
- Write and iterate prompts that produce usable, on-brief results
- Choose the right model for each stage of a creative brief
- Use AI features inside Photoshop, Illustrator, and InDesign to speed production
- Integrate AI output into production-ready design deliverables
- Apply commercial licensing, indemnification, and copyright rules to AI-assisted work
- Account for data privacy, resolution limits, and disclosure norms
- Evaluate where AI genuinely helps a design workflow and where it does not

AI Coding Tools & App Development Course Online

Learn to build, test, and deploy full-stack web applications with AI coding tools, covering prompting, version control, databases, authentication, security, and hosting.

- Use AI coding tools confidently for real, multi-step development work
- Prompt and steer AI with context setting, planning, review, and recovery techniques
- Work with Git and GitHub for version control, branching, and code review
- Understand web development fundamentals: HTML, CSS, JavaScript, APIs, front end, and back end
- Build full-stack applications with databases, authentication, and external APIs
- Connect external services through MCP integrations and orchestrate sub-agents
- Debug, test, and secure an application before release
- Deploy production-ready applications to a live public URL

AI Design Portfolio Development Course Online

- Plan and scope portfolio-ready design applications based on your creative and career goals, with instructor guidance on selecting three projects from seven options
- Build a custom portfolio website with project galleries, case studies, contact forms, asset uploads, hosting, and custom domains
- Create interactive design tools, such as design systems with editable tokens, component previews, and exportable design variables
- Develop AI-powered creative tools, including brand studios, social ad generators, pitch deck designers, and brand identity starter kits
- Build motion and microinteraction tools with live previews, developer-ready handoff specs, and polished user interactions
- Integrate databases, authentication, APIs, file uploads, responsive design, accessibility, and production polish into live portfolio applications