COURSE SYLLABUS

Digital Design Certificate Online

Become a well-rounded Digital Designer by learning essential Adobe applications, Figma for UI design, and key design concepts and theory. Develop a strong understanding of design concepts, processes, and workflows, create modern, polished designs, and present them in a portfolio.

> 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/digital-design-certificate-online



admissions@vdci.edu • (619) 758-9300

Course Outline

This package includes these courses

- Adobe InDesign Course Online (30 Hours)
- Adobe Photoshop Course Online (30 Hours)
- Adobe Illustrator Course Online (30 Hours)
- Graphic Design Portfolio Course Online (30 Hours)
- Figma Course Online (12 Hours)
- UI Design Bootcamp Online (30 Hours)
- Graphic Design Capstone Project (18 Hours)
- AI for Graphic Design Course Online (12 Hours)

Adobe InDesign Course Online

Learn to design professional page layouts at your own pace using Adobe InDesign. Work with text, images, and multiple pages while mastering essential tools, styles, and advanced techniques to create books, magazines, and advertisements.

- Design layouts incorporating text, color, and graphics
- Import and format text and graphics for professional-quality designs
- Apply and manage colors throughout your documents
- Create short and long-form publications, including brochures, ads, magazines, and books
- Prepare files for final output, including printing and PDF export
- Create and edit paragraph and character styles for consistent text formatting
- Use parent pages to manage layouts across multi-page documents
- Work with anchored objects, tables, libraries, find/change functions, and other advanced tools

Adobe Photoshop Course Online

Learn how to retouch and color correct photos, combine images, and create graphics in Photoshop. This course covers the basic and intermediate features of Photoshop such as color/contrast, photo retouching, layers, masks, filters, and saving files for web/video/print.

- Learn to retouch photos and design graphics
- Enhance images by adjusting color, brightness, and contrast
- Use selections to edit specific areas of an image
- Prepare images for digital, web, video, or print formats
- Simplify edits with adjustment layers
- Remove backgrounds using layer masks
- Sharpen and refine photos
- Apply visual effects with filters, shadows, blend modes, and more

Adobe Illustrator Course Online

Learn to create and edit vector graphics at your own pace using Adobe Illustrator. This course covers everything from basic shapes to advanced design techniques, including the Pen tool, effects, layers, masks, and more—ideal for designing logos, icons, patterns, and packaging.

- Design a variety of graphics, including logos, icons, patterns, packaging, and typography
- Master vector drawing with the Pen tool using tracing templates
- Work with shapes, brushes, and painting tools to enhance your designs
- Create vibrant vector graphics using gradients and blends
- Develop patterns for graphic and fashion design projects
- Design graphics for packaging
- Export and save files optimized for web or print

Graphic Design Portfolio Course Online

Build a strong foundation in graphic design while working on real-world projects to expand your portfolio. This course covers key design principles, typography, color theory, and layout techniques, preparing you to create logos, posters, book covers, and digital assets.

- Explore essential design concepts, including composition, typography, and color theory.
- Develop a creative workflow, from ideation and sketching to final digital execution.
- Create portfolio-worthy projects such as logos, book covers, event posters, and album artwork.
- Learn to use design hierarchy and grid systems to create visually engaging layouts.
- Incorporate industry-standard tools like Photoshop, Illustrator, and InDesign into your design process.
- Refine your work through critiques and upload your final projects to Adobe Portfolio.

Figma Course Online

Learn to design and prototype user interfaces using Figma, a leading platform for UI and UX design. This course teaches essential skills such as working with components, using auto layout, building interactive prototypes, and collaborating effectively with team members.

- Create UI and UX layouts for mobile, tablet, and desktop using grids and frames

- Use components and variants to efficiently build and manage reusable design elements
- Develop interactive prototypes with clickable interactions, overlays, and smart animations
- Apply auto layout to manage spacing, alignment, and responsive design behavior
- Collaborate and share designs in real time using Figma's cloud-based collaboration tools
- Export assets for web, applications, and developers in formats such as SVG and PNG

UI Design Bootcamp Online

Build a strong foundation in UI design and develop a portfolio of professional projects in this hands-on course. Learn best practices for designing websites and mobile apps, from early wireframes to refined visual design concepts.

- Develop a solid understanding of UI design fundamentals, including typography, color, and layout principles
- Design engaging, user-friendly interfaces for websites and mobile applications
- Use Figma to create wireframes, prototypes, and interactive designs
- Receive personalized feedback and expert guidance to strengthen your design skills
- Create portfolio-ready projects that showcase your UI design abilities
- Learn industry best practices and UI patterns used to produce effective digital products

Graphic Design Capstone Project

Throughout this program, you will complete a capstone project to showcase in your portfolio:

- Create a complete brand identity by researching, conceptualizing, and designing visual assets—including a logo, moodboard, and supporting materials—that reflect a clear brand strategy and aesthetic.
- Apply the visual identity across various contexts such as packaging, signage, and digital platforms, while producing polished graphic design pieces that show consistency and creativity.
- Document and present your work in a professional portfolio and final presentation, showcasing your creative process, technical skills, and the tools used to bring your branding concept to life.
- Work on your capstone project both in and outside of class, using scheduled mentoring sessions to review your progress, ask questions, and get personalized feedback from your instructor.

AI for Graphic Design Course Online

Explore how artificial intelligence is transforming graphic design with hands-on projects that integrate tools like Adobe Firefly, Midjourney, and ChatGPT. Learn to streamline creative workflows, enhance visual assets, and build cohesive brand packages using leading AI platforms.

- Generate vector illustrations, photo edits, and layouts using AI tools in Illustrator, Photoshop, and InDesign.
- Create original visuals through prompt-based image generation with Midjourney, Leonardo AI, and DALL·E 3.
- Enhance and restore images with AI-powered sharpening, upscaling, and de-noising techniques.
- Use ChatGPT and Notion AI to develop creative briefs, brand names, and design directions.
- Build mood boards, style guides, and concept sets with free and paid AI design tools.
- Assemble a complete brand identity using multiple AI platforms in a simulated design workflow