COURSE SYLLABUS

Graphic Design Certification Course Online

Start your path toward becoming a professional graphic designer by learning the key skills and tools used by industry professionals. Gain hands-on experience with Adobe Photoshop, InDesign, and Illustrator, and build a polished portfolio that showcases your work to potential employers or clients.

> 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/graphic-design-course-online



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Course Outline

This package includes these courses

- Adobe Photoshop Course Online (30 Hours)
- Adobe InDesign Course Online (30 Hours)
- Adobe Illustrator Course Online (30 Hours)
- Graphic Design Portfolio Course Online (30 Hours)
- AI for Graphic Design Course Online (12 Hours)

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 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 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.

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