

Credentials Overview — Graphic Designer



Credential Options

Cost Details

Adobe Certified Associate: Visual Design Specialist/Certiport *recommended

This is an industry recognized credential demonstrating the holder's practical and technical knowledge of the Adobe Suite. The following ACA certifications are required: Graphic Design and Illustration using Adobe Illustrator, Print and Digital Media Publication using Adobe InDesign, and Visual Communication using Photoshop.

Completion Time: **Testing available year-round; preparation time will vary.**

Difficulty Level (Low, Moderate, High, Very High): **Moderate.**

Exam:

- \$285.00 (\$95.00/exam)
 - \$115.00 per exam w/retake)

Preparation:

- \$42.00

Specialized Certificate in Graphic Design/UC San Diego Extension

This certification program focuses on building essential design skills, such as branding, web design, and page-layout. Students will gain a strong foundation in typography and practice solution-focused thinking. This is a 16-credit course, and it is recommended students have a strong foundation in the Adobe Creative Cloud.

Completion Time: **One to two years (varies by number of courses taken per semester).**

Difficulty Level (Low, Moderate, High, Very High): **High.**

Course

- +/- \$3,300.00
 - Does not include recommended pre-requisites in Adobe Suite.

Certificate in Graphic Design/Community College of Denver

This two-semester, 30-credit program provides you with the necessary skills for entry into the field of graphic design. The graphic design profession involves graphic and advertising design, illustration, and digital media production. The CCD graphic design program teaches you to develop basic skills for the entry into the profession.

Completion Time: **One year.**

Difficulty Level (Low, Moderate, High, Very High): **High.**

Course

- \$6,102.85 (2 semesters, 30 credits).



Credentials & Coursework — Graphic Designer

Higher Ed Coursework (Year 3)

Course	Description	Approx. Cost*
MGD 102 Intro. to Multimedia	Introduces the basic components of multimedia: text, graphics, animation, sound and video. Students gain an introductory knowledge of various multimedia and design software programs.	\$800
MGD 111 Adobe Photoshop 1	Concentrates on the high-end capabilities of Adobe Photoshop as an illustration, design, and photo retouching tool. Students explore a wide range of selection and manipulation techniques that can be applied to photos, graphics, and videos.	\$800
MGD 112 Adobe Illustrator 1	Concentrates on the high-end capabilities of Adobe Illustrator as an illustration, design, and vector drawing tool. Students learn how to use the tools to create digital artwork that can be used in web design, print media, and digital screen design.	\$800
MGD 114 Adobe InDesign	Introduces students to InDesign, a page layout program which integrates seamlessly with other Adobe design programs. InDesign delivers creative freedom and productivity to DTP. Class discussions and independent project supplement hands-on classroom work.	\$800
COM 115 Public Speaking	Combines the basic theories of communication with public speech performance skills. Emphasis on speech preparation, organization, support, audience analysis, and delivery.	\$800

*Training and Higher Ed Coursework may vary based on the needs of the employer and the trajectory of the apprentice. The above information suggests a sample of what the apprenticeship would entail.