

Graphic Design Certificate Program

Academic Plan as of summer 2025

Program Description:

This program explores the history of graphic design, the basics of color theory, the elements and principles of design, and the tools and technologies used in visual communication. Build proficiency in Adobe's software leading the commercial printing and graphic design industry. Learn the ins and outs of creating signs and graphics for tradeshow and conventions, one of the biggest industries in Las Vegas. Discover techniques for a successful print on demand business model. Students will showcase these new skills and more in a pair of final Graphic Design and Print Design portfolio projects.

Program Learning Outcomes:

By the end of the Graphic Design certificate program, students will be able to:

- Design a multi-layered photo composition with text elements, masking, and adjustment layers.
- Edit photos including tonal and color adjustments, removal of unwanted areas and merging multiple photos.
- Create digital illustrations in both vector and raster formats.
- Determine correct file specifications to be sent to commercial printers.
- Develop a unique and unified brand for a real or fictitious company.
- Communicate ideas with clarity and graphic uniformity across multiple media types.

Prerequisites and Admissions Requirements:

High School Diploma or equivalent.

Program Requirements:

To earn the Graphic Design Certificate, you must successfully complete the 10 required courses* for a total of 135.0 contact hours (12.9 CEUs).

Required Courses:

- Principles of Graphic Design (WM8178)
- Adobe Illustrator I (WM8121)
- Adobe InDesign I (WM8106)
- Adobe Photoshop I (WM8122)
- Adobe Illustrator II (WM8100)
- Adobe Photoshop II (WM8123)
- Introduction to Print on Demand (Clothing, Wall Art & Goods) (WM8180)
- Large Format Printing & Design for Tradeshow & Conventions (WM8182)
- Graphic Design Portfolio Project (WM8177)
- Print Design Portfolio Project (WM8156)

**Students who started the Print Design or Graphic Design certificate program prior to summer 2025 will follow the previous Academic Plan and may contact ce-assistant@unlv.edu for assistance.*