

GRAPHIC ARTS TECHNOLOGY

Is Graphic Arts Technology for me?

The field is for you if you have ...

- An interest in printing and advertising production.
- Ability for verbal and written communication.
- Creative problem-solving, artistic skills and an eye for detail.
- An interest in computers.
- A need for a career with excellent salary and potential for advancement.
- Mechanical ability.
- The ability to work under deadlines and respond quickly to unexpected circumstances.
- Eye for detail to ensure accuracy.

What skills will I need for this field?

You will need to have ...

- The ability to use computer and software to perform editing, electronic illustration and page composition.
- Knowledge and use of layout techniques and composition.
- Knowledge of all phases of print production.
- The ability to perform the general, art and copy preparation skills as outlined by Printing Industries of America.
- The ability to operate a variety of printing presses and use basic DTP software.
- The ability to perform the skills as outlined by Printing Industries of America in the areas of introduction, art and copy preparation, image assembly reproduction photography, duplication operations and traditional and electronic imaging.

What is the work atmosphere like?

Depending on the area chosen, the work environment can range from a computer lab setting using various programs on the Macintosh, using imagesetters and/or direct-to-plate systems (DTP). Front office personnel, including financial, customer service, estimating and billing, can expect a business atmosphere. This behind-the-scenes environment is where a detailed, organized and multi-task individual would be able to excel. The pressroom is composed of highly-skilled operators who print jobs on printing presses. Bindery and finishing departments offer more of a physical routine where the finishing touches are completed. In any of the chosen areas, automation has played a large role. Computers have revolutionized the workflow in the printing industry.

What are my degree options?

Certificates

Digital Prepress Production
Print Production

Associate's Degree

Associate in Applied Science (AAS)
(Digital Prepress Production, Print Production)

Bachelor's Degree

Bachelor's degrees are available by transferring to four-year colleges and universities: Illinois State University-Normal, Robert Morris College-Aurora, Central Missouri State University, Western Michigan, Ferris State University-Michigan, Northwood College-Lisle.

What are my career opportunities?

Persons hired in advertising agencies, graphic arts studios or print shops often start with routine work. Advancement is possible to become production artists, layout or technicians. Many opportunities exist for those with experience and education to advance to supervisor and managerial positions.

What can I do with these degrees?

If you have completed ...

High School Diploma

Bindery Production, Offset Press Operator, Graphic Designer

Associate in Applied Science Degree

Advertising Designer, Color Specialist, Customer Service, Desktop Operator, Digital Prepress, Estimator, Ink Technician, Press Operator, Quality Control, Sales Representative, and Scanner Operator

Certificate

Color Proofer, Prepress Operator, Offset Platemaker, Offset Press Operator, Order Entry, Preflight Operator, Press Feeder 4/C Press, Press Mechanic, Scanner Operator

Bachelor's Degree

Advertising Executive, Art Director, Computer Programmer, Customer Service Representative, Estimator, Graphic Arts Teacher, Management Trainee, Network/Systems Manager, Pre-Press Supervisor, Print Buyer, Print Production Coordinator, Quality Control Technician

How can I prepare now?

Recommended courses ...

Math

Algebra or Applied Math

Science

Chemistry Fundamentals, Computer Basics

Communications

Composition, Speech, Technical Writing

Occupational Electives

Fundamental and Advanced Graphic Arts

Recommended Supporting Electives

Art/Design, Electronic Fundamentals, Photography

What should I take in my first semester at C.O.D.?

GAT 1101: Printing, Methods, and Processes

GAT 1102: Introduction to Graphic Publishing Applications

Eng 1101: Composition I

Whom can I talk to for more information?

Liberal Arts Division
(630) 942-2047

For more information on the Associate in Applied Science Degree curriculum, see your program coordinator, or go to www.cod.edu.

What about my articulated credit?

Check with your high school coordinator to see if you are eligible for articulated credit at College of DuPage.