

Art & Graphics Careers

Graphic artists, whether freelancers or employed by a firm, use a variety of print, electronic and film media to create art that meets a client's needs. Most graphic artists use computer software to design new images; some of this work appears on the Internet and CD-ROM. As computer software becomes increasingly sophisticated, more artists are likely to become involved with this medium. Graphic artists may create promotional displays and marketing brochures for new products, visual designs of annual reports and other corporate literature, or distinctive logos for products or businesses. Artists may be responsible for the overall layout and design of magazines, newspapers, journals, and other publications, and may create graphics for television and computer-generated media. For example, many magazines and newspapers have a homepage on the Internet.

Fine artists may sell their works to stores, commercial art galleries and museums, or directly to collectors. Commercial galleries may sell artists' works on consignment. Those with teaching certification may teach art in elementary or secondary schools, while those with a master's or more advanced degrees may teach in colleges or universities. Some fine artists work in arts administration in local, state or federal arts programs. Others may work as art critics, art consultants or as directors or representatives in fine art galleries, give private art lessons, or work as curators setting up art exhibits in museums.

Job Outlook

Employment of graphic designers is expected grow about as fast as average. Keen competition for jobs is expected; individuals with a bachelor's degree and knowledge of computer design software, particularly those with Web site design and animation experience will have the best opportunities. Employment of graphic designers is expected to grow 10 percent, about as fast as average for all occupations from 2006 to 2016, as demand for graphic design continues to increase from advertisers, publishers, and computer design firms. Some of this increase is expected to stem from the expansion of the video entertainment market, including television, movies, video, and made-for-Internet outlets. Moreover, graphic designers with Web site design and animation experience will especially be needed as demand increases for design projects for interactive media-Web sites, video games, cellular telephones, personal digital assistants, and other technology.

Earnings

Median annual earnings for wage and salary graphic designers were \$39,900 in May 2006. The middle 50 percent earned between \$30,600 and \$53,310. The lowest 10 percent earned less than \$24,120, and the highest 10 percent earned more than \$69,730. According to the American Institute of Graphic Arts, median annual total cash compensation for entry-level designers was \$35,000 in 2007. Staff-level graphic designers earned a median of \$45,000. Senior designers, who may supervise junior staff or have some decision-making authority that reflects their knowledge of graphic design, earned a median of \$62,000. Solo designers who freelanced or worked under contract to another company reported median earnings of \$60,000. Design directors, the creative heads of design firms or in-house corporate design departments, earned \$98,600. Graphic designers with ownership or partnership interests in a firm or who were principals of the firm in some other capacity earned \$113,000.

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Educational Opportunities in Art and Graphics at LCCC

Associate of Arts

The associate of arts is for students who want to pursue bachelor's degrees in fine art, computer art or graphic design by completing the first two or more years at LCCC. Students completing the associate of arts degree may transfer with junior (or higher) standing to the four-year university or college of their choice. The associate of arts is intended for students who wish to complete the first two or more years of a bachelor's degree program at LCCC in program fields such as:

- Fine Art
- Computer Art
- Graphic Design

Students may also select the associate of arts degree if they wish to complete the first two or more years of a bachelor's degree program at LCCC in program fields such as liberal arts, business, history, music, political science, psychology, social work, sociology, theater, urban studies, elementary education and secondary education.

There are virtually no limitations to the programs that can be pursued as LCCC can customize associate of arts programs to meet the transfer college/university's requirements

The associate of arts program may be completed in two years, if taken on a full-time basis. Many LCCC students choose to study on a part-time basis.

Students in the Associate of Arts program complete courses in:

- English
- Economics, Geography, History, Political Science, Psychology or Sociology
- Art, English, Humanities, Music, Philosophy or Theater
- Astronomy, Biology, Chemistry, Mathematics, Physics or Physical Science

Students in the Associate of Arts program may also select electives, or complement their curriculums, by choosing from such courses as color, arts and crafts, printmaking, drawing, two-dimensional design, three-dimensional design, painting, ceramics, sculpture, art appreciation, graphic design, computer art, digital photography and typography.

About Lorain County Community College

Lorain County Community College continues to experience enrollment growth because attending LCCC is the most economical way to reach educational goals that help graduates become valuable players in the future economic growth of the county and region. Because of the variety and quality of learning opportunities LCCC provides, enrollment has grown 78 percent since 2000.

Lorain County Community College, which opened in 1963, is one of Ohio's leading colleges delivering credit programs at its Elyria campus and outreach centers in downtown Elyria, Lorain, Wellington and Brunswick. Plus more than 200 courses are offered via distance-learning education options, and the Associate of Arts degree can be completed entirely online.

Students can choose from more than 80 educational programs. Students can complete the first half — and sometimes more — of a bachelor's degree through LCCC's University Partnership, which brings eight universities to the LCCC campus offering 40 bachelor's and master's degree programs. Students can upgrade, retrain and improve current life skills.

In addition to providing a great education for those who enter college with aspirations of a degree, LCCC helps those who have changed their career goals, who want to broaden their horizons, and who want to return to work. LCCC provides learning and training for those who want to move up but find they need new or improved skills for the kind of professional opportunities they seek.

LCCC faculty is recognized locally and nationally for their work as professors and in other areas. They all have advanced degrees and real world experience and understand their primary responsibility at LCCC is to teach classes.

LCCC is fully accredited by the Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools, which is the regional accrediting authority for Ohio colleges and universities. Since opening its doors, LCCC has served more than 300,000 people. More than six million students enroll annually in credit courses at America's community colleges, representing about 46 percent of all students in higher education and about 56 percent of all first-time college entrants.

 **Lorain County
Community College**

 **The University
Partnership**
of Lorain County Community College

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