

GRAPHIC DESIGN EDUCATION & CREDENTIAL OPTIONS

COMMUNITY COLLEGE PROGRAMS

School	Location	Programs	What You'll Do	Apply / Website
Anne Arundel Community College (AACC)	Arnold, MD	Graphic Design Certificate; Visual Arts Transfer (A.A.)	Apply online, meet with advisor, register for classes	https://www.aacc.edu
Community College of Baltimore County (CCBC)	Catonsville/Essex/Dundalk, MD	Graphic Design / Digital Media Programs	Apply online, complete placement, meet with advisor	https://www.ccbcmd.edu

LOCAL 4-YEAR COLLEGE PROGRAMS

School	Location	Programs	What You'll Do	Apply / Website
Towson University	Towson, MD	Graphic Design (BFA)	Apply through Common App + submit portfolio	https://www.towson.edu
UMBC	Baltimore County, MD	Visual Arts / Imaging & Digital Arts	Apply through Common App	https://www.umbc.edu
MICA (Maryland Institute College of Art)	Baltimore, MD	Graphic Design (BFA)	Apply + portfolio review required	https://www.mica.edu

INDUSTRY CERTIFICATIONS

Certification	Focus Area	How to Get It	Details	Website
Adobe Certified Professional	Photoshop, Illustrator, InDesign	Practice skills → test at school or register through Certiport	~50 min exam; ~\$95 (may be free through school)	https://certiport.pearsonvue.com/adobe
Google UX Design Certificate	UX/UI, web & app design	Enroll on Coursera and complete online modules	Self-paced; monthly subscription; beginner-friendly	https://www.coursera.org

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ONLINE LEARNING PLATFORMS

Platform	What You Can Learn	How to Start	Website
LinkedIn Learning	Adobe tools, layout, typography	Log in (often free through school/library)	https://www.linkedin.com/learning
Skillshare	Logo design, branding, social media design	Create account and start courses	https://www.skillshare.com
YouTube	Tutorials for all design tools	Search specific skills (Photoshop, Illustrator, etc.)	https://www.youtube.com

ADDITIONAL SKILLS TO LEARN

Skill	Why It Helps	Where to Learn
Figma (UI/UX Design)	Used for websites and apps	https://www.figma.com
Wix / WordPress	Build websites for clients	https://www.wix.com / https://wordpress.com
Video Editing (Premiere Pro / CapCut)	High demand for social media content	Adobe / https://www.capcut.com
Social Media Design	Many businesses need content	Canva, Instagram, TikTok practice

Start Here

- 1 Decide: Work, college, or both
- 2 Build or improve your portfolio
- 3 Choose a certification or program
- 4 Apply or enroll
- 5 Keep building skills while gaining experience