

Visual Communications

A Quick Guide to Graphic Design options at Chemeketa

Visual Communications includes what is commonly known as **graphic design**. It is constantly evolving to reflect new media and the general buzz in the field of graphic arts. Graphic design integrates work in print, web, photography, illustration, multimedia, and digital video. The language of design serves as a powerful core of knowledge and skills that will allow you to begin work in any number of creative fields or transfer to a four-year school for further study. There are many career paths open to those willing to work hard to explore creative solutions and embrace new technologies.

As part of the VC program, you will learn not only the technical skills, but also the teamwork and creative problem solving essential to a growing and changing career. You will develop skills in graphic design, layout, typography, photography, and interactive media, while attaining an AAS degree. Classes in illustration, animation and video will open new possibilities for expanding your creative abilities. You will produce both a print and a digital portfolio of work including a personal logo, resumé and web site in preparation for entering the job market. A portfolio show, introducing you to the business community, is part of spring term your final year. Small class sizes allow for one-on-one critiques with instructors and lots of personal attention. You'll find instructors who are passionate about what they teach and students who are equally dedicated to their class work. We have two amazing Mac labs with wonderful technical support and the latest software. It is an intense and demanding program. You will be challenged and you will smile as you work harder than you ever thought possible. The program is a great launching pad to wherever your creativity takes you.

We appreciate your interest in our program and hope you find this information helpful as you make decisions about your education. These words will provide a starting place for your research, but we encourage you to visit to learn more. We schedule informal overview sessions many times during the year. At this time, you will have the opportunity to meet with faculty and students, see examples of student work, tour the VC area, and get answers to all of your questions. The current overviews are listed in the schedule of classes each term and on the program web site.

Complete program information is available at vc.chemeketa.edu.

Flip to the **“B-side”** for additional contacts and step-by-step instructions for getting into the program →

**Please let us know how we can help.
We look forward to meeting you soon.**



This is the **B-side** with the fine print. Read on:

IF YOU ARE NEW TO CHEMEKETA

Welcome. Apply to the college by completing a Chemeketa application. You will need to take the ASSET or COMPASS (Placement) and spelling tests. Then meet with Financial Aid (Building 2) to see if you qualify for any assistance. If you're eligible for Work Study, let us know. We have students working in our Mac lab right now.

VISUAL COMMUNICATIONS PROGRAM INFORMATION

Attend an overview session even if you are sure that Visual Communications is the right place for you. If you have questions after you have been here and talked with us, make an appointment with Program Chair Christine Linder. You may also visit classes by contacting individual instructors. In addition, most of our evening classes are open to all students and it's a great way to see if the program is a good fit for you. The annual Portfolio Show is also open to everyone and is a good opportunity for you to talk with and see the work of our amazing students.

WHEN YOU ARE READY TO APPLY FOR THE PROGRAM

1. Time to tour Building 2: Take the Spelling* placement test. Bring this test score and meet with a counselor in Counseling and Career Services to complete your assessment for the VC program on the Student Advising and Recommendation (SAR) Form. You will then be assigned a pre-Visual Communications curriculum code. Please note that this precious piece of paper is only good for the upcoming fall admission. If you were assessed earlier, sorry, but you'll need to go back and do this again, as our program is so cutting edge that our requirements may have changed while you were lingering in other classes. Run with this form to Enrollment Services. You may now leave Building 2, although it's a good place to grab coffee. (*If you attended an overview, you'd know why this is important.)
2. Enroll in any required prerequisite courses indicated on your personal SAR form. On completion of these prerequisite classes, you will be granted full VC program status (and given a decoder ring) by the Program Chair. Note that WR121, SSPO114, ART115 and ART116 may be taken during the first two terms of the program. You must be currently enrolled in or have successfully completed all other prerequisites with a grade of "C" or higher before entering for the program. That means you can apply, but your acceptance is conditional on having completed absolutely everything. You must have completed **all** prerequisites by the end of winter term of the first year of the program before your first annual Student Review with assigned program faculty. This is not scary. If you have questions, please bring a copy of your completed form to the Program Chair.
3. Assemble your stuff. Your application materials will include a copy of your SAR form, your entrance portfolio, portfolio assignment, essay, transcripts and stamped, self-addressed envelope. All the details are available on the web. Submit your application in one impressive package to the Humanities and Visual Communications Office, (Building 5, room 264).
4. Apply early. There are no deadlines other than one week prior to the start of fall classes, but the program usually fills during the early summer months. We will accept applications until the program reaches capacity. We will screen applications on an ongoing basis, **usually** within two weeks of application. It will take longer during summer. Accepted applicants will be notified by email and a follow-up letter if you remembered to include your stamped self-addressed envelope.
5. While the primary sequences of classes begins in fall, you may apply to the program at any time. Many classes in the VC program and Art, as well as general education classes, may be taken before applying for the program. It will take a minimum of two academic years to complete the program, beginning in fall. You are encouraged to take additional time to complete the program if possible.

FOR MORE INFORMATION: VISIT, CALL, EMAIL OR CHECK FOR VC STUDENTS ON FACEBOOK

For general information or graphic design options, contact Program Chair, Christine Linder (linc@chemeketa.edu or 503.399.6473)

For web design and interactive options, contact Peter Hoelter (phoelter@chemeketa.edu or 503.399.6475)

For photography, video and animation options contact Wayne Knowles (wknowles@chemeketa.edu or 503.589.7816)

For information about our facilities or to arrange a tour contact Julian Harkema (julianh@chemeketa.edu or 503.399.5070)

For a current calendar and more information, check us out at: **vc.chemeketa.edu**.