



Digital Photography Certificate Program: FAQ

WHAT ARE THE STEPS TO EARNING A DIGITAL PHOTOGRAPY CERTIFICATE?

- Attend a free [information session](#).
- E-mail in a completed [Digital Photography Certificate Program Enrollment Form](#). This must be completed before gaining permission to register for the Portfolio Capstone class.
- You must complete all required and elective courses in your program before receiving a Certificate of Completion.

ARE THERE ANY PREREQUISITES FOR THIS PROGRAM?

There are no formal prerequisites to begin the program. The program is divided into 5 categories:

- **Core Required Classes** (Level 1 and Level 2 = 130 hours)
- **General Electives** (minimum 2 courses, 24 hours)
- **Business Electives** (15 hours)
- **Photo Editing Electives** (15 hours)
- **Portfolio Capstone** (15 hours)

Level 1 courses should be taken before Level 2 courses. All electives may be taken at any time, provided that the prerequisites are met.

HOW LONG DOES IT TAKE TO COMPLETE THE PROGRAM?

A student can take up to 13 quarters from the date of their first course to complete the program. There are **130 hours of required courses**, and a minimum of **54 hours of elective courses**, and **15 hours for the capstone**, totaling 199 hours needed in order to earn a certificate. If you took one course per quarter, this program would take you all 13 quarters (3 years plus 1 quarter).

ARE THERE A MINIMUM NUMBER OF CLASSES I NEED TO TAKE PER QUARTER?

The program was created with a busy adult in mind. It is up to you to select the number of courses you take in a quarter. Our only requirement is that you complete the certificate within 13 quarters. It is also important to note that you must attend 70% of each class and meet the stated outcomes in each course syllabus in order to receive course hours.

WHAT IF I HAVE EXTENSIVE EXPERIENCE IN SOME OF THE TOPICS TAUGHT? CAN I SKIP OR SUBSTITUTE COURSES?

Yes, it is possible to substitute/waive ONE required course with elective class during the course of completing the DP Certificate Program. Substitutions will be determined by the program advisor on a case-by-case basis and are subject to approval based on work history/experience and/or prior education. However, **students must still complete a total of 199 class hours in order to earn a program certificate**. To request a class substitution, please contact us at CE-photography@bellevuecollege.edu.

IS THERE AN ENROLLMENT PROCESS FOR THIS CERTIFICATE PROGRAM?

Please download and complete the [Digital Photography Enrollment Form](#) and email it to CE-photography@bellevuecollege.edu.

WHAT IS THE TOTAL TUITION FOR THE DIGITAL PHOTOGRAPHY CERTIFICATE PROGRAM?

The program courses are priced individually and there is no enrollment fee for this program, you merely pay for each class as you register. By the time you complete the program you will spend approximately \$3,500 for the required and elective courses. There is no Financial Aid for this program, as this is a non-credit program.

HOW MUCH CAN I EXPECT TO SPEND ON SUPPLIES AND TEXTBOOKS?

There are no required textbooks for this program. In terms of supplies, it is not necessary to make purchases outside of your DSLR camera, but you may choose to do so as you learn the uses of additional equipment (lenses, lighting, software, etc.)

IS IT REQUIRED TO PURCHASE THE SOFTWARE USED IN CLASS?

No, it is not required to purchase any software for your classes. However, if you pursue a career in photography, you will need to have your own software, especially if you work as a freelancer. BC students are eligible to purchase full version software at a discounted student price at our Bellevue College Campus bookstores. Please note that this software is for academic use only.

HOW DO I REGISTER FOR CLASSES?

- [Online](#)
- In person at our [North Campus](#), 14673 NE 29th Place, Bellevue, 98007
- By phone at (425) 564-2263

WHERE ARE THE CLASSES HELD?

Classes are held at the [North Campus](#). The online quarterly schedule always specifies the location of each class.

WHAT KINDS OF COMPUTERS DO YOU USE?

Our classrooms are equipped with PCs that utilize the latest versions of software to provide cutting-edge education.

IF I COMPLETE THIS PROGRAM WITH NO PRIOR EXPERIENCE, ARE THERE ENTRY-LEVEL JOBS? WHAT IS THE SALARY RANGE?

After finishing this program you will have enough tools to be successful as an entry-level photographer. The salary range depends on many factors and we suggest you look at the U.S. Department of Labor [Occupational Outlook Handbook](#).

WHAT CAN I DO AS A DIGITAL PHOTOGRAPHER?

Photography has excellent employment potential for working as a freelance photographer, or in enhancing other careers such as Graphic Design, Art Director, Web Designer, Journalist and many others. There are many companies that requires the skill of a Photographer. They include companies dealing with print publishing and multimedia visual communication, such as magazines, newspapers, posters, greeting cards, stock agencies, and catalogs. There are also freelance opportunities, such as Wedding Photography, Product Photography, Nature Photography and Portraits.

Please contact us with any additional questions at CE-photography@bellevuecollege.edu.

**We look forward to having you participate in the
Bellevue College Continuing Education
Digital Photography Certificate Program.**