



Frequently Asked Questions

about the Certificate III in Design Fundamentals

What is Graphic/Communication Design?

Communication design or better known as graphic design is a fast paced, no-day-is-the-same, energetic career path. With the use of computer software this career requires you to passionately create visual messages, ideas and information to connect with audiences; and work very closely with clients and colleagues.

Will I get this sort of experience doing the Certificate III in Design Fundamentals course?

You sure will. Your teacher is a practising designer as well as a teacher. She has a background in a range of creative industries, such as advertising, branding, merchandising, communications and publication design. Throughout your course, you will produce work for real clients with real deadlines and develop a professional portfolio to help you land your dream design job.

What practical skills will I gain?

You will learn how to follow a design process to produce visual designs according to project briefs and timelines, and you will develop the practical skills you need to design for web and print.

What sort of things will I produce in the course?

There are quite a few specific promotional projects within the course, such as pages for the annual College Yearbook, brochures, business cards and 3D prototypes (some vary from year to year). These projects are designed to support the theoretical components of the course such as design elements and principles, colour theory and file formats.

Do I have to be able to draw or will I always be on the computer?

No, you don't have to draw, but you will have to sketch. There is a basic drawing concepts unit and sketching sections within each design process, but if you can draw a stick figure and draft out some lettering, you'll have it covered. In saying this, you will spend equal amounts of time on and off the computer as there are significant parts of the design process that need to be undertaken before you turn your sketched ideas into a digital masterpiece.

What computer software is used in the course?

We start with Adobe Illustrator, move into Adobe Photoshop and then bring it all together with Adobe InDesign – oh, and Adobe Acrobat mingled throughout the course.

What if I don't know how to use some or any of these programs; can I still do the course?

Absolutely! This is a hands-on course and it takes you through the basic tools of each program that relates to becoming a junior graphic/communications designer.

Do I have to have my own computer and all the programs?

No, your classroom has all the computer equipment needed for the course. In addition, students have the ability to loan Surface Pros to take home, and there is over 140 other computers with the Adobe Suite available throughout the College for student use.

How long is the course?

The Certificate III Design Fundamentals is a two year course at Manea. Intake is in Year 11 and you continue on into Year 12.

Can I combine the course with my ATAR subjects?

You sure can! The Design Fundamentals course is offered onsite at Manea and is scheduled into student timetables. This means that you can finish Year 12 with a Certificate III and your ATAR, giving you a wealth of possibilities after graduation.

How do I apply for the Certificate III in Design Fundamentals?

After you complete the initial stages of the Manea Senior College enrolment process (Expression of Interest form and enrolment interview), in Term 3, short listed students will be required to undertake a design task, an interpersonal/employability skills questionnaire and be prepared to discuss them in a 15-20 minute design interview.