

Academy of Careers and Technology, Beckley West Virginia, Graphics Communications Program
<http://www.wvact.net/highsch/graphcomm.htm>

Graphic design is one of the careers expected to grow faster than the average growth rate in Minnesota. The state has approximately 4500 designers who made a median salary of \$41,877 in 2006. According to the Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development employment is expected to grow by 15.5% through 2014.

They create graphics to meet a client's specific commercial or promotional needs, such as for packaging, displays, or logos. They use a variety of mediums to achieve artistic or decorative effects.

Academy of Careers and Technology

The Academy of Careers and Technology is one of five high schools in the Raleigh County School, West Virginia system. The graphics communication program at the Academy trains students to plan, design, layout and produce a variety of print materials. It includes training for students in the use of computer applications for desktop publishing. The school has articulation agreements with Southern West Virginia Community and Technical College (28 hours) and West Virginia University Institute of Technology (14 hours).

High School Curriculum

Fundamental of Graphic Design, Electronic Imaging, Basic Darkroom Procedures, Color Processing, Image Assembly and Plate Making, Offset Press and Binding Process, Graphic Communications, and Advanced Image Assembly

The Academy is one of four schools in West Virginia accredited to offer the Print Ed certification. The Graphic Arts Education and Research Foundation administers it. The foundation is a national accreditation and certification program, based on industry standards, for graphic communications courses of study at the secondary and post-secondary levels.

Graphic Arts Education and Research Foundation <http://www.gaerf.org/printed/printed.html>

Institute of Technology at West Virginia University

<http://www.wvutech.edu/printing/>

The Trustees of the State College and University Systems of West Virginia Program Review Committee recognized the Institute's program as a "Program of Excellence." The Printing Technology and Printing Management programs were the only two programs at Tech to receive this designation this year.

The Printing Technology Program is the only two-year degree program in the state ever to receive the "Program of Excellence" designation three times. The department was the recipient of the "Governor's Award for Outstanding Vocational Education in the State of West Virginia" in 1982 and again in 1989. In 1985 it received the Secretary's Award given by the U.S. Department of Education for one of the top ten vocational educational programs in the nation. In 1991, the Tech Printing Technology Program was named as one of the "Peaks of Excellence" in the WV State College system.

The associate degree Printing Technology curriculum covers basic printing technology processes such as offset lithography, gravure, flexography, and screen printing as well as camera, layout and stripping, desktop publishing, electronic pre-press, and bindery. The program offers concentrations in color reproduction, web press, and screen-printing. The presswork area utilizes both sheet fed and web printing presses. Computer applications and electronic pre-press methods are stressed throughout the program. Upon completion of the required courses, the students specialize for one semester in a concentrated area of their choosing in order to improve proficiency in one or more skill areas.

<http://www.wvutech.edu/printing/infopg2.html#Curriculum>

Many Printing Technology Program students expand their skills by participating in summer internships, co-operative experiences, and part-time work in their field. The department encourages and assists students in locating such opportunities. Typically there are 20-25 students placed in summer internships, co-ops, and

summer work experiences.

During recent years, students worked at: E.W. Scripps Newspapers (several locations), The Post and Courier in Charleston, South Carolina, Valassis Inserts in Durham, North Carolina and Livonia, Michigan, USA Today in Arlington, Virginia, The Central Intelligence Agency, Edward Publishing in Storm Lake, Iowa, Syscan Corp. of Charleston, WV, The Lexington Herald in Lexington, KY, The State of West Virginia Consolidated Printing, Metro Web of Florence, KY, The Herald-Dispatch of Huntington, WV, Judd's Incorporated in Strasburg, Virginia , the Wall Street Journal (several locations), Color Craft of Virginia, The Color Center in Charleston, WV, and The Charleston Newspapers in Charleston, WV

The Institute of Technology's Associate of Science Degree in Printing Technology is designed to provide quality technical education to prepare technicians for the rapidly changing printing industry. The student will receive training in all of the basic skills required of the printing industry, and upon completion of the two year program should be qualified to enter the industry in a junior supervisory capacity directly responsible to the plant manager or supervisor.