2026 ADOBE PHOTOSHOP FUNDAMENTALS

Welcome to the 3-Day Photoshop Fundamentals Course—your fast track to mastering Photoshop 2026 and its next-generation AI! In just three days, you'll harness the intelligence of Photoshop's new AI engine to select, retouch, design, and generate with unmatched precision. From instant cutouts to stunning text effects and social-ready visuals, you'll experience how AI transforms speed into creativity. Explore non-destructive editing, Generative Fill, and content-aware magic in the most intuitive, AI-powered Photoshop ever. Whether you're a beginner or leveling up your skills—this is where human creativity and artificial intelligence truly unite.

Lesson 1: Introduction to Adobe Photoshop

Learn the basics of viewing and navigating the Photoshop interface, along with the fundamentals of working with images.

- What's new in 2026?
- Lecture: Concepts of Raster vs Vector
- Lecture: Artifical Intelligence features in Photoshop
- Creating & Managing A New Document / Workspaces
- Understanding Import/Export in PS 2026
- Non-Destructive Design Techniques 101

Lesson 2: Fundamentals: Fixing Images*

Simple Cleanup and Retouching: eliminate red eye, erase facial blemishes, and more in this quick, hands-on guide.

- Content-Aware vs AI: What is the difference?
- Fixing Blemishes using the Healing Tools
- Removing Red Eye, The Clone Stamp Tool
- Working with Artificial Intelligence Tools: Remove + More

Lesson 3: Power Selections for Creative Design*

Learn advanced selection techniques for accurately isolating parts of an image.

- Working with Selections & Non-Destructive Design
- What sets the amateurs apart from the pros
- The Primary 3 Selections Tools (AI Infused Selections)
- Erasing/Deleting vs Layer Masks
- Real-world selectoins in Adobe Photoshop

Lesson 4: Working with Text & Effects

Learn the basics of typography and commonly used effects such as drop shadows, glows, and more.

- Fundamental Typography in Photoshop / Adobe Fonts
- Creating great looking text: Paragraphs vs Titles
- Stylizing Quotes and credits
- Getting artistic with creative typography

Lesson 5: Basic Creative Social Media Design

Learn how to isolate and combine images into a custom design for a social media post.

- Basic formatting, design and output for Screen
- Working with Brightness & Contrast
- Working with Color Balance
- Working with Layer Styles and Effects

Lesson 6: Bringing Everything Together

Create a retro poster that brings together the techniques covered, skills that can be applied to many other projects.

- Basic formatting, design and output for Print
- Design and layout
- Working with Layer Style Effects
- Exporting work for Print,Web,Social and Film/TV

Lesson 7: Deeper Exploration with Exports

This optional module or lesson will go further into determining what file formats are best for specific situations.

- Project delivery: Print, Social Media, Film/TV & Beyond
- Common File Formats: JPEG / PNG / GIF / TIFF / More
- New File Formats: HEIC / HEVC / WEBP / JPEG-XR/XL / More
- Saving to the Cloud vs Computer

Lesson 8: Adjustment Layers & FX

Use power features like Adjustment Layers and Masks to non-destructively alter color and manipulate images.

- Color Correction with Basic Color Adjustments
- Color Correction with Basic Adjustment Layers
- Color Targeting and manipulation
- Selection Effects Features for color isolation

Lesson 9: More Advanced Selection Techniques

Use more features and techniques to clean and refine edges in your selections.

- Cleaning Edges Destructive vs Non-Destructive
- Feathering edges of selection
- Contracting and Expanding Selections
- Fundamentals of Select and Mask

Lesson 10: Typography in Photoshop

Go beyond type fundamentals and use Photoshop's effects to create titles and creative paragraphs.

- The Character and Paragraph Panels
- Lorem Ipsum, Ligatures and Glyphs / Stylistic alternates
- Detailed Formatting for paragraphs
- Where are all the advanced settings?

Lesson 11: Pen Tool Fundamentals

Unlock the creative power of the Pen Tool to create amazing effects and art.

- Working with the Pen Tool Fundamentals
- Stroke & Fill Effects across a Path
- Paths as selections or paths as shapes
- Custom Artwork

Lesson 12: More About Text & Effects

Explore advanced text features, such as Text on a Path, to get creative with type.

- Fonts and your rights to use them / Free / Licensed
- Create Text in a Path and linking
- Create and manipulate Text on a Path
- Hidden Text Warping Techniques
- Text Path Effects

Lesson 13: Working with Presets

Learn how to create, save, and manage presets to preserve your creative tools and designs.

- What are Presets / Styles / Swatches / Gradients / Shapes / Brushes / More
- Preset Management
- Create Custom Shapes, Patterns, Swatches
- Importing and Exporting Presets

Lesson 14: Design Tricks & Tidbits

Explore practical design tricks, overlooked tools, organizational strategies, and powerful review and sharing features.

- Fringe Editing Techniques
- Getting More Creative with tools people ignore
- Useful organizations and internal notes
- Amazing Review and Sharing features

Lesson 15: Graphics for Screen (Social,Web,TV)

Use Photoshop to create and format graphics for video and web projects.

- Prepping for various screen formats and color accuracy
- Youtube Covers, Title Screens, Lower 3rds and more
- Presentations / Pitchdecks
- Prepping your Photoshop exports for video editing
- Adobe Premiere, Blackmagic Resolve, Media Composer

Lesson 16: Understanding Color Settings

Use advanced Photoshop color and formatting features to create and deliver accurate color in your projects.

- Color Settings and Color Syncing
- Working with Color Libraries (Pantone & More)
- Setting for working with Print
- Settings for working with Screen (social, film/tv, etc)
- Fundamental color tweaking

Lesson 17: Working with Brushes 101

Create, manipulate, and apply creative brushes for artistic and practical design purposes.

- The different types of Photoshop brushes
- Organic, utility, cosmetic and creative brushes
- Creating your own brushes
- 3rd Party Free & Paid Resources

Lesson 18: A Quick Guide though Filter Effects

Use some of Photoshop's most popular filter effects on images and artwork.

- Motion & Radial Blurs
- Lighting & Distortion Effects
- Generateed Effects: Flame, Trees
- Useful Legacy Effects
- Notable 3rd party effects

Lesson 19: AI Power Effects*

Use Photoshop's AI-powered effects to create, manipulate, and repair images using the latest tools.

- Working with Neural Filters & AI FX
- Tweaking Neural Effects
- AI Upscaling & Denoising New features
- The Future of Neural Effects

Lesson 20: Digital Marketing Media Design

Use your new found tools and techniques to create a digtial marketing ad!

- Learn and work with masks and the Frame Tool
- Collage designs and building templates
- Interactive feature potential
- Designing Dimensions (IG,TW,FB,etc)
- Create Artwork for Instagram & Twitter
- Working with formats / GIF / WEBP / JPEG / PNG

Lesson 21: Working with Generative Art*

Explore generative art workflows, tools, and limitations across Adobe and other AI platforms.

- Introduction to Generative Art (Adobe, Midjourney, ChatGPT, and beyond)
- Limitations of generative art
- Adobe versus the Others
- What is prompting?
- Generative Fill and Generative Extend
- Stylizations / References
- Altering reality in the best and worst ways

This outline represents a general overview of topics covered in class. Lesson order and content may be adjusted or combined as needed to create the most effective learning experience. Due to frequent application updates, provided books and materials may not always reflect every feature discussed in class, including Adobe's own documentation, which can occasionally lag behind current versions. We will always strive to provide the most accurate and up-to-date information available. Students are encouraged to take notes during class and to take full advantage of Training Connection's audit option, which allows you to retake the course at your convenience.