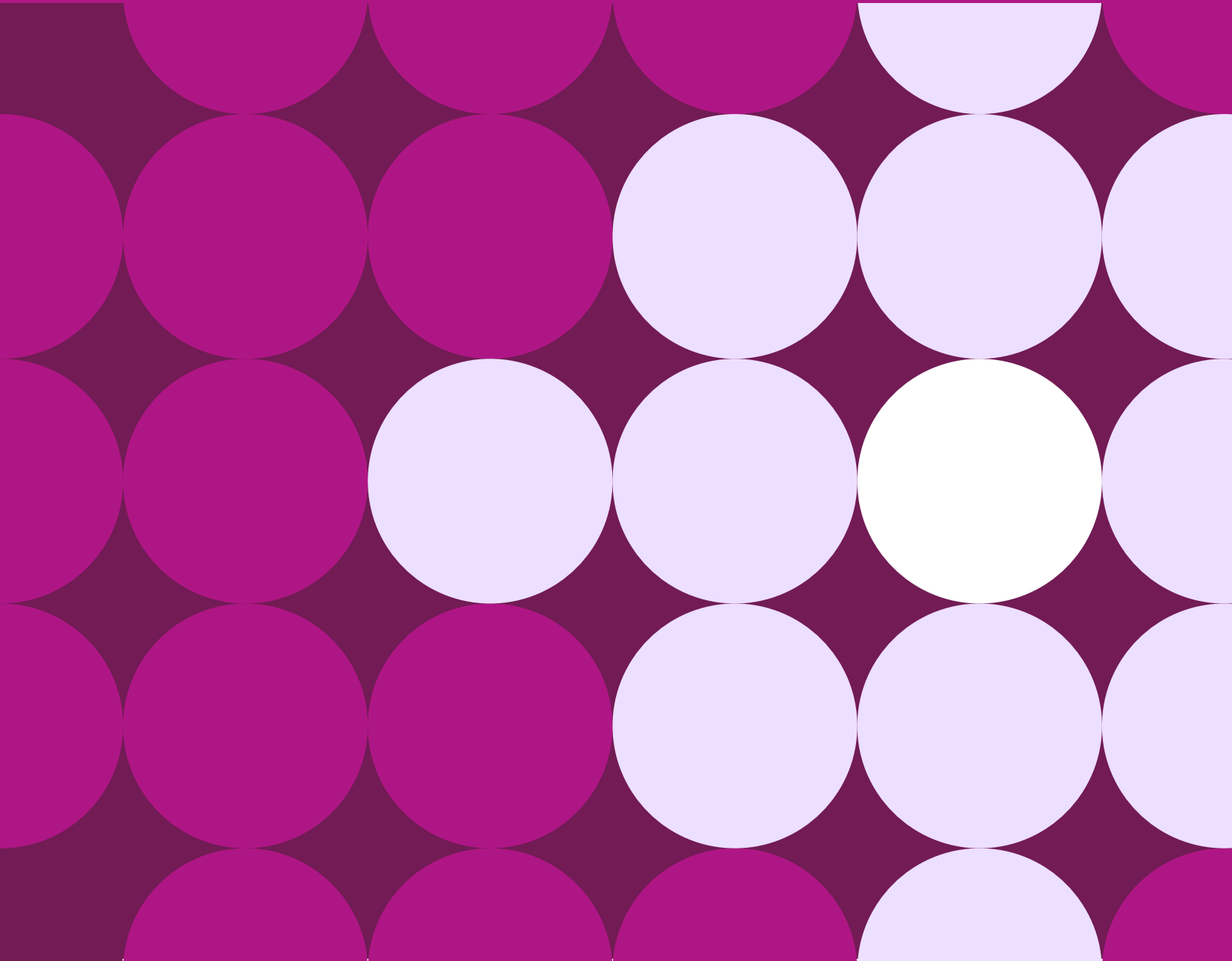


# ILLUSTRATION CAREER GUIDE

**nōssi**  
COLLEGE of  
ART & DESIGN  
nashville | [nossi.edu](http://nossi.edu)



# Build a Career Around Your Creativity

Founded in 1973, Nossi College of Art & Design is Tennessee’s only art & design college.

Located in Nashville, at the epicenter of creativity and culture, Nossi focuses on developing aspiring creatives into professionals who get paid.

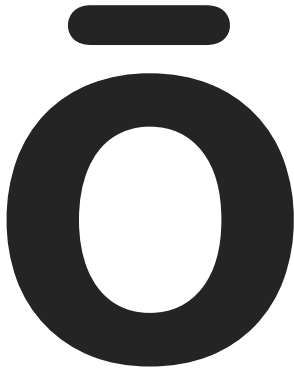
Paid to work. Paid to create. Paid to thrive.

Our instructors are creative pros that bring decades of real-world experience to our classrooms. They’ll give you the tools, the training, and the inspiration you need to go out and pursue your wildest dreams.

We don’t simply crank out artists. We turn students into creative problem solvers who are ready to take on the world.

**“Illustration students learn to see the concept of a project and learn to tell that story visually. The creative edge combined with the artistic skill set is what our students develop before becoming professional visual storytellers.”**

**Mark Fleming - Illustration Coordinator**



## The Nossi Advantage:

- Award-Winning All Access Program\* - Work alongside Nashville businesses and nonprofits to develop an inspiring portfolio with real world work.
- Student Services support team connects and plugs you into all the opportunities available to students on and off-campus.
- Career services and professional development assistance for job placement, learning to freelance, interning options, networking possibilities, and access to a **LIFETIME** of alumni benefits after graduation.
- Together Program - Nossi graduates should never feel left behind due to technology changes, emerging trends, or software upgrades. Retake any program course as a refresher workshop, for **NO COST**.
- Fixed Tuition - Your tuition **NEVER** increases as long as you are continuously enrolled in your original degree program.
- Financial aid and scholarships available to those who qualify.
- Transfer assistance available for community college, in-state, and out-of-state students.
- Campus built in 2010 exclusively for artists like you! Visit **Nossi.edu** to see it all.

.....  
**Nossi offers degrees in:**  
**Illustration Technologies**  
**Videography & Filmmaking**  
**Photography**  
**Graphic Design**  
**Culinary Arts**  
 .....

# Illustration Professionals' Salary Potential

Robert Half Talent Solutions is a North American staffing and recruiting firm filling creative positions across the United States and in Canada. They actively search for the exact kind of creative professionals Nossi's program graduates every semester—talented, prepared, and highly-educated who are ready to rock the illustration and design industries.

Interested in viewing average salaries across the United States to see what you can be working on as a beginning, intermediate, advanced, or expert illustrator? Click the below link to see the Robert Half Talent Solutions 2023 Salary Guide.\* (Percentile numbers are based on a combination of experience and skills for an illustrator).

.....  
**Like every career field,  
the more experience and  
skills you have, the more  
money you can make.**  
.....

[View Salary Guide](#)

## Potential Career Opportunities (all experience levels)

### Commercial Illustrator

Cartoonist  
Comic Book Artist  
Page Artist  
Package Designer  
Presentation Specialist  
Production Assistant  
Editorial Illustration  
Book Illustrator  
Book Publishing

Production Artist  
Production Manager  
Project Manager  
**3D Modeler**  
Multimedia Designer  
Production Coordinator  
Environmental Designer  
Digital Asset Manager  
Desktop Publisher  
Visual Designer

Page Layout Artist  
Art Director

### Creative Director

Account Director  
Account Manager  
Brand/Product Manager  
Digital Marketing Manager  
Digital Product Manager  
Creative Services Manager  
Creative Technologist

# Career Guide - This is how your career could progress over the next 14 years!

*A creative career is within your reach. You can do it!*

| Timeline  | What you'll be doing.  | What your job will be.  | Your Experience Level.  |
|---|--|---|---|
| <b>Day 1 with Nossi College of Art &amp; Design</b> | You will begin to learn about your future creative career while your friends still wonder what their next life step will be.   | Get excited about learning. Enjoy the process and take a lot of notes.  | You are on your way! Start meeting new people and you can find your first creative job before you know it!  |
| <b>Sophomore &amp; Junior Years</b>                 | You'll have a firm foundation in illustration and will begin working on projects for your portfolio.   | Build your toolbox of illustration skills and continue expanding your network.  | You're about halfway done with the program. Congrats & keep up the hard work! Start researching your internship options.  |
| <b>Senior Year</b>                                  | Learn advanced illustration skills. Get real-world experiences with Nossi All Access and Career Services. Get excited about graduation!  | Complete your brag-worthy portfolio. Make industry connections. Be the envy of your friends or former coworkers.  | At this point you should actively look for an internship, freelance options, or a part-time job in your field. Career Services is here to help!   |
| <b>CONGRATULATIONS NOSSI GRADUATE!</b>              |  |   |   |
| <b>1 year</b>                                       | CONGRATS, Graduate! If you land a job right away and work hard, you'll probably be ready for your first raise and/or promotion by end of the first year. Need more experience first? Consider looking for relevant paid internships.                             | You're doing real work now! Don't get a big head, though. You still have a lot to learn along the way. Keep taking those notes!   | When you graduate, you have several years of college experience, so you will be fit for entry-level positions until you develop more roles, experiences, and onsite job skills.               |
| <b>3-5 years</b>                                    | With 3-5 years experience you have on-the-job training after working on company projects. You may consider a new job or gain more influence in your current company.   | Plan and Illustrate. Create More. Edit More. Publish More.  | Now is where your options really start to build. An illustrator with 3-5 years of experience is valuable for any creative team.   |
| <b>10 years</b>                                     | Your options get even better now. If you stay in the corporate world, you might be looking at a management position. Or maybe you've used the networking skills you learned at Nossi to start a freelance career?  | Keep using what you've learned to contribute in significant ways to projects that matter to you.  | If you keep working hard, you will be an important asset to your team. You are an experienced professional and your salary should reflect that.   |
| <b>14 years</b>                                     | By now, industry trends have changed, and that's ok! Your skills as an expert in your field will position you perfectly for jobs as a director or manager of a creative team. Or you can just keep creating excellent illustrations. Maybe become your own boss? | Steer. Guide. Mentor. Build teams. You made it here because you're great at what you do. Now, part of your job is to enjoy the life you've made for yourself. Consider mentoring a recent college grad! | With 14+ years, you have earned a high-level of relevant skills and experiences. Maybe focus on one skill set to become an expert in your field? Value your expertise and ask for that raise! |

# Build your career with relevant courses.

**Build your foundation while learning about the business and marketing side of the creative industry.**

The normal duration of the Bachelor of Graphic Arts (BGA) program in Illustration Technologies is 11 semesters, 44 months. Graduates of the program complete 136 credit hours and earn a Bachelor of Graphic Arts degree in Illustration Technologies preparing them for entry-level work in the commercial illustration field.

|            |   |            |
|------------|---|------------|
| <b>BGA</b> | Bachelor of Graphic Arts in Illustration Technologies | 136 hours* |
|------------|---|------------|

## Courses of Major

|        |                                      |
|--------|--------------------------------------|
| BD 101 | BASIC DRAWING                        |
| DC 102 | DESIGN COMPOSITION                   |
| CT 105 | COLOR THEORY                         |
| TY 110 | TYPOGRAPHY                           |
| AF 130 | ANATOMY / FIGURE DRAWING             |
| AI 140 | ADOBE ILLUSTRATOR                    |
| GD 115 | GRAPHIC DESIGN FUNDAMENTALS          |
| PS 142 | ADOBE PHOTOSHOP                      |
| TY 216 | ADVANCED TYPOGRAPHY                  |
| ID 160 | ADOBE INDESIGN                       |
| AM 218 | ALTERNATIVE MEDIUMS                  |
| GD 120 | GRAPHIC DESIGN PROCESSES             |
| PS 324 | ADVANCED PHOTOSHOP                   |
| IL 200 | INTRODUCTION TO 3D & ANIMATION       |
| PA 205 | PRODUCTION ART                       |
| MG 250 | MOTION GRAPHICS                      |
| CW 210 | PRINCIPLES OF COPYWRITING            |
| GD 230 | GRAPHIC DESIGN ADVERTISING           |
| BM 375 | BUSINESS MARKETING FOR CREATIVES     |
| IL 310 | ILLUSTRATION ENVIRONMENTS            |
| AF 340 | ADVANCED ANATOMY & FIGURE DRAWING    |
| AI 350 | ADOBE FOR ILLUSTRATORS               |
| IL 360 | SEQUENTIAL ART                       |
| MG 360 | ADVANCED MOTION GRAPHICS             |
| IL 470 | ADVANCED 3D TECHNOLOGIES             |
| IL 380 | EXPLORING 3D                         |
| IL 410 | ADVERTISING & EDITORIAL ILLUSTRATION |
| IL 420 | BOOK PUBLISHING ILLUSTRATION         |
| IL 400 | ILLUSTRATION FOR STOCK ART           |
| IL 475 | ADVANCED ILLUSTRATION                |
| IL 440 | CAPSTONE                             |
| IS 440 | INDEPENDENT STUDY (Optional)         |
| BU 450 | PORTFOLIO & PROMOTION                |

## General Education Courses

|        |                                       |
|--------|---------------------------------------|
| SS 104 | SUCCESS STRATEGIES                    |
| AH 302 | AMERICAN HISTORY                      |
| PS 108 | PSYCHOLOGY                            |
| EN 270 | ENGLISH                               |
| EN 280 | ENGLISH: WRITTEN & ORAL COMMUNICATION |
| MA 300 | CONTEMPORARY MATH                     |
| AH 214 | ART HISTORY                           |
| WC 301 | HISTORY OF WESTERN CIVILIZATION       |
| ES 300 | EARTH SCIENCES: THE HUMAN ENVIRONMENT |
| LT 211 | LITERATURE                            |

## Curriculum Highlights

### ANATOMY & FIGURE DRAWING

The structure of the human form is taught by observing the skeleton of the human figure. Understanding bone structure is an essential part prerequisite to drawing the human figure accurately, with an emphasis on the muscle structure.

### INTRO TO 3D & ANIMATION

This course will explore programs like Blender, Photoshop, and other software on the market. Basic 3D modeling will be taught to support an illustrator in their vision of concept and commercial art. This course will also explore basic 2D animation in a variety of programs.

### BOOK PUBLISHING ILLUSTRATION

Students will be introduced to the world of book illustration for the publishing world. From children's books to graphic novels and historical to religious books, all genres will be researched and evaluated. From this class, students can choose their direction of expertise and interest.

# You've waited long enough.

**Ready to make a change?**

**Schedule Your Campus Tour**

**Apply to Nossi**

**nōssi**<sup>®</sup>  
COLLEGE *of*  
ART & DESIGN  
nashville | nossi.edu

**Sources:**

\* Robert Half Talent Solutions 2023 Marketing and Creative Salary Guide

\* Award-Winning All Access Program. Nossi College of Art & Design received the Excellence in Student Activities award from our accrediting body - the ACCSC in the Fall of 2017