

Pinnacle High School, Graphic Design 1-2 FAQ's

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Graphic Design 1-2 is an introductory level course, which exposes students to the fundamentals of graphic design (visual communication), and provides them with hands-on experience using industry-standard technology. Additionally, this course familiarizes students with the profession of visual communication (graphic design) and prepares interested students in their pursuit of potential careers in the creative and growing visual communication industry. Throughout Graphic Design 1-2, students will apply basic design concepts—utilizing relevant technology—to **primarily print-based graphic design projects**. This process will help students develop a skill-set rich in critical thinking, logic, organization, communication and problem solving.

At Pinnacle, Graphic Design 1-2 students will execute design projects using Macintosh computers equipped with Photoshop and Adobe Illustrator. No prior experience with the subject or technology is required. **Course fee: \$25**

Prerequisite Course: None

Materials Needed: A separate section in a 3-ring binder.

Graphic Design 1-2 FAQ's

Question 1: “Can Graphic Design 1-2 class count as a Fine Art credit?”

Answer: YES, all of the Graphic Design classes offered at Pinnacle High School count for Fine Art credit.

Question 2: “Do I have to own Photoshop & Adobe Illustrator in order to take Pinnacle’s Graphic Design 1-2 class?”

Answer: NO, Pinnacle Graphic Design Students do **not** need to have access to Photoshop and Adobe Illustrator outside of Pinnacle’s campus. That is, students do **not** need to own this expensive software at home—although, it may be helpful on those occasions when a student is absent.

Question 3: “If I enjoy Graphic Design 1-2, are there advanced levels of Graphic Design for me to take?”

Answer: YES, the Pinnacle High School’s Graphic Design program is a 4-year program consisting of:

- Graphic Design 1-2; Introductory Level; 1 year in length
- Graphic Design 3-4; Intermediate Level; 1 year in length (Pinnacle’s “Intro to Animation” class)
- Graphic Design 5-6; Advanced Level; 1 year in length (Pinnacle’s “Intro to Web Design” class)
- Graphic Design 7-8; Expert Level; 1 year in length

Question 4: “If I already know how to use Photoshop, can I skip over the Graphic Design 1-2 class and enroll directly into the Graphic Design 3-4 class?”

Answer: NO, the Graphic Design classes offered at Pinnacle High School are not merely software classes. That is, while students will be exposed to basic aspects of how to use Photoshop and Adobe Illustrator, the primary focus of all of the design courses is for students to learn design concepts, and then apply those concepts to a variety of visual communication projects. However, a Graphic Design 1-2 student who has had experience using Photoshop and Adobe Illustrator will likely be able to apply his or her software knowledge to the assigned projects. 😊

Question 5: “Will I be able to use the ‘stuff’ that I learn in this class when using a PC?”

Answer: YES. In Pinnacle’s Graphic Design computer lab, class work will be performed using Macintosh computers. **BUT** the vast majority of the technology concepts and techniques you will practice are applicable to the PC platform, and you may elect to use PCs outside the lab if you have access to the software and computers.

Question 6: “How important is my attendance to my overall success in the Graphic Design 1-2 class?”

Answer: Attendance is EXTREMELY important (this point cannot be stressed enough). All of Pinnacle’s Design classes are fast-paced, technology-driven courses. Attendance is crucial to a student’s success in any of the Design classes, as each new lesson builds on the previous lesson(s). Students who are absent run the risk of missing crucial in-class demonstrations that—due to time constraints and logistics—cannot be recreated for any given student.

Question 7: “Do I need to know how to draw in order to take Graphic Design 1-2?”

Answer: NO. Students do **not** need to know how to draw in order to take any of Pinnacle’s Graphic Design classes. 😊