Graphic Design-My Career Choice

Introduction

It was 1996 when I began using a computer and thus discovered another art medium, graphics. While I was learning how to operate a computer, my mentor gave me a few photos to enhance using a program called Adobe Photoshop 5. This is when I realized I wanted to pursue a degree in Graphic Design Technology through Indian River State College. Researching the job requirements for Graphic Design has ensured my decisive course of action. My website covers job requirements, duties, annual incomes, and job projections for graphic designers.

I created this queen of the Blue-winged fairies using the Adobe Photoshop program and the computer's mouse.

REQUIREMENTS

The U.S. Department Bureau of Labor Statistics (2012-13) reports that graphic designers are usually required to have a Bachelor of Science (B.S.) degree. Some companies may request that the designer present their best work in a portfolio.

It is important that graphic designers have certain skills and abilities:

- **Artistic and design abilities:** Designers need to produce designs that are pleasing to their clients.

- **Knowledge of computer software programs:** The majority of designers use computers to create designs.

- **Communication skills:** Designers must effectively speak with clients to ensure a clear and precise understanding of their client's needs and desires.

- **The ability to collaborate with others:** Teamwork is essential because often specialized designers work together on a project. Their ability to work together will help produce successful products like websites, advertisements, videos, and a wide variety of other publications.

- **Imaginative and resourceful:** A graphic designer needs to be inventive when conveying ideas to the desires of their clients, so that their clients are able to decipher the message in the design.

- **Time management skills:** Graphic designers usually work on more than one project at a time. Each project has a specific time it needs to be completed. Therefore, a graphic designer needs to know how to manage time for each project.

Learn more about [job requirements (2012-13).](#)

Duties

Graphic designers meet with clients and often with other designers or directors to discuss a plan of action to achieve a specific desired goal. The graphic designer or designers assigned to a task will produce and present colorful images, designs, and/or a variety of visual concepts to their clients that will be understood before productivity can move forward. There will be planning, developing, reviewing, revising, and communication as the assignment takes shape. Working together in this manner will ensure a pleasing outcome for designers and clients (U.S. Department Bureau of Labor Statistics, 2012-13).
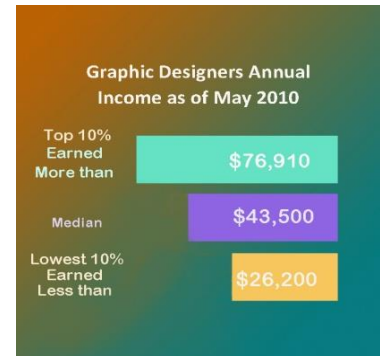
Learn more about [duties (2012-13).](#)

Income

As of May 2010, the median earned income for graphic designers was $43,500. Over $76,910 was earned by the highest top ten percent of workers, and the lowest ten percent of workers earned less than $26,200 (U.S. Department of Labor Statistics, 2012-13).

Graphic Designers Annual Wage Income as of May 2010:

Top 10% Earned More than	$76,910
Median	$43,500
Lowest 10% Earned Less than	$26,200

I created this chart from the information I gathered on the U.S. Department of Labor Statistics, 2012-13 website.

Learn more about annual income for graphic designers (2012-13).

Projection

According to the U.S. Department of Labor Statistics, Employment Projections Program, in a ten year period, from 2010 to 2020, the occupational jobs for graphic designers that use computer design systems and related services will increase by 61 percent. Internet use and new technology continues to grow, and because of this increase, there will be a greater need for graphic designers. The projected employment for graphic designers from 2010 to 2020 is from 279,200 to 316,500 (2012-13).
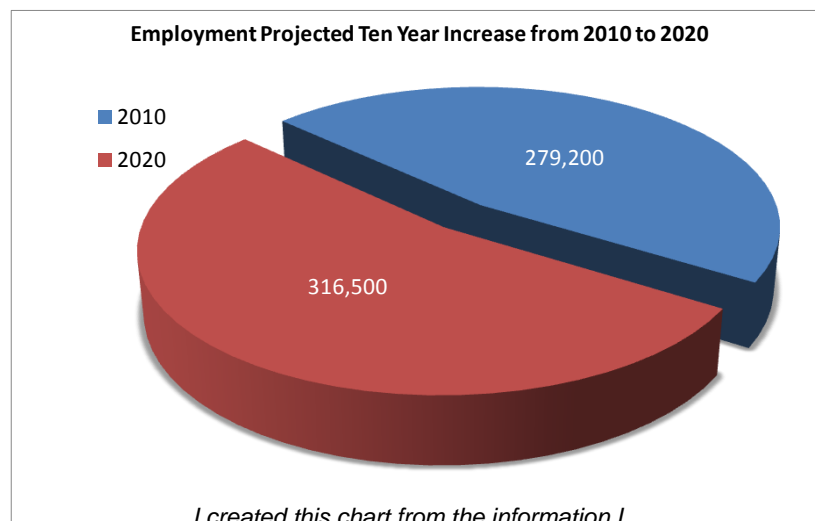
Learn more about employment increase for graphic designers (2012-13).

I created this chart from the information I gathered on the U.S. Department of Labor Statistics, 2012-13 website.

<u>Conclusion</u>

After completing my research about graphic designers, I realized that there are several occupations that require the expertise a graphic designer will have gained after receiving a Bachelors of Science degree. This is the type of work I love to do because I am creative, and because I sincerely enjoy helping others. Although I have been successful collaborating with clients and meeting their expectations, I want to learn more. Currently, I am enrolled at Indian River State College; I am expecting to receive my Associates of Science degree after the spring semester in 2014. My research has confirmed my decision to continue my education. I want to obtain extra knowledge in the field of graphic design, so I will have a better opportunity to achieve my career goals and find local employment that pays well.

References

U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics. (2012, March 29). *Occupational*

outlook handbook, 2012-13. Retrieved from http://www.bls.gov/ooh/arts-and-

design/graphic-designers.htm