

OCCUPATIONAL OUTLOOK HANDBOOK

Search

+Filter

BROWSE OCCUPATIONS →

BROWSE CATEGORIES →

OCCUPATIONAL OUTLOOK HANDBOOK

Search

+Filter

BROWSE OCCUPATIONS →

BROWSE CATEGORIES →

OOH

FEATURED OCCUPATION



CATEGORIES

- Architecture and Training
- Art and Design
- Building and Grounds Cleaning
- Business and Financial
- Community and Social Service
- Computer and Information Technology
- Construction and Extraction
- Education, Training and Library
- Entertainment and Sports
- Farming, Fishing and Forestry
- Food Preparation and Serving
- Healthcare
- Installation, Maintenance and Repair
- Legal
- Life, Physical, and Social Science
- Management
- Math
- Media and Communication
- Military
- Office and Administrative Support
- Personal Care and Service
- Production
- Protective Service
- Sales
- Transportation and Material Moving

BROWSE OCCUPATIONS

- Highest Paying
- Fastest Growing (Projected)
- Most new Jobs (Projected)
- Education Level
- Work Hours
- Growth Rate (Past)
- Number of New Jobs
- Geographical Location
- According to Ability/Disability
- Language
- Freelance
- A—Z List

BROWSE RESOURCES

- Frequently Asked Questions
- Glossary
- Teacher's Guide
- Career Outlook
- Contact Us
- Bureau of Labor Statistics
- Job Search Websites
- Career Match Assessments
- Find an expert

OCCUPATIONAL OUTLOOK HANDBOOK

Search

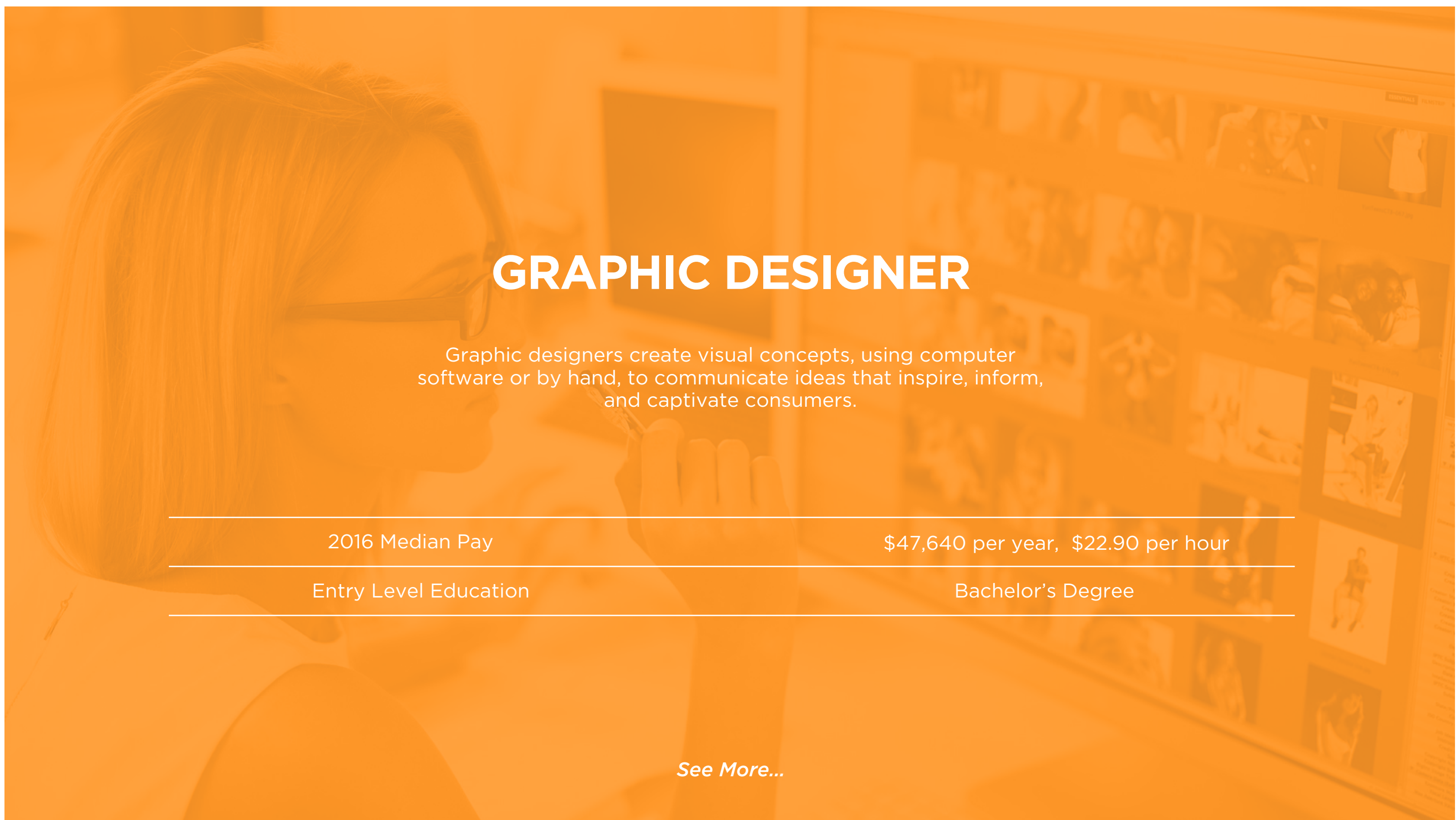
+Filter

BROWSE OCCUPATIONS →

BROWSE CATEGORIES →

OOH

FEATURED OCCUPATION



GRAPHIC DESIGNER

Graphic designers create visual concepts, using computer software or by hand, to communicate ideas that inspire, inform, and captivate consumers.

2016 Median Pay	\$47,640 per year, \$22.90 per hour
Entry Level Education	Bachelor's Degree

[See More...](#)

CATEGORIES

- Architecture and Training
- Art and Design
- Building and Grounds Cleaning
- Business and Financial
- Community and Social Service
- Computer and Information Technology
- Construction and Extraction
- Education, Training and Library
- Entertainment and Sports
- Farming, Fishing and Forestry
- Food Preparation and Serving
- Healthcare
- Installation, Maintenance and Repair
- Legal
- Life, Physical, and Social Science
- Management
- Math
- Media and Communication
- Military
- Office and Administrative Support
- Personal Care and Service
- Production
- Protective Service
- Sales
- Transportation and Material Moving

BROWSE OCCUPATIONS

- Highest Paying
- Fastest Growing (Projected)
- Most new Jobs (Projected)
- Education Level
- Work Hours
- Growth Rate (Past)
- Number of New Jobs
- Geographical Location
- According to Ability/Disability
- Language
- Freelance
- A—Z List

BROWSE RESOURCES

- Frequently Asked Questions
- Glossary
- Teacher's Guide
- Career Outlook
- Contact Us
- Bureau of Labor Statistics
- Job Search Websites
- Career Match Assessments
- Find an expert

OCCUPATIONAL OUTLOOK HANDBOOK

+Filter

BROWSE OCCUPATIONS →

BROWSE CATEGORIES →

OOH

FEATURED OCCUPATION



CATEGORIES

- Architecture and Training
- Art and Design
- Building and Grounds Cleaning
- Business and Financial
- Community and Social Service
- Computer and Information Technology
- Construction and Extraction
- Education, Training and Library
- Entertainment and Sports
- Farming, Fishing and Forestry
- Food Preparation and Serving
- Healthcare
- Installation, Maintenance and Repair
- Legal
- Life, Physical, and Social Science
- Management
- Math
- Media and Communication
- Military
- Office and Administrative Support
- Personal Care and Service
- Production
- Protective Service
- Sales
- Transportation and Material Moving

BROWSE OCCUPATIONS

- Highest Paying
- Fastest Growing (Projected)
- Most new Jobs (Projected)
- Education Level
- Work Hours
- Growth Rate (Past)
- Number of New Jobs
- Geographical Location
- According to Ability/Disability
- Language
- Freelance
- A—Z List

BROWSE RESOURCES

- Frequently Asked Questions
- Glossary
- Teacher's Guide
- Career Outlook
- Contact Us
- Bureau of Labor Statistics
- Job Search Websites
- Career Match Assessments
- Find an expert

OCCUPATIONAL OUTLOOK HANDBOOK

+Filter

BROWSE OCCUPATIONS →

BROWSE CATEGORIES →

OOH

FEATURED OCCUPATION



CATEGORIES

- Architecture and Training
- Art and Design
- Building and Grounds Cleaning
- Business and Financial
- Community and Social Service
- Computer and Information Technology
- Construction and Extraction
- Education, Training and Library
- Entertainment and Sports
- Farming, Fishing and Forestry
- Food Preparation and Serving
- Healthcare
- Installation, Maintenance and Repair
- Legal
- Life, Physical, and Social Science
- Management
- Math
- Media and Communication
- Military
- Office and Administrative Support
- Personal Care and Service
- Production
- Protective Service
- Sales
- Transportation and Material Moving

BROWSE OCCUPATIONS

- Highest Paying
- Fastest Growing (Projected)
- Most new Jobs (Projected)
- Education Level
- Work Hours
- Growth Rate (Past)
- Number of New Jobs
- Geographical Location
- According to Ability/Disability
- Language
- Freelance
- A—Z List

BROWSE RESOURCES

- Frequently Asked Questions
- Glossary
- Teacher’s Guide
- Career Outlook
- Contact Us
- Bureau of Labor Statistics
- Job Search Websites
- Career Match Assessments
- Find an expert

OCCUPATIONAL OUTLOOK HANDBOOK

Search

+Filter

BROWSE OCCUPATIONS →

BROWSE CATEGORIES →

OOH

FEATURED OCCUPATION



CATEGORIES

- Architecture and Training
- Art and Design
- Building and Grounds Cleaning
- Business and Financial
- Community and Social Service
- Computer and Information Technology
- Construction and Extraction
- Education, Training and Library
- Entertainment and Sports
- Farming, Fishing and Forestry
- Food Preparation and Serving
- Healthcare
- Installation, Maintenance and Repair
- Legal
- Life, Physical, and Social Science
- Management
- Math
- Media and Communication
- Military
- Office and Administrative Support
- Personal Care and Service
- Production
- Protective Service
- Sales
- Transportation and Material Moving

BROWSE OCCUPATIONS

Highest Paying

Fastest Growing (Projected)

Most new Jobs (Projected)

Education Level

Entry Level Education

Doctoral or Professional Degree

Masters Degree

Associates Degree

Postsecondary Nondegree Award

Some College, No Degree

Highschool Diploma or Equivalent

No fomal Educational Credential

Work Hours

Growth Rate (Past)

Geographical Location
A—Z List

According to Ability/Disability

Freelance

BROWSE RESOURCES

Frequently Asked Questions

Glossary

Teacher's Guide

Career Outlook

Contact Us

Bureau of Labor Statistics

Job Search Websites

Career Match Assessments

Find an expert



Search

—Filter

☐ Education Level

- ☐ Entry Level Education
- ☐ Doctoral or Professional Degree
- ☐ Masters Degree
- ☐ Associates Degree
- ☐ Postsecondary Nondegree Award
- ☐ Some college, No degree
- ☐ Highschool Diploma or Equivalent
- ☐ No Formal Educational Credential

☐ Salary

- ☐ Less than \$25,000
- ☐ \$25,001-\$50,000
- ☐ \$50,001-\$100,000
- ☐ \$100,001-\$200,000
- ☐ More than \$200,000

☐ Demand of the Job in its Industry

- ☐ Growth Rate Past
- ☐ Growth Rate Projected
- ☐ Increase in Median Pay

☐ Geographic Location

- ☐ By Zip Code
- ☐ By State
- ☐ By Distance 5miles 500miles









☐ Work Hours

- ☐ Full Time
- ☐ Part Time
- ☐ Seasonal
 - ☐ Fall
 - ☐ Winter
 - ☐ Spring
 - ☐ Summer

Search

+Filter









Search Results

Occupation	Education Level	Median pay per Year
 <div>COOKS Cooks prepare, season, and cook a wide range of foods, which may include soups, salads, entrees, and desserts.</div>	No formal Educational Credential	\$20,800
 <div>CHEFS AND HEAD COOKS Chefs and head cooks oversee the daily food preparation at restaurants and other places where food is served. They direct kitchen staff and handle any food related concerns.</div>	High school Diploma or Equivalent	\$35,900
 <div>BARTENDERS Bartenders mix drinks and serve them directly to customers or through wait staff.</div>	No formal Educational Credential	\$19,600
 <div>FOOD AND BEVERAGE SERVING AND RELATED WORKERS Food and beverage serving and related workers perform a variety of customer service, food preparation, and cleaning duties in restaurants, cafeterias and other eating and drinking establishments.</div>	No formal Educational Credential	\$16,250
 <div>FOOD PREPARATION WORKERS Food preparation workers perform many routine tasks under the direction of cooks, chefs, or food service managers. Food preparation workers prepare cold foods, slice meat, peel and cut vegetables, brew coffee or tea, and perform many other food service tasks.</div>	No formal Educational Credential	\$22,750
 <div>WAITERS AND WAITRESSES Waiters and waitresses take orders and serve food and beverages to customers in dining establishments.</div>	No formal Educational Credential	\$26,200
 <div>FOOD COOKING MACHINE OPERATORS AND TENDERS Operate or tend cooking equipment, such as steam cooking vats, deep fry cookers, pressure cookers, kettles, and boilers, to prepare food products.</div>	No formal Educational Credential	\$16,100
 <div>COOKS, PRIVATE HOUSEHOLD Prepare meals in private homes. Includes personal chefs.</div>	High school Diploma or Equivalent	\$46,700

Search

+Filter









Search Results

Occupation	Education Level	Median pay per Year
<div></div> <div>COOKS Cooks prepare, season, and cook a wide range of foods, which may include soups, salads, entrees, and desserts.</div>	No formal Educational Credential	\$20,800
<div></div> <div>CHEFS AND HEAD COOKS Chefs and head cooks oversee the daily food preparation at restaurants and other places where food is served. They direct kitchen staff and handle any food related concerns.</div>	High school Diploma or Equivalent	\$35,900
<div></div> <div>BARTENDERS Bartenders mix drinks and serve them directly to customers or through wait staff.</div>	No formal Educational Credential	\$19,600
<div></div> <div>FOOD AND BEVERAGE SERVING AND RELATED WORKERS Food and beverage serving and related workers perform a variety of customer service, food preparation, and cleaning duties in restaurants, cafeterias and other eating and drinking establishments.</div>	No formal Educational Credential	\$16,250
<div></div> <div>FOOD PREPARATION WORKERS Food preparation workers perform many routine tasks under the direction of cooks, chefs, or food service managers. Food preparation workers prepare cold foods, slice meat, peel and cut vegetables, brew coffee or tea, and perform many other food service tasks.</div>	No formal Educational Credential	\$22,750
<div></div> <div>WAITERS AND WAITRESSES Waiters and waitresses take orders and serve food and beverages to customers in dining establishments.</div>	No formal Educational Credential	\$26,200
<div></div> <div>FOOD COOKING MACHINE OPERATORS AND TENDERS Operate or tend cooking equipment, such as steam cooking vats, deep fry cookers, pressure cookers, kettles, and boilers, to prepare food products.</div>	No formal Educational Credential	\$16,100
<div></div> <div>COOKS, PRIVATE HOUSEHOLD Prepare meals in private homes. Includes personal chefs.</div>	High school Diploma or Equivalent	\$46,700

Search

+Filter

FOOD PREPARATION AND SERVICE OCCUPATIONS

Occupation	Education Level	Median pay per Year
 <div>COOKS Cooks prepare, season, and cook a wide range of foods, which may include soups, salads, entrees, and desserts.</div>	No formal Educational Credential	\$20,800
 <div>CHEFS AND HEAD COOKS Chefs and head cooks oversee the daily food preparation at restaurants and other places where food is served. They direct kitchen staff and handle any food related concerns.</div>	High school Diploma or Equivalent	\$35,900
 <div>BARTENDERS Bartenders mix drinks and serve them directly to customers or through wait staff.</div>	No formal Educational Credential	\$19,600
 <div>FOOD AND BEVERAGE SERVING AND RELATED WORKERS Food and beverage serving and related workers perform a variety of customer service, food preparation, and cleaning duties in restaurants, cafeterias and other eating and drinking establishments.</div>	No formal Educational Credential	\$16,250
 <div>FOOD PREPARATION WORKERS Food preparation workers perform many routine tasks under the direction of cooks, chefs, or food service managers. Food preparation workers prepare cold foods, slice meat, peel and cut vegetables, brew coffee or tea, and perform many other food service tasks.</div>	No formal Educational Credential	\$22,750
 <div>WAITERS AND WAITRESSES Waiters and waitresses take orders and serve food and beverages to customers in dining establishments.</div>	No formal Educational Credential	\$26,200
 <div>FOOD COOKING MACHINE OPERATORS AND TENDORS Operate or tend cooking equipment, such as steam cooking vats, deep fry cookers, pressure cookers, kettles, and boilers, to prepare food products.</div>	No formal Educational Credential	\$16,100
 <div>COOKS, PRIVATE HOUSEHOLD Prepare meals in private homes. Includes personal chefs.</div>	High school Diploma or Equivalent	\$46,700

GRAPHIC DESIGNERS

Graphic designers combine art and technology to develop graphics for product illustrations, logos, and websites.



Quick Facts

Salary: 2016 Median Pay	\$47,640 per year, \$22.90 per hour
Entry Level Education	Bachelor's Degree
Work Experience in Related Occupation	None
On-the-job Training	None
Number of Jobs, 2014	261,000
Growth Rate, Past	0.75%
Growth Rate, Projected	1.01%
Work Hours	Full Time, Freelance
Geographic Location Specifics	None

- What do they do?
- Work Environment
- How to become one?
- Pay
- Job Outlook
- State & Area Data
- More information with links

What do Graphic Designers do?

Graphic designers create visual concepts, using computer software or by hand, to communicate ideas that inspire, inform, and captivate consumers. They develop the overall layout and production design for various applications such as advertisements, brochures, magazines, and corporate reports

DUTIES

Graphic Designers typically do the following:

- Meet with clients or the art director to determine the scope of a project
- Use digital illustration, photo-editing software, and layout software to create designs
- Create visual elements such as logos, original images, and illustrations that help deliver a desired message
- Design layouts and select colors, images, and typefaces to use
- Present design concepts to clients or art directors
- Incorporate changes recommended by clients or art directors into final designs
- Review designs for errors before printing or publishing them

Graphic designers combine art and technology to communicate ideas through images and the layout of websites and printed pages. They may use a variety of design elements to achieve artistic or decorative effects.

Graphic designers work with both text and images. They often select the type, font, size, color, and line length of headlines, headings, and text. Graphic designers also decide how images and text will go together on a print or webpage, including how much space each will have. When using text in layouts, graphic designers collaborate closely with writers who choose the words and decide whether the words will be put into paragraphs, lists, or tables. Through the use of images, text, and color, graphic designers can transform statistical data into visual graphics and diagrams, which can make complex ideas more accessible.

Graphic design is important to marketing and selling products, and is a critical component of brochures and logos. Therefore, graphic designers, also referred to as graphic artists or communication designers, often work closely with people in advertising and promotions, public relations, and marketing.

Frequently, designers specialize in a particular category or type of client. For example, some create the graphics used on retail products packaging, still others may work on the visual designs used on book jackets.

Graphic designers need to keep up to date with the latest software and computer technologies to remain competitive.

Some individuals with a background in graphic design teach in design schools, colleges, and universities. For more information, see the profile on [postsecondary teachers](#).

GRAPHIC DESIGNERS

Graphic designers combine art and technology to develop graphics for product illustrations, logos, and websites.



Quick Facts

Salary: 2016 Median Pay	\$47,640 per year, \$22.90 per hour
Entry Level Education	Bachelor's Degree
Work Experience in Related Occupation	None
On-the-job Training	None
Number of Jobs, 2014	261,000
Growth Rate, Past	0.75%
Growth Rate, Projected	1.01%
Work Hours	Full Time, Freelance
Geographic Location Specifics	None

- What do they do?
- Work Environment
- How to become one?
- Pay
- Job Outlook
- State & Area Data
- More information with links

Work Environment

Many of these workers are employed in specialized design services, publishing, or advertising, public relations, and related services industries. In 2014, about 1 in 5 graphic designers were self-employed.

Graphic designers held about 261,600 jobs in 2014. The largest employers of graphic designers were as follows:

Specialized design services	10%
Advertising, public relations, and related services	8%
Newspaper, periodical, book, and directory publishers	7%
Printing and related support activities	7%
Wholesale trade	6%

Graphic designers generally work in studios where they have access to drafting tables, computers, and the software necessary to create their designs. Although many graphic designers work independently, those who work for specialized graphic design firms often work as part of a design team. Many graphic designers collaborate with colleagues or work with clients on projects

WORK SCHEDULES

Most graphic designers work full time, but schedules can vary depending on workloads and deadlines.

In 2014, about 1 in 5 graphic designers were self-employed. Graphic designers who are self-employed may need to adjust their workday to meet with clients in the evenings or on weekends. In addition, they may spend some of their time looking for new projects or competing with other designers for contracts.

GRAPHIC DESIGNERS

Graphic designers combine art and technology to develop graphics for product illustrations, logos, and websites.



Quick Facts

Salary: 2016 Median Pay	\$47,640 per year, \$22.90 per hour
Entry Level Education	Bachelor's Degree
Work Experience in Related Occupation	None
On-the-job Training	None
Number of Jobs, 2014	261,000
Growth Rate, Past	0.75%
Growth Rate, Projected	1.01%
Work Hours	Full Time, Freelance
Geographic Location Specifics	None

- What do they do?
- Work Environment
- How to become one?
- Pay
- Job Outlook
- State & Area Data
- More information with links

How to Become a Graphic Designer

Graphic designers usually need a bachelor's degree in graphic design or a related field. Candidates for graphic design positions should demonstrate their creativity and originality through a professional portfolio that features their best designs.

EDUCATION

A bachelor's degree in graphic design or a related field is usually required. However, those with a bachelor's degree in another field may pursue technical training in graphic design to meet most hiring qualifications.

The [National Association of Schools of Art and Design](#) accredits about 320 postsecondary colleges, universities, and independent institutes with programs in art and design. Most schools include studio art, principles of design, computerized design, commercial graphics production, printing techniques, and website design. In addition, students should consider courses in writing, marketing, and business, all of which are useful in helping designers work effectively on project teams.

High school students interested in graphic design should take basic art and design courses in high school, if the courses are available. Many bachelor's degree programs require students to complete a year of basic art and design courses before being admitted to a formal degree program. Some schools require applicants to submit sketches and other examples of their artistic ability.

Many programs provide students with the opportunity to build a professional portfolio of their designs. For many artists, including graphic designers, developing a portfolio—a collection of design ideas that demonstrates their styles and abilities—is essential because employers rely heavily on a designer's portfolio in deciding whether to hire the individual.

Graphic designers must keep up with new and updated computer graphics and design software, either on their own or through formal software training programs. Professional associations that specialize in graphic design, such as [AIGA](#), offer courses intended to keep the skills of their members up to date.

OTHER EXPERIENCE

Graphic designers often gain their initial experience through internships. It provides aspiring graphic designers an opportunity to work with designers and experience the design process from concept to completion while completing a design program.

LICENSES, CERTIFICATIONS, AND REGISTRATIONS

Certification programs are generally available through software product vendors. Certification in graphic design software can demonstrate a level of competence and may provide a jobseeker with a competitive advantage.

ADVANCEMENT

Experienced graphic designers may advance to chief designer, [art director](#), or other supervisory positions.

IMPORTANT QUALITIES

Analytical skills. Graphic designers must be able to look at their work from the point of view of their consumers and examine how the designs they develop will be perceived by consumers to ensure they convey the client's desired message.

Artistic ability. Graphic designers must be able to create designs that are artistically interesting and appealing to clients and consumers. They produce rough illustrations of design ideas, either by hand sketching or by using computer programs.

Communication skills. Graphic designers must communicate with clients, customers, and other designers to ensure that their designs accurately reflect the desired message and effectively express information.

Computer skills. Most graphic designers use specialized graphic design software to prepare their designs.

Creativity. Graphic designers must be able to think of new approaches to communicating ideas to consumers. They develop unique designs that convey a recognizable meaning on behalf of their clients.

Time-management skills. Graphic designers often work on multiple projects at the same time, each with a different deadline.

GRAPHIC DESIGNERS

Graphic designers combine art and technology to develop graphics for product illustrations, logos, and websites.



Quick Facts

Salary: 2016 Median Pay	\$47,640 per year, \$22.90 per hour
Entry Level Education	Bachelor's Degree
Work Experience in Related Occupation	None
On-the-job Training	None
Number of Jobs, 2014	261,000
Growth Rate, Past	0.75%
Growth Rate, Projected	1.01%
Work Hours	Full Time, Freelance
Geographic Location Specifics	None

- What do they do?
- Work Environment
- How to become one?
- Pay
- Job Outlook
- State & Area Data
- More information with links

Pay

The median annual wage for graphic designers was \$47,640 in May 2016.

The median wage is the wage at which half the workers in an occupation earned more than that amount and half earned less. The lowest 10 percent earned less than \$27,950, and the highest 10 percent earned more than \$82,020.

In May 2016, the median annual wages for graphic designers in the top industries in which they worked were as follows:

Specialized design services	\$49,070
Advertising, public relations, and related services	\$48,370
Newspaper, periodical, book, and directory publishers	\$47,670
Printing and related support activities	\$41,020
Wholesale trade	\$38,360

Most graphic designers work full time, but schedules can vary depending on workload and deadlines.

In 2014, about 1 in 5 graphic designers were self-employed. Graphic designers who are self-employed may need to adjust their workday to meet with clients in the evenings or on weekends. In addition, they may spend some of their time looking for new projects or competing with other designers for contracts.

GRAPHIC DESIGNERS

Graphic designers combine art and technology to develop graphics for product illustrations, logos, and websites.



Quick Facts

Salary: 2016 Median Pay	\$47,640 per year, \$22.90 per hour
Entry Level Education	Bachelor’s Degree
Work Experience in Related Occupation	None
On-the-job Training	None
Number of Jobs, 2014	261,000
Growth Rate, Past	0.75%
Growth Rate, Projected	1.01%
Work Hours	Full Time, Freelance
Geographic Location Specifics	None

- What do they do?
- Work Environment
- How to become one?
- Pay
- Job Outlook
- State & Area Data
- More information with links

Job Outlook

Employment of graphic designers is projected to show little or no change from 2014 to 2024. Graphic designers are expected to face strong competition for available positions.

Employment of graphic designers is projected to show little or no change from 2014 to 2024. The work of graphic designers will continue to be important in the marketing of products throughout the economy.

The change in employment of graphic designers from 2014 to 2024 is projected to vary by industry. Employment of graphic designers in newspaper, periodical, book, and directory publishers is projected to decline 35 percent from 2014 to 2024. However, employment of graphic designers in computer systems design and related services is projected to grow 21 percent over the same period. With the increasing use of the Internet, companies are increasing their digital presence and graphic designers will be needed to help create visually appealing and effective layouts of websites.

JOB PROSPECTS

Graphic designers are expected to face strong competition for available positions. Many talented individuals are attracted to careers as graphic designers. Prospects will be better for applicants who work with various types of media, such as websites and print publications.

GRAPHIC DESIGNERS

Graphic designers combine art and technology to develop graphics for product illustrations, logos, and websites.



Quick Facts

Salary: 2016 Median Pay	\$47,640 per year, \$22.90 per hour
Entry Level Education	Bachelor's Degree
Work Experience in Related Occupation	None
On-the-job Training	None
Number of Jobs, 2014	261,000
Growth Rate, Past	0.75%
Growth Rate, Projected	1.01%
Work Hours	Full Time, Freelance
Geographic Location Specifics	None

- What do they do?
- Work Environment
- How to become one?
- Pay
- Job Outlook
- State & Area Data
- More information with links

State & Area Data

Explore resources for employment and wages by state and area for graphic designers.

The Occupational Employment Statistics (OES) program produces employment and wage estimates annually for over 800 occupations. These estimates are available for the nation as a whole, for individual states, and for metropolitan and nonmetropolitan areas. The link(s) below go to OES data maps for employment and wages by state and area.

[Graphic Designers](#)

PROJECTIONS CENTRAL

Occupational employment projections are developed for all states by Labor Market Information (LMI) or individual state Employment Projections offices. All state projections data are available at [www.projectionscentral.com](#). Information on this site allows projected employment growth for an occupation to be compared among states or to be compared within one state. In addition, states may produce projections for areas; there are links to each state's websites where these data may be retrieved.

CAREER INFONET

America's Career InfoNet includes hundreds of [occupational profiles](#) with data available by state and metro area. There are links in the left-hand side menu to compare occupational employment by state and occupational wages by local area or metro area. There is also a salary info tool to search for wages by zip code.

GRAPHIC DESIGNERS

Graphic designers combine art and technology to develop graphics for product illustrations, logos, and websites.



Quick Facts

Salary: 2016 Median Pay	\$47,640 per year, \$22.90 per hour
Entry Level Education	Bachelor's Degree
Work Experience in Related Occupation	None
On-the-job Training	None
Number of Jobs, 2014	261,000
Growth Rate, Past	0.75%
Growth Rate, Projected	1.01%
Work Hours	Full Time, Freelance
Geographic Location Specifics	None

- What do they do?
- Work Environment
- How to become one?
- Pay
- Job Outlook
- State & Area Data
- More information with links

More Information, Including Links to O*NET

Learn more about graphic designers by visiting additional resources, including O*NET, a source on key characteristics of workers and occupations.

[AIGA](#)

[Graphic Artists Guild](#)

For more information about art and design and a list of accredited college-level programs, visit

[National Association of Schools of Art and Design](#)

OCCUPATIONAL OUTLOOK HANDBOOK

SEARCH

BROWSE CATEGORIES

BROWSE OCCUPATIONS

FEATURED OCCUPATION



GRAPHIC DESIGNER

Graphic designers create visual concepts, using computer software or by hand, to communicate ideas that inspire, inform, and captivate consumers.

2016 Median Pay	\$47,640 per year, \$22.90 per hour
-----------------	--

Entry Level Education	Bachelor's Degree
-----------------------	-------------------

CATEGORIES

Architecture
and Training

Art and
Design

Building
and Grounds
Cleaning

Business and
Financial

Community
and Social
Service

Computer and
Information
Technology

Construction
and Extraction

Education,
Training and
Library

Entertainment
and Sports

Farming,
Fishing
and Forestry

Food
Preparation
and Serving

Healthcare

Installation,
Maintainance
and Repair

Legal

Life, Physical,
and Social
Science

Management

Math

Media and
Communication

Military

Office and
Administrative
Support

Personal Care
and Service

Production

Protective
Service

Sales

Transportation
and Material
Moving

BROWSE OCCUPATIONS

Highest Paying

Fastest Growing (Projected)

Most New Jobs (Projected)

Education Level

Number of New Jobs

Language

Work Hours

Geographical Location

Freelance

According to Dis/Ability

Growth Rate

A-Z list

BROWSE RESOURCES

Frequently Asked Questions

Glossary

Career Outlook

Contact Us

Job Search Websites

Career Match Websites

Teacher's Guide

BLS.com

Find an Expert



GRAPHIC DESIGNER

Graphic designers create visual concepts, using computer software or by hand, to communicate ideas that inspire, inform, and captivate consumers.



Quick Facts

Salary: 2016 Median Pay	\$47,640 per year, \$22.90 per hour
Entry Level Education	Bachelor's Degree
Work Experience in Related Occupation	None
On-the-job Training	None
Number of Jobs, 2014	261,000
Growth Rate, Past	0.75%
Growth Rate, Projected	1.01%
Work Hours	Full Time, Freelance
Geographic Location Specifics	None

What do they do?

Work Environment

How to become one?

Pay

Job Outlook

State & Area Data

More Information with links

What do Graphic Designers do?

Graphic designers create visual concepts, using computer software or by hand, to communicate ideas that inspire, inform, and captivate consumers. They develop the overall layout and production design for various applications such as advertisements, brochures, magazines, and corporate reports

DUTIES

Graphic Designers typically do the following:

- Meet with clients or the art director to determine the scope of a project
- Use digital illustration, photo-editing software, and layout software to create designs
- Create visual elements such as logos, original images, and illustrations that help deliver a desired message
- Design layouts and select colors, images, and typefaces to use
- Present design concepts to clients or art directors
- Incorporate changes recommended by clients or art directors into final designs
- Review designs for errors before printing or publishing them

Graphic designers combine art and technology to communicate ideas through images and the layout of websites and printed pages. They may use a variety of design elements to achieve artistic or decorative effects.

Graphic designers work with both text and images. They often select the type, font, size, color, and line length of headlines, headings, and text. Graphic designers also decide how images and text will go together on a print or webpage, including how much space each will have. When using text in layouts, graphic designers collaborate closely with writers who choose the words and decide whether the words will be put into paragraphs, lists, or tables. Through the use of images, text, and color, graphic designers can transform statistical data into visual graphics and diagrams, which can make complex ideas more accessible.

Graphic design is important to marketing and selling products, and is a critical component of brochures and logos. Therefore, graphic designers, also referred to as graphic artists or communication designers, often work closely with people in advertising and promotions, public relations, and marketing.

Frequently, designers specialize in a particular category or type of client. For example, some create the graphics used on retail products packaging, still others may work on the visual designs used on book jackets.

Graphic designers need to keep up to date with the latest software and computer technologies to remain competitive.

Some individuals with a background in graphic design teach in design schools, colleges, and universities. For more information, see the profile on [postsecondary teachers](#).

[BACK TO TOP](#)