

Frequently Asked Questions

Do I need a camera?

Yes. PHO students are expected to supply a camera, lens and most other basic equipment.

Do I need a digital camera?

Since virtually all professional photography today is shot with a digital camera the photography program at Pellissippi State has a heavy emphasis on digital photography. But all of the classes can be taken with a film camera. All of the computer labs have film scanners so students can shoot with a film camera and still do all the digital manipulation. However, most students invest in a digital camera system before they graduate.

Will I have access to digital equipment and other cool stuff?

PSTCC has digital students. In addition, there are a variety of lenses available for student use. Additionally, there are lighting kits and an IPIX photography kit that may be checked out for student use.



Is there a studio, and is it available for student use?

Yes. Several classes are taught in the studio but there are open lab times available for students to work on school projects. The studio is equipped with three professional lighting systems.

What are the faculty like?

Each member of the PHO faculty has 15 or more years of professional photography experience in his or her field.

Are there academic options other than the AAS Degree?

In addition to the AAS degree PSTCC offers a certificate in photography. The certificate is designed for media professionals that want to pick up an additional skill.

Is there a darkroom?

No. The darkroom has gone the way of the buggy whip for professional photography. PSTCC is dedicated to training professionals and emphasizes digital imaging.



Since there isn't a darkroom is there a good computer lab?

Yes. Photography students use Mac labs equipped with G-5s, 20-in monitors and Adobe Photoshop software as well as IPIX and virtual reality software. For printing and proofing each lab is equipped with a photo quality printer capable of making 16x20 prints

and a color laser printer.

What kind of photography elective classes are offered?

There are classes in commercial photography, portraiture, wedding, retail photography, photojournalism, the photo essay, nature, architecture, food photography, sports, and children. And our faculty are always developing new courses.

Can I learn about the business end of photography?

Yes there is a class designed to teach photography students about things such as pricing, marketing, intellectual property, filing taxes, and even how to write a business plan.

I work during the day. Can I take classes at night?

Yes. Every class in the PHO dept is taught at night, although it takes a little longer to complete the program.

What about online classes?

Currently web classes are available for the general education core, and some of the PHO electives. Because of the hands-on nature of PHO classes, they only taught in the classroom at this time.

Where can I find out more information?

Call KD Lawson, 865.539.7171 or e-mail KDLawson@pstcc.edu or visit the website at www.pstcc.edu/departments/mdt/pho_about.



Photography Curriculum

Course Descriptions

AAS Degree, Media Technologies, Photography Sequence

Semester I Fall

Course	Description	hrs
ENG 1010	English Composition	3
MDT 1000	Introduction to Media Technologies	3
CGT 1030 or VPT 1040	Into to Macintosh Graphic Design Introduction to Desktop Video/Audio	3
PHO 1000	Introduction to Photography	3
Social/Behavioral Science Elective	See current catalog for courses.	3

Semester II Spring

PHO 1100	Advanced Photographic Techniques	3
MDT 2100	Photoshop Essentials	3
Humanities/Fine Art Elective	See current catalog for courses.	3
Math/Natural Science Elective	See current catalog for courses.	3-4
Photography Electives	Courses determined with consent of advisor.	3

Semester III Fall

PHO 2060	Advanced Digital Imaging Techniques	3
Photography Electives	See current catalog for courses.	3-5
Media Technologies Guided Electives	Courses determined with consent of advisor.	3
MDT 2998	Internship - Photography	3
General Education Elective	See current catalog for courses.	3

Semester IV Spring

MDT 2800	Professional Practices	3
Photography Electives	Courses determined with consent of advisor.	6-8
Media Technologies Guided Electives	Courses determined with consent of advisor.	3
PHO 2850	Portfolio	1

Notes:

The above curriculum starts in the Fall semester but the student may start the program in the Spring without scheduling difficulties.
The curriculum presented here is a sample. Academic requirements change with each catalog. Check with an advisor for specific, up to date information.

Certificate Requirements

Core Requirements, 13 hours

PHO 1000 Introduction to Photography 3 Credits
 PHO 1100 Advanced Photographic Techniques 3 Credits
 MDT 2100 Photoshop Essentials 3 Credits
 PHO 2060 Advanced Digital Imaging Techniques 3 Credits
 PHO 2850 Portfolio 1 Credits

PHO/MDT Elective, Minimum 7 hours

Courses determined with consent of advisor.

PHO 1000 Introduction to Photography 3 Credits

A beginning course in the study of photography as visual communication with emphasis on the 35mm single lens reflex camera. Exposure, metering, focus, depth of field, films, lenses, electronic flash, basic lighting, and composition are explored.

PHO 1100 Advanced Photographic Techniques 3 Credits

Advanced exploration of camera controls, photographic systems, lenses, and lighting techniques. This is a basic hands-on study of advanced photographic theory and how it relates to portrait, industrial, commercial photography, and other photographic genre. Particular attention is paid to developing professional skills and attitudes.

PHO 2060 Advanced Digital Imaging Techniques 3 Credits

Students explore the differences in traditional silver based film and digital photography including studio and location, digital images as well as IPIX and Apple Quicktime VR. Special attention is paid to technical differences including exposure, lighting, focal length changes and resolution. Other topics covered are scanning methods and preparing a digital image for different types of reproduction including print, video and Web publishing.

PHO 2100 Nature & Travel Photography 3 Credits

A study of basic location photography: nature, urban and rural. The emphasis is on on-site photography, coping with changing lighting and weather conditions, equipment and material selection, and documentation. Students are responsible for arranging transportation to and from shooting locations.

PHO 2200 Commercial Photography 3 Credits

An advanced study in solving studio and location problems faced by the commercial photographer in shooting products and models. Emphasis is on the use of medium and large format cameras, professional lighting equipment, props, and setting to fulfill practical assignments.

PHO 2300 Portrait Photography 3 Credits

Studio lighting and camera techniques are explored emphasizing the portraiture. Students will use medium format and 35mm cameras as well as a variety of lighting equipment. Topics explored include posing, makeup, wardrobe, setting, and business practices.

PHO 2400 Photojournalism 3 Credits

A study of the methods and techniques of photojournalism as found in contemporary publications such as newspapers, magazines, and corporate publications. Topics include spot news, events, sports, features, environmental portraiture, photo essays, and professional practices.

PHO 2500 Wedding & Retail Photography 3 Credits

A study of the methods, techniques, and business practices of contemporary wedding and retail photography. Topics include the bridal portrait, location lighting, candid photography, location portraits, special event photography, marketing, salesmanship, and working with vendors and clientele.

PHO 2700 Special Topics in Photography 1-3 Credits

Advanced photographic projects, emphasizing shooting techniques, darkroom techniques, aesthetic exploration, or academic research. May be repeated for credit up to nine hours.

PHO 2850 Photography Portfolio 1 Credit

Students will produce a working portfolio of their own photography to be used to represent their work in the marketplace. Emphasis will be on selection of contents, materials, and professional presentation. Students are responsible for providing camera, film, and other materials.

PHO 2950 Independent Photographic Projects 3 Credits

This course is carried out independently by the student after consultation with a photography advisor to specify the project.

MDT 1000 Introduction to Media Technologies 3 Credits

This course critically analyzes mass communication and its effect on society. It equips students with media literacy skills to deconstruct mass media's influence. It compares media representations of societal behavior and belief systems of differing cultures. Students study film and television and how these mediums depict individuals, institutions and issues. Students also study copyright and ethics in the converging media workplace and the history of mass media 1850 - present.

MDT 2100 Photoshop Essentials 3 Credits

Students are introduced to the digital darkroom using Adobe Photoshop® and Image Ready® with images from film and flatbed scanners, digital camera, and other media. Topics covered include: selecting, layers, color correction, color theory, retouching, special effects, roll overs, animation, slicing, type effects, and using Photoshop® as a design tool. Documents created in class will be optimized for web, print, and multi media uses. Students will complete a variety of tutorials as well as create personal projects.

MDT 2800 Professional Practices 3 Credits

An in-depth study of how media functions in the real world. Interrelation of media disciplines, professional organizations, media ethics and law, intellectual property, subject rights, client rights, and professional standards are explored. This class is geared to the aspiring media professional with special attention paid to those who wish to be self-employed. Marketing, pricing, preparing a business plan, and preparing taxes are covered.

MDT 2900 Photography Internship 3 Credits

This course is a supervised work experience requiring a minimum of 45 hours in the field of media technologies. Individual communication is arranged instead of class attendance.