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March, 2014

I am currently pursuing a bachelor's degree in Communication Design which involves developing creative skills and using tools such as photo imaging, editing, and web platform software. As a Communication Design major, you are required to practice and hone your craft extensively prior to entering the field due to its highly competitive nature. For instance, comprehensive knowledge of Photoshop, Illustrator and InDesign from the Adobe Creative Collection are only the most basic of components. In addition to these tools, there is a need for the improvement of skills such as effective communication, visualization and complex problem solving.

While there are numerous jobs in the visual art industry, each and everyone requires some knowledge of Adobe software. These tools provide the user complete freedom of how he or she wants to design and isn't bound to a limit like other programs. Without recent and up to date knowledge of these tools it becomes near impossible to keep up with the visual industry.

One skill that needs to be honed, is your ability to properly communicate and assist in the visualization of your design to peers and to clients. In fact, this skill is one of the most valuable to have. Without the ability to effectively pitch your idea, it won't get enough traction and result in a finalized product. In addition, another important skill to use is complex problem solving. For example, if your client doesn't understand your design or dislikes the initial draft, as a Communication Design major, one must learn to recognize the problem and evaluate the situation for solutions. This skill, if adequately developed, can put you in a positive position with your employers and how you do in field as a designer.

In my experience of pursuing this degree, I've learned some of these skills and am still fine tuning them. There have been moments that I've communicated my ideas well enough to my professors for them to trust me with my design. They were impressed with the results and informed me how they grew from initially being worried to becoming confident in my abilities. Furthermore, one professor trusted me well enough that all my initial designs were approved of throughout that semester.

With the skills and tools that I am still in the process of improving, pursuing a bachelor's degree in Communication Design certainly helps pave a road to becoming a great designer.