

Syn Studio - Online Classes FAQ



1. Why are all of your Summer 2020 classes being offered online?

In light of the ongoing COVID-19 situation, and the school closures mandated by the Government of Canada, we are moving our classes online for the Summer 2020 term to ensure the safety of our staff and students, and to respect social distancing requirements.

2. When the COVID-19 situation is over and both schools and borders are reopened, are classes going to be provided on-site?

Should the Canadian government choose to reopen schools in the midst of our Summer 2020 term, we will be continuing our classes online for logistical reasons.

For the Fall 2020 term, we are thinking of offering both online and on-site classes to cater to both our domestic and international students.

3. What do you offer in your online classes?

Our online classes are conducted via live-streamed videos of teachers offering both lectures and demonstrations. During these live classes, students are able to interact with teachers by asking them questions through live chats and audio (if equipped with a microphone).

In addition to this, video recordings of each class are made available online, so they can be rewatched at later times for review and practice. Students who are not able to attend live classes will be able to ask teachers specific questions and for personalized feedback on their artwork outside of class hours. All of this allows for greater flexibility when creating your schedule!

Overall, we want to recreate the same experience that you would have on-site; the artistic growth and success of our students continue to be our top priority. Given the social distancing measures we have to take, we would love to be able to share our knowledge during these times in quarantine and help you take your artwork to the next level from afar.

4. Why are your prices listed in USD (US Dollars)?

Now that our classes are offered online, and we have many more students enrolling from international countries, we have chosen to advertise our prices in USD versus CAD due to the United States Dollar being the more popular currency.

5. What are the Technical Requirements for your online courses?

Our online classes use ZOOM video conference for all of our live sessions. Students taking our Digital Art classes will be required to come equipped with Photoshop, and have either a tablet or a computer with pen/touch capabilities.

Technical Requirements for all courses

Processor:

- 2.2GHz or higher. We recommend an Intel i5/ AMD Ryzen 5 series chip.

Memory:

- 8GB Ram **strongly recommended** (as any less risks the chance of Photoshop lagging/crashing)
- 16GB is better; it is more expensive but most widely-used and recommended in this area/industry. If you are thinking of eventually using 3D software, on top of Photoshop, 16 GB is a must.

Hard drive:

- Photoshop produces large files and requires a good amount of space; a large hard drive, external hard drive/multiple drives are needed.
- We recommend purchasing a laptop with an SSD, as they are quicker and more reliable than formal HDD's.
- We also recommend either having a flashdrive or external harddrive handy to backup your larger files- you can never be too safe!

Graphics card:

- Minimum 1GB dedicated video card, 2GB+ dedicated video card recommended.

Digital Course Requirements

Adobe for Photoshop CC 2020 (official minimum requirements)

Windows

2GHz or faster processor with SSE2 support; dual-core processor required.

Microsoft Windows 10 (recommended versions 1809, 1903) or Windows 8.1 (Windows 7 not supported); 64-bit versions only (32-bit not supported)

7.4GB of available hard-disk space to install applications; additional 12.4GB to download all optional content (cannot install on a volume that uses a case-sensitive file system or on removable flash storage devices)

macOS

64-bit multicore Intel processor

macOS v10.13 through v10.15

10GB of available hard-disk space to install applications; additional 12.5GB to download all optional content (cannot install on a volume that uses a case-sensitive file system or on removable flash storage devices)

Regarding computer applications, Adobe has switched to a monthly (or annual) subscription service for Photoshop, along with their other programs via their Creative Cloud. Our Full-Time Intensive Portfolio Prep program is unfortunately not accredited and therefore our students are not eligible for student discounts. You can read more about monthly plans on their website [here](#)

Tablet Recommendations & Requirements (Digital Classes ONLY)

For classroom and at home use, an inexpensive tablet such as a Wacom Intuos Draw or a smaller model from the Wacom Intuos Pro series is recommended, as they are easy to carry and less likely to scratch while being transported.

Common types of Wacom tablets:

- **Bamboo:** One of the cheapest Wacom tablets available if you are on a budget, however it is not ideal; Bamboos typically do not have the high resolution/sensitivity that the other Wacom series have.
- **Intuos:** Our recommendation. This series of Wacom tablets is commonly used by professionals and students alike.
- **Cintiq:** These models are tablets that also function as monitors; they are the priciest option, and often too bulky to students to bring with them to school.

While the vast majority of our students are equipped with a medium-sized Wacom Intuos Pro and the brand is still recognized in educational and professional settings, there other more affordable options on the market that have garnered solid reputations as well. For example, the Chinese brand **Huion** makes drawing monitors that are becoming increasingly more popular and the company as a whole has an excellent reputation in terms of customer service. **I would highly recommend doing more research on various products and reading their reviews before committing to a particular model!**
