

# Picture Perfect

## Using Photoshop to Improve Digital Images

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Today educators and students are working with digital images more than ever. Digital cameras have become affordable for the masses, presentation slide shows and documents are being produced using these images, and web pages are used to display them. In both business and for personal use, there is a need to improve the appearance of images, use them in creative and artistic ways, and optimize them for use on the web. Many different software products can be used for these purposes, but this workshop will feature Adobe Photoshop and briefly demonstrate Photoshop Elements. While Photoshop is the product used by professional digital photographers, web designers, and graphic artists, Photoshop Elements has an amazing array of features for those individuals new to photo editing.

Credit courses on Photoshop are being offered in college programs and even some high schools. As digital photography has become more popular, short courses and workshops are needed for local communities. The premier group dedicated to advancing knowledge of Photoshop is the National Association for Photoshop Professionals (NAPP) whose two annual Photoshop World conferences draw huge audiences (3,000+) of enthusiastic users. What other single computer application will draw that many people to a national conference? Numerous one-day training events are held throughout the year and an abundance of learning materials are provided to the membership at no additional cost or at reduced prices.

In the hands of an expert, Photoshop can be used to create amazing artwork. But for anyone using digital images, knowledge of photo editing can be very helpful to prepare digital images that are better focused or emphasized in a variety of ways to better portray the real-life situation they represent. Sophisticated graphics can be prepared, also, for use in printed publications and for the web. All of these images can be used in different file formats for

different purposes; optimization for small file sizes becomes particularly important for web images. With these needs in mind, this workshop will demonstrate how to:

- brighten or improve color balance, sharpen colors, and restore details.
- remove red-eye or repair blemishes and damaged areas.
- remove distracting backgrounds and crop for a better composition.
- draw shapes and add special text effects.
- optimize images and save them in different resolutions and different file formats.
- compare capabilities of Photoshop and Photoshop Elements.

### Learning Resources

National Association for Photoshop Professionals (NAPP)

[www.photoshoper.com](http://www.photoshoper.com)  
[www.photoshotv.com](http://www.photoshotv.com)

[www.informit.com](http://www.informit.com)

[www.planetphotoshop.com](http://www.planetphotoshop.com)

[www.heathrow.com](http://www.heathrow.com)

[www.davecrossblogsite.com](http://www.davecrossblogsite.com)

[www.totaltraining.com](http://www.totaltraining.com) (instructional videos)

[www.trainingtools.com](http://www.trainingtools.com) (free, not current version)

International Visual Literacy Association (IVLA)

[www.ivla.org](http://www.ivla.org)

University of St. Louis Microcomputer Program  
(one-day workshops)

Certificate in Digital Graphics (seven)

[www.micros.umsl.edu](http://www.micros.umsl.edu)

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