

## Photoshop Mastery: From Zero to Professional

### A Practical, Step-by-Step Course Outline

Instructor: Timothy Sola

Platform: CertMart

Course Philosophy: Each module combines core concept lessons with a hands-on, real-world project. Students learn by doing, building a portfolio piece with every section.

#### Module 0: Before We Begin - Getting Set Up

- Objective: Ensure every student has Photoshop running and is familiar with the learning environment.
- 0.1: Introduction to the Course & How to Succeed Online
- 0.2: Software Options: Subscription (Creative Cloud) vs. One-Time Purchase
- 0.3: Installing Adobe Photoshop and Basic System Requirements
- 0.4: A Tour of the CertMart Platform: How to Access Projects, Resources, and Community

#### Module 1: The Absolute Foundation (The Workspace)

- Objective: Conquer the interface so it becomes a help, not a hindrance.
- 1.1: Welcome Screen & Creating Your First Document (Presets, Dimensions, Resolution)
- 1.2: The Essential Panels: Layers, Properties, Tools, and Color. How to arrange them.
- 1.3: Navigating Your Canvas: Zoom, Hand Tool, and Rotate View
- 1.4: Saving Your Work Correctly: PSD (Working File) vs. JPEG/PNG (Final File)
- 🛠️ Project 1: Create a simple "Welcome" poster using text and shapes to practice navigation and saving.

## Module 2: The Core of Everything - Layers & Selections

- Objective: Understand the non-destructive, layer-based workflow that defines professional Photoshop work.
- 2.1: The Layer Panel Deep Dive: Visibility, Locking, Selecting, and Grouping
- 2.2: Layer Basics: Creating, Deleting, Duplicating, and Renaming (Staying Organized)
- 2.3: Introduction to Selection Tools: Marquee, Lasso, and Magic Wand
- 2.4: Transforming Selections and Layers: Scale, Rotate, Skew (Free Transform)
- 🧩 Project 2: Create a simple "Photo Collage" by cutting out elements from different images and arranging them on a new canvas using layers.

## Module 3: Essential Photo Editing & Correction

- Objective: Learn to fix and enhance photographs like a pro.
- 3.1: Cropping and Straightening Images (Perspective Crop)
- 3.2: Image Adjustments: Brightness/Contrast, Levels, and Curves (The Basics)
- 3.3: Color Correction: Using Vibrance, Hue/Saturation, and White Balance
- 3.4: The Healing Brush, Spot Healing Brush, and Clone Stamp for removing imperfections.
- 🧩 Project 3: "Photo Restoration & Enhancement": Take a poor-quality photo (too dark, color cast, with blemishes) and correct it to look clean and professional.

## Module 4: Masking & Compositing - The Professional's Secret

- Objective: Learn to blend images seamlessly without destroying pixels.
- 4.1: What is Non-Destructive Editing? (Why it's crucial)

- 4.2: Layer Masks Explained: Painting with Black & White to reveal/conceal
- 4.3: Advanced Selection to Mask: Select Subject, Color Range, and Refine Edge
- 4.4: Smart Objects: The ultimate non-destructive tool for transformations and filters.
- 🧩 Project 4: "Fantasy Composite": Combine multiple images (e.g., a person, a dragon, a landscape) using layer masks to create a believable scene.

## Module 5: Working with Text & Design Principles

- Objective: Create compelling graphics for social media, posters, and ads.
- 5.1: The Type Tool: Point Text vs. Paragraph Text
- 5.2: Character and Paragraph Panels: Leading, Kerning, Alignment
- 5.3: Warping Text and Applying Layer Styles (Effects like Drop Shadow, Stroke, Bevel)
- 5.4: Basic Design Principles: Hierarchy, Contrast, and Alignment for impact.
- 🧩 Project 5: Design a set of cohesive social media posts (Instagram story & post) for a fake brand or event.

## Module 6: Retouching Portraits Like a Pro

- Objective: Master the techniques used in beauty and portrait photography.
- 6.1: Non-Destructive Dodging & Burning for shaping light and depth.
- 6.2: Frequency Separation for advanced skin retouching (keeping texture).
- 6.3: Enhancing Eyes, Teeth, and Hair with targeted adjustments.
- 6.4: Using Liquify (Responsibly!) for subtle reshaping and corrections.
- 🧩 Project 6: "Beauty Retouch": Fully retouch a portrait, from skin cleanup to enhancing features, while keeping it natural and realistic.

## Module 7: The Power of Filters & Effects

- Objective: Apply creative effects efficiently and non-destructively.
- 7.1: Blur Gallery: Field Blur, Iris Blur, Tilt-Shift for depth of field.
- 7.2: Neural Filters: Colorize, Skin Smoothing, and Style Transfer (AI Power)
- 7.3: Using Smart Filters with Smart Objects for editable effects.
- 7.4: Creating Motion Blur and Lighting Effects.
- 🛠️ Project 7: Apply a dramatic "cinematic" look to a photo using a combination of filters and color grading.

## Module 8: Advanced Techniques & Automation

- Objective: Drastically speed up your workflow for professional efficiency.
- 8.1: Introduction to Actions: Recording and playing back steps.
- 8.2: Automating Tasks: Batch Processing to edit hundreds of photos at once.
- 8.3: Creating and Using Custom Brushes and Patterns.
- 8.4: Advanced Blending Modes for creative effects.
- 🛠️ Project 8: Create an action that applies a specific color grade and watermark to a photo, then use Batch Processing to apply it to a folder of images.

## Module 9: Specializations & Final Master Project

- Objective: Apply all learned skills to a complex project in a chosen niche.
- 9.1: Choose Your Path: Deep dives into...
  - 9.1a: Digital Art & Painting
  - 9.1b: Advanced Compositing for Concept Art
  - 9.1c: UI/Web & App Design Mockups

- 9.1d: Professional Social Media Content Creation
- 9.2: Preparing Files for Web vs. Print (Color Profiles, Sizing)
- 🎓 Final Master Project: Students pitch and execute a significant project from their chosen specialization (e.g., a full movie poster composite, a brand kit for a company, a series of retouched fashion portraits). This becomes the centerpiece of their portfolio.

## Module 10: You're a Pro - Next Steps & Business

- Objective: Guide students on how to use their new skills professionally.
- 10.1: How to Build a Killer Photoshop Portfolio
- 10.2: Where to Find Clients or Jobs (Freelance platforms, networking)
- 10.3: Continuing Your Education: Key Resources and Communities
- 10.4: Course Wrap-Up & Congratulations!

CertMart – Timothy Sola - Transforming Beginners into Photoshop Professionals