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Photoshop Introduction and Interface

Adobe Photoshop is a graphic-image-manipulation tool that can analyze, enhance, modify, and edit images to suit your goals. To produce quality images for print, web, or video, students need to understand essential basic graphical design principles and how digital images are created. Below, shows the user interface in its simplest form.

Basic Screen Interface

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Basic Screen Interface Details

- <u>Menu</u> is where you will find all your related tools by clicking on the appropriate areas.
- **Properties**, also known as a options or control bar is context sensitive, meaning it changes depending on the tool or process you are working on
- <u>Tools</u> are icon shortcuts to common tasks related to what you want to do with the image. Most tool icons have a small triangle called a fly-out which when pressed and held will offer a sub-menu of additional related icon tools for you to access
- <u>Pallets</u> are small windows with an abundant number of related tool controls to work with your images



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<u>The Tool Bar</u>

Looking closer at the tool bar, you will see a series of icons which relate to 4 major areas:

- <u>Selection tools</u> -Multiple ways of selecting different parts of an image
- <u>Painting tools</u> Which add, change, and enhance current colours and image objects
- <u>Vector tools</u> Objects created based on specific shapes, type, and overlay paths
- <u>Viewing/navigation tools</u> Different ways of viewing your work such as zooming in or panning

Tool bar icons which include a small triangle in the lower right corner have what is called a "fly-out" when long pressed will allow you access to more related icon tools. Below is a detailed look at all of the main tools and related sub-icon tool sets. You will also note each icon set has an accompanied letter which is the short-cut key to that tool on your keyboard. Using the shift will rotate through the similar tools in that subicon group. Although keyboard short-cuts are quicker, using the mouse is easier for beginners to familiarize themselves with the tool bar main icons and sub icons.



As we progress through each of our projects, we will look at different tools and how they are used to view, create, modify and enhance images for your final image requirements

You will also find a host of tools in the **main menus** which will need to be familiar with, when working with images

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