Certificate Programs Overview

RISD Continuing Education (RISD|CE) Certificate Programs are designed to facilitate personal and professional development, by engaging students in sustained exploration and learning in specific creative disciplines.

These non-credit certificates are flexible to accommodate both your interests and your busy schedule, through immersive studio and technical based learning. Our certificate curricula are current, relevant and connected to the creative economy; equipping students with skills, confidence, proficiency and real-world experience to accelerate creative lives and work.

Programs are led by expert faculty—academics, artists and designers, entrepreneurs and industry leaders—with professional connections to the creative economy. Regardless of your previous experience, our programs are intentionally designed to guide, advise and support you in achieving your personal goals. With no entry requirements, learn with motivated peers to develop your portfolio, broaden existing skills, explore a new career path, life pursuit, or start your own business—and build the network that will help you do it.

RISD|CE certificates offer an accessible, transformative and effective way to impact your life.
All certificates are open admission. Students must be 18 years or older and have a high school diploma or equivalent. Throughout the course of your program you will build a body of work, with the goal of producing portfolio-ready pieces, which will be reviewed in your Final Studio.

All certificates require 162 hours of core study, and subsequent study in the concentration of your choice. Core study is a requirement of every certificate—providing a sound base for deeper learning in specific disciplines. Successful completion of the Core level is crucial prior to starting the Concentration level. Students enroll in certificate courses at their own pace, but an approximate timeframe for certificate completion is under three years.

With an average certificate program completion cost of less than $8000, students pay per course—making certificates both accessible and affordable.

For individual certificate program guides, course descriptions, sample schedules, and to register, visit ce.risd.edu.

“I established a solid foundation through its well-structured curriculum, taught by inspiring artists who are eager to share their knowledge and experiences. Open critique sessions further propelled me to take on the role as an artist instead of an art student.”

—FRANNY LEE, Drawing + Painting Studies

“The RISD|CE program helped me turn a hobby I love into a career I enjoy. A solid portfolio and dedication will get you the job, but having RISD on your resume will get you in the door.”

—HEATHER AUCLAIR, Jewelry + Light Metals

“After receiving my certificate I began working for one of the top 100 design firms in the nation. I have gone on to work on projects from coast to coast.”

—JOSH SHOCKLEY, Interior Design