

# Technical Standards for Digital Labs & Photography Programs

Broadcasting & Cinema • Digital Media & Graphic Design • Photography  
Chaffey College — Fall 2025

The Digital Labs and Photography Programs provide hands-on training emphasizing professional standards of safety, teamwork, and creative excellence. These standards outline essential physical, sensory, cognitive, and professional abilities required for safe and effective participation. Reasonable accommodations available through Disability Programs & Services (DPS).

## Physical & Mobility Requirements

- Operate cameras, tripods, microphones, lighting equipment, production tools, and darkroom equipment safely.
- Lift and carry equipment up to 25 lbs including lights, backdrops, and studio gear (assistance available when needed).
- Stand/move for extended sessions (up to 3 hours with breaks); sit for prolonged computer lab sessions; ability to bend, stoop, and climb ladders.
- Navigate studio spaces, darkrooms with cables, stands, electrical connections; work in dim/bright lighting and variable conditions.
- Wear protective gear (closed-toe shoes, gloves, safety glasses, headsets); tolerate heated environments during prolonged studio sessions.

## Sensory Requirements

- Vision to frame shots, monitor quality, manually focus through viewfinders, view LED screens for extended periods, work in low-light to complete darkness, adjust to variable lighting conditions (corrective lenses permitted).
- Hearing to monitor sound, detect noise, communicate over ambient noise (studio fans, darkroom equipment), respond to cues and safety alerts (assistive devices supported); use headphones for extended periods.
- Perceive spatial relationships and maintain concentration during extended production, editing, and darkroom activities.

## Visual Perception & Color Requirements

- Perceive brightness, contrast, and color for camera operation, lighting, color correction, editing, and darkroom print development.
- Students with color vision deficiency supported through accommodations: on-screen tools (false color, zebras, waveform monitors), labeling systems, LED guides, and workflow adjustments.

## Dexterity & Tactile Skills

- Hand-eye coordination and fine motor skills for drawing/sketching on paper and digitally with mouse/stylus in programs like Illustrator and Photoshop.
- Fine motor control to operate cameras, microphones, recorders, tripods, lights, enlargers, scissors, X-Acto knives, mat cutters, and paper craft tools.
- Extensive wrist movements for Adobe applications and keyboard shortcuts; precise mouse operations (double-click, click-hold-drag, tracing with Pen Tool, brush tools).
- Handle small, delicate components including film, processing tanks, and darkroom materials; work in complete darkness (loading film).
- Operate heated equipment safely including studio lights, heat presses, and darkroom processors.

## Equipment Operation

**Tripods:** Lock/unlock legs, adjust height, mount/unmount cameras. **Digital Cameras:** Operate buttons, knobs, menus, viewfinders; auto/manual focus; adjust zoom, aperture, shutter speed, ISO; change lenses; remove batteries/SD cards. **Manual SLR Cameras:** Load film, manual focus, adjust exposure settings. **Audio Equipment:** Power on/off, operate controls, monitor with headphones, view levels. **Lighting:** Studio strobe and continuous lighting, adjust brightness/color temperature, operate barn doors. **Darkroom:** Enlargers, processing tanks, mat cutters, heat presses.

## Cognitive & Communication Requirements

- Read safety guidelines, equipment manuals, call sheets, storyboards, course materials; write analyses and artist statements.
- Follow verbal and written directions; communicate effectively regarding safety, technical needs, creative goals; give and receive constructive feedback.
- Manage time to meet deadlines; comprehend instructions in varied formats (verbal, written, demonstrated, visual); collaborate in studio settings and critique groups.

## Studio, Lab & Field Conduct

- Demonstrate responsibility with shared equipment and darkroom materials; follow safety protocols including cable management, power handling, and chemical handling.
- Maintain professional conduct and teamwork; properly store equipment after use; prioritize personal and others' safety.

## Environmental Considerations

- Function in environments with elevated temperatures, sound levels, complete darkness, dim/low-light rooms, outdoor conditions, and proximity to electrical equipment and chemicals.
- Work safely around energized electrical systems, tripods, C-stands, light fixtures, darkroom chemicals, and heated equipment with appropriate precautions.

## Accommodations

Students needing accommodations should contact Disability Programs & Services (DPS). The Digital Labs and Photography Programs are committed to providing reasonable accommodations that uphold safety and educational standards while supporting student success in all aspects of digital media, photography, broadcasting, and cinema education.