

PHOTOGRAPHY

Contact Information

Division

Liberal Arts

Dean

Patrick Marasso

Associate Deans

Soni Verma, Maria Villasenor

Division Office

W 107, Rocklin Campus

Overview

Photography is offered as a creative means of visual expression with artistic and commercial application. Opportunities for experimental and applied aspects are provided from the beginning through advanced levels. A serious effort is made to structure offerings so that students can attain individual goals in the field of Photography. Photographic skills complement other diverse fields such as science, environmental studies, law enforcement, teaching, anthropology, art and real estate. This complementary aspect is also stressed in the program.

TRANSFER MAJOR REQUIREMENTS in Photography are available in the Counseling Center. In all cases, students should consult with a counselor for specific transfer requirements.

Faculty

Kirkman Amyx

Professor, Photography

B.F.A., Art Center College of Design

M.F.A., San Jose State University

Daniel Herrera

Assistant Professor, Photography

BFA., San Jose State University

MFA., San Francisco State University

Photography Advisory Committee

- The Professional Photographers of Sacramento Valley, Sacramento, CA
- Kat Walker Photography, Orangevale, CA
- Svitlana Vronska Photography, North Highlands, CA
- Ann Keen Photography, Auburn, CA

Degrees/Certificates

Associate Degree

- Photography (p. 1)
- Photography and Video (p. 2)

Certificate of Achievement

- Photography (p. 2)
- Photography and Video (p. 2)

Skills Certificates

- Alternative Processes in Photography (p. 3)
- Color Photography (p. 3)
- Digital Imaging (p. 3)
- Fine Art Photography (p. 3)
- Landscape Photography (p. 3)
- Narrative Photography (p. 3)
- Photographic Processes (p. 4)
- Portrait, Fashion and Wedding Photography (p. 4)

Photography

AA or AS Degree

Positions for which students of photography are qualified are professional photographer, commercial photographer, advertising and photographic journalism. Students must fulfill the following major requirements with grades of "C" or better, complete a minimum of 60 degree-applicable semester units (12 of which must be completed at Sierra College) with a grade point average of at least 2.0 and complete one of the following three general education patterns:

- Sierra College Associate Degree Requirements (Local General Education) (<https://catalog.sierracollege.edu/archive/2025-2026/student-resources/general-education/associate-degree-requirements/>)
- (<https://catalog.sierracollege.edu/archive/2025-2026/student-resources/general-education/associate-degree-requirements/>)California General Education Transfer Curriculum (CalGETC) (<https://catalog.sierracollege.edu/archive/2025-2026/student-resources/general-education/california-general-education-transfer-curriculum-cal-getc/>)

Required Courses:

Code	Title	Units
PHOT 0010	History of Photography (also ARHI 0134)	3
PHOT 0060A	Beginning Photography	3
PHOT 0060B	The Creative Image	3
PHOT 0063	Digital Photography	3
PHOT 0065	Documentary Photography	3
PHOT 0070A	Studio Lighting	3
PHOT 0075	Introduction to Photoshop (also AAD 0075)	3

Select 4 units from the following: 4

AAD/PHOT 0079	Introduction to Digital Filmmaking and Video Production	
PHOT 0028	Independent Study (up to 1 unit)	
PHOT 0070B	Advanced Studio Lighting	
PHOT 0076	Advanced Projects in Photoshop (also AAD 0076)	
PHOT 0080	Color Photography	
PHOT 0088	Business Practices for Photographers	
PHOT 0090I	Night Photography Field Workshop ¹	
	or PHOT 0090J Photojournalism Field Workshop	
	or PHOT 0090L Field Workshop: Landscape	
	or PHOT 0090N Color Nature Photography Field Workshop	
	or PHOT 0090P Outdoor Portrait Workshop	
	or PHOT 0090T Field Workshop: Travel Photography	

	or PHOT 0090U Drone Photography and Videography	
	or PHOT 0090W Wedding and Event Photography Field Workshop	
PHOT 0092	Alternative Processes	
PHOT 0093	Advanced Alternative Processes	
PHOT 0095	Internship in Photography (up to 2 units)	
Total Units		25

Photography and Video

AS Degree

This interdisciplinary program of study will enable students to create technically and aesthetically successful still photographs and to capture and edit video with a solid narrative structure that meets client or employer needs. Students must fulfill the following major requirements with grades of "C" or better, complete a minimum of 60 degree-applicable semester units (12 of which must be completed at Sierra College) with a grade point average of at least 2.0 and complete one of the following three general education patterns:

- Sierra College Associate Degree Requirements (Local General Education) (<https://catalog.sierracollege.edu/archive/2025-2026/student-resources/general-education/associate-degree-requirements/>)
- (<https://catalog.sierracollege.edu/archive/2025-2026/student-resources/general-education/associate-degree-requirements/>)California General Education Transfer Curriculum (CalGETC) (<https://catalog.sierracollege.edu/archive/2025-2026/student-resources/general-education/california-general-education-transfer-curriculum-cal-getc/>)

Required Courses

Code	Title	Units
PHOT 0060A	Beginning Photography	3
PHOT 0063	Digital Photography	3
PHOT 0070A	Studio Lighting	3
PHOT 0075	Introduction to Photoshop (also AAD 0075)	3
AAD/PHOT 0079	Introduction to Digital Filmmaking and Video Production	3
AAD 0082	Intermediate Digital Filmmaking	3
PHOT 0089	Documentary Filmmaking (also AAD 0089)	3
Select 3 units from the following:		3
AAD 0093	Introduction to Motion Graphics	
PHOT 0076	Advanced Projects in Photoshop (also AAD 0076)	
Total Units		24

Photography

Certificate of Achievement

A certificate is designed to provide career technical skills; it is not equivalent to an associate degree.

Required Courses

Code	Title	Units
PHOT 0060A	Beginning Photography	3
PHOT 0063	Digital Photography	3

PHOT 0065	Documentary Photography	3
PHOT 0070A	Studio Lighting	3
PHOT 0075	Introduction to Photoshop (also AAD 0075)	3
PHOT 0080	Color Photography	3
PHOT 0088	Business Practices for Photographers	3
Select 7 units from the following:		7
AAD 0020	Portfolio Design	
AAD/PHOT 0079	Introduction to Digital Filmmaking and Video Production	
PHOT 0010	History of Photography	
PHOT 0028	Independent Study (up to 1 unit)	
PHOT 0060B	The Creative Image	
PHOT 0070B	Advanced Studio Lighting	
PHOT 0076	Advanced Projects in Photoshop (also AAD 0076)	
PHOT 0090I	Night Photography Field Workshop ¹	
	or PHOT 0090J Photojournalism Field Workshop	
	or PHOT 0090L Field Workshop: Landscape	
	or PHOT 0090N Color Nature Photography Field Workshop	
	or PHOT 0090P Outdoor Portrait Workshop	
	or PHOT 0090T Field Workshop: Travel Photography	
	or PHOT 0090U Drone Photography and Videography	
	or PHOT 0090W Wedding and Event Photography Field Workshop	
PHOT 0092	Alternative Processes	
PHOT 0093	Advanced Alternative Processes	
PHOT 0095	Internship in Photography (up to 2 units)	
Total Units		28

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Only 2 units total may be taken from the PHOT 90B-90W workshop courses.

Photography and Video

Certificate of Achievement

A certificate is designed to provide career technical skills; it is not equivalent to an associate degree.

Required Courses

Code	Title	Units
AAD/PHOT 0079	Introduction to Digital Filmmaking and Video Production	3
AAD 0082	Intermediate Digital Filmmaking	3
AAD 0093	Introduction to Motion Graphics	3
PHOT 0060A	Beginning Photography	3
PHOT 0063	Digital Photography	3
PHOT 0070A	Studio Lighting	3
PHOT/AAD 0075	Introduction to Photoshop	3
PHOT/AAD 0076	Advanced Projects in Photoshop	3
PHOT/AAD 0089	Documentary Filmmaking	3
Total Units		27

Alternative Processes in Photography

Skills Certificate

For those students who want to broaden their expressive abilities beyond the traditional photographic image. Helps prepare students for creative image making for the advertising and portrait photography markets. A skills certificate is designed to provide career technical skills; it is not equivalent to an associate degree.

Required Courses

Code	Title	Units
PHOT 0060B	The Creative Image	3
PHOT 0092	Alternative Processes	3
PHOT 0093	Advanced Alternative Processes	3
Total Units		9

Color Photography

Skills Certificate

Assists in preparing students to create visually stimulating images utilizing the power of color. Focuses on the aesthetic use of color, as well as technical mastery of color balancing, accuracy and manipulation. These skills are necessary for both laboratory technicians and photographers. A skills certificate is designed to provide career technical skills; it is not equivalent to an associate degree.

Required Courses

Code	Title	Units
Select 10 units from the following:		10
PHOT 0063	Digital Photography	
PHOT 0075	Introduction to Photoshop (also AAD 0075)	
PHOT 0080	Color Photography	
PHOT 0090I	Night Photography Field Workshop (up to 1 unit)	
PHOT 0090L	Field Workshop: Landscape (up to 1 unit)	
PHOT 0090N	Color Nature Photography Field Workshop (up to 1 unit)	
PHOT 0090T	Field Workshop: Travel Photography (up to 1 unit)	
Total Units		10

Digital Imaging

Skills Certificate

Designed for students interested in becoming proficient with photographic image capture, preparation and manipulation on the computer. Valuable for those preparing for a career as a photographer, photographic lab technician, or for those upgrading their skills. A skills certificate is designed to provide career technical skills; it is not equivalent to an associate degree.

Required Courses

Code	Title	Units
PHOT 0063	Digital Photography	3
PHOT 0075	Introduction to Photoshop (also AAD 0075)	3

PHOT 0076	Advanced Projects in Photoshop (also AAD 0076)	3
PHOT 0080	Color Photography	3
Total Units		12

Fine Art Photography

Skills Certificate

Designed to give students a broad range of skills used by both laboratory technicians and photographers. Students will be trained to handle a wide range of difficult assignments and creative techniques. A skills certificate is designed to provide career technical skills; it is not equivalent to an associate degree.

Required Courses

Code	Title	Units
Select 12 units from the following:		12
PHOT 0010	History of Photography (also ARHI 0134))	
PHOT 0060B	The Creative Image	
PHOT 0090L	Field Workshop: Landscape (up to 1 unit)	
PHOT 0090N	Color Nature Photography Field Workshop (up to 1 unit)	
PHOT 0092	Alternative Processes	
PHOT 0093	Advanced Alternative Processes	
Total Units		12

Landscape Photography

Skills Certificate

Course work in landscape photography trains students in the techniques utilized in creating expressive images of the environment. Helps prepare students for capturing the landscape for stock photography use, magazines, web sites and other visual media. A skills certificate is designed to provide career technical skills; it is not equivalent to an associate degree.

Required Courses

Code	Title	Units
Select 8 units from the following:		8
PHOT 0063	Digital Photography	
PHOT 0080	Color Photography	
PHOT 0090L	Field Workshop: Landscape (up to 1 unit)	
PHOT 0090N	Color Nature Photography Field Workshop (up to 1 unit)	
PHOT 0090T	Field Workshop: Travel Photography (up to 1 unit)	
Total Units		8

Narrative Photography

Skills Certificate

This certificate trains students to photograph assignments in such a way that they tell a story. Appropriate for those interested in gaining skills used by photojournalists, documentary and editorial photographers. A skills certificate is designed to provide career technical skills; it is not equivalent to an associate degree.

Required Courses

Code	Title	Units
Select 10 units from the following:		10
PHOT 0060B	The Creative Image	
PHOT 0065	Documentary Photography	
PHOT 0080 or AAD 0079	Color Photography Introduction to Digital Filmmaking and Video Production	
or PHOT 0079	Introduction to Digital Filmmaking and Video Production	
PHOT 0090T	Field Workshop: Travel Photography (up to 1 unit)	
PHOT 0090W	Wedding and Event Photography Field Workshop (up to 1 unit)	
PHOT 0090J	Photojournalism Field Workshop (up to 1 unit)	
Total Units		10

Photographic Processes**Skills Certificate**

Designed to give students a broad range of skills used by both laboratory technicians and photographers. Helps train students to handle a wide range of difficult assignments and creative techniques. A skills certificate is designed to provide career technical skills; it is not equivalent to an associate degree.

Required Courses

Code	Title	Units
Select 12 units from the following:		12
PHOT 0060B	The Creative Image	
PHOT 0063	Digital Photography	
PHOT 0075	Introduction to Photoshop (also AAD 0075)	
PHOT 0080	Color Photography	
PHOT 0090I	Night Photography Field Workshop (up to 1 unit)	
PHOT 0092	Alternative Processes	
Total Units		12

Portrait, Fashion and Wedding Photography**Skills Certificate**

For those students interested in preparing for a career in portrait, fashion, or wedding photography. Designed to help train students in portrait techniques and portfolio presentation along with providing an opportunity for students to work with a photographer in the industry. A skills certificate is designed to provide career technical skills; it is not equivalent to an associate degree.

Required Courses

Code	Title	Units
Select 13 units from the following:		13
PHOT 0063	Digital Photography	
PHOT 0070A	Studio Lighting	
PHOT 0070B	Advanced Studio Lighting	
PHOT 0088	Business Practices for Photographers	

PHOT 0090P	Outdoor Portrait Workshop (up to 1 unit)
PHOT 0090W	Wedding and Event Photography Field Workshop (up to 1 unit)
Total Units	13

Courses

Understanding course descriptions (<https://catalog.sierracollege.edu/archive/2025-2026/student-resources/course-information/understanding-course-descriptions/>)

PHOT 0010. History of Photography

Units: 3

Also known as ARHI 134

Hours: 54 lecture

Historical survey of photography as an art form and communication tool from its invention to the present. Explores various perspectives including photography as an art form and a technology, influential themes, periods, and photographers. Investigates technical considerations, photography's role in mass culture, and other societal influences. (CSU, UC)

PHOT 0028. Independent Study

Units: 1-3

Designed for students interested in furthering their knowledge at an independent study level in an area where no specific curriculum offering is currently available. Independent study might include, but is not limited to, research papers, special subject area projects, and research projects. See Independent Study page in catalog. (CSU)

PHOT 0060A. Beginning Photography

Units: 3

Hours: 72 (36 lecture, 36 activity)

Utilizing digital and film cameras to create photographs that are technically competent and visually appealing. Elements of design and influence of photography as an art form examined. Topics include subject selection, exposure control, composition, lighting, printing, presentation, and responses to photographs within a framework of historical and ethnically and culturally diverse perspectives. (CSU, UC)

PHOT 0060B. The Creative Image

Units: 3

Prerequisite: Completion of PHOT 60A with grade of "C" or better

Hours: 72 (36 lecture, 36 activity)

The conceptual process, experimentation, and photographic tools of creative image making. Consideration of the work by historical and ethnically and culturally diverse photographers. Topics include creative camera and darkroom experimentation, medium format and toy cameras, pinhole photography, the traditional/digital darkroom and bookmaking. (CSU, UC)

PHOT 0063. Digital Photography

Units: 3

Formerly known as PHOT 78

Prerequisite: Completion of PHOT 60A with grade of "C" or better

Hours: 72 (36 lecture, 36 activity)

Emphasis on practical use of the digital camera in real world situations. Creative and technical controls offered by digital cameras. Image file management and image optimization using Adobe Lightroom. Color management and digital printing. Basic video capture with digital still cameras. (CSU)

PHOT 0065. Documentary Photography*Units: 3*

Prerequisite: Completion of PHOT 60A or 78 with grade of "C" or better
Hours: 72 (36 lecture, 36 activity)

Production of photographic essays and individual images that capture what is happening in the world around us. Historical origins and cultural impact of documentary photography and photojournalism. Emphasis on ethics, communication with single images and photographic essays. Bringing together photography and text, contemporary practitioners, and organization of visual essays. (CSU)

PHOT 0070A. Studio Lighting*Units: 3*

Prerequisite: Completion of PHOT 60A and PHOT 75 or PHOT 78 with grade(s) of "C" or better

Hours: 90 (36 lecture, 54 laboratory)

The application of studio lighting techniques to portrait and product photography. Concentration on creative and technical control of lighting, background, props and composition. Utilizes both studio strobe and continuous light sources. (CSU)

PHOT 0070B. Advanced Studio Lighting*Units: 3*

Prerequisite: Completion of PHOT 70A with a grade of "C" or better

Hours: 90 (36 lecture, 54 laboratory)

Additional creative and technical work with studio lighting and portfolio development. Concentration on refining studio techniques used in commercial and fine art photography. Students create a focused body of work over the course of the semester. (CSU)

PHOT 0075. Introduction to Photoshop*Units: 3*

Also known as AAD 75

Advisory: Completion of AAD 70 with grade of "C" or better

Hours: 72 (36 lecture, 36 activity)

Introduction to the acquisition and computer enhancements of digital images for design and photography. Analysis and critique of images from initial concept to final project creation. Basic scanning, image adjustments, retouching, compositing, and file preparation for printing and other uses. (CSU, UC)

PHOT 0076. Advanced Projects in Photoshop*Units: 3*

Also known as AAD 76

Prerequisite: Completion of PHOT 75 or AAD 75 with grade of "C" or better

Hours: 72 (36 lecture, 36 activity)

Advanced digital project development using Photoshop. Creating original images from a variety of input devices including scanners and digital cameras. Speed building in editing techniques. Integration of other software programs. Evaluations and critiques of completed projects. (CSU)

PHOT 0079. Introduction to Digital Filmmaking and Video Production*Units: 3*

Also known as AAD 79 and COMM 31A

Hours: 90 (36 lecture, 54 laboratory)

Use of digital cameras for producing short form video projects. Introduction to principles, techniques and the terminology of video production and digital filmmaking. Guided classroom exercises and projects, including pre-production planning, storytelling, video and audio recording techniques, on-location set-ups and studio set-ups, lighting for filmmaking, and basic video editing and output. (CSU)

PHOT 0080. Color Photography*Units: 3*

Prerequisite: Completion of PHOT 78 or PHOT 75/AAD 75 with grade of "C" or better

Hours: 72 (36 lecture, 36 activity)

Application of color theory and technical skills to create expressive color photographs. Study of the history of color photography, color symbolism, and color as a communication element in photography. Composition, exposure, and theme in creating effective color photographs also covered. Implementation of a color-managed workflow to produce accurate color from digital capture to print. (CSU, UC)

PHOT 0088. Business Practices for Photographers*Units: 3*

Advisory: Completion of a minimum of three photography courses

Hours: 54 lecture

Successful business practices for commercial, portrait, and fine art photographers. Elements of starting and running a photography business, including overhead, taxes, insurance, copyright law, contracts, pricing and marketing. Overview of business resources provided by professional photography organizations. Creation of a business plan related to the students' career goals. (CSU)

PHOT 0089. Documentary Filmmaking*Units: 3*

Also known as AAD 89

Prerequisite: Completion of AAD 79/COMM 31A/PHOT 79 with grade of "C" or better

Hours: 90 (36 lecture, 54 laboratory)

Examines the principles, techniques and terminology that are specific to documentary filmmaking. Students produce documentary films that incorporate industry standard pre-production preparation such as creating contracts, research, location surveys, and script writing. Major topics include camera operation, capturing b-roll, location sound recording, mixing, editing and formatting for distribution. (CSU, UC)

PHOT 0090I. Night Photography Field Workshop*Units: 0.5-3*

Advisory: Completion of PHOT 60A with grade of "C" or better

Hours: 13 (7 lecture, 6 activity) per .5 unit

Intensive field workshop covering methods and processes of night, artificial and available light photography. Topics include camera and lens use, accessory equipment, metering, lighting, and the unique aspects of the event, region or situation being studied. (CSU)

PHOT 0090J. Photojournalism Field Workshop*Units: 0.5-3*

Advisory: Completion of PHOT 60A or 78 with grade of "C" or better

Hours: 13 (7 lecture, 6 activity) per .5 unit

Practical experience covering specific event(s). Visual styles, locations, methods, and processes of photojournalism explored. Topics include camera and lens use, composition, equipment, metering and lighting, working methods of photojournalists and the unique aspects of the event or region being studied. (CSU)

PHOT 0090L. Field Workshop: Landscape*Units: 0.5-3*

Advisory: Completion of PHOT 60A or 78 with grade of "C" or better

Hours: 13 (7 lecture, 6 activity) per .5 unit

Exploration of landscape photography. Topics include camera and lens use, composition, equipment, metering and lighting, the social contribution of landscape photography and the unique aspects of region being studied. Location of field study will vary. Students must supply camera, digital media or film and presentation materials. (CSU)

PHOT 0090N. Color Nature Photography Field Workshop*Units: 0.5-3*

Advisory: Completion of PHOT 60A or 78 with grade of "C" or better

Hours: 13 (7 lecture, 6 activity) per .5 unit

Application of color photography concepts in the field. Topics include subject selection, the impact and use of color, capturing accurate vs. altered color, equipment, composition, metering and overcoming the challenges of location and weather. (CSU)

PHOT 0090P. Outdoor Portrait Workshop*Units: 0.5-3*

Prerequisite: Completion of PHOT 60A or 78 with grade of "C" or better

Hours: 13 (7 lecture, 6 activity) per .5 unit

Photographing individuals and groups in an outdoor setting. Topics include camera, lens and equipment selection, camera use, lighting, posing, and composition. (CSU)

PHOT 0090T. Field Workshop: Travel Photography*Units: 0.5-3*

Advisory: Completion of PHOT 60A with grade of "C" or better

Hours: 13 (7 lecture, 6 activity) per .5 unit

Intensive field workshop covering specific locations, methods and processes of travel photography. Includes visual themes, narrative and individual images, composition, equipment, exposure, selection and presentation of photographs. Overview of the population, habitat, environment and geography, culture and traditions of the region being studied. (CSU)

PHOT 0090U. Drone Photography and Videography*Units: 0.5-2*

Hours: 13 (7 lecture, 6 activity) per .5 unit

Camera operation and flight maneuvers used by photographers and cinematographers to capture still and motion footage from UAV's (drones). Topics covered include equipment selection, flight controls, safety, image capture and business opportunities. Students utilize department provided equipment. How to prepare for FAA certification will be discussed. (CSU)

PHOT 0090W. Wedding and Event Photography Field Workshop*Units: 0.5-1*

Prerequisite: Completion of PHOT 60A or PHOT 78 with grade of "C" or better

Hours: 13 (7 lecture, 6 activity) per .5 unit

Documentation of weddings and events, such as: conferences, trade shows, public relations events, campaign rallies, performances, holiday parties and Quinceañeras. Working with portable flash, available light and mixed lighting. Posing and capturing groups and individuals in a timely manner. (CSU)

PHOT 0092. Alternative Processes*Units: 3*

Prerequisite: Completion of PHOT 60A with grade of "C" or better

Hours: 90 (36 lecture, 54 laboratory)

Creative expression through alternative photographic processes, many of which were first developed in the 19th century and are known for producing expressive prints with a unique look. Merging of digital technology and non-traditional printing materials explored. Processes may include: cyanotype, salt printing, kallitype, anthotype, tintype, lumen, hand-coated silver emulsion, and inkjet transfers. (CSU)

PHOT 0093. Advanced Alternative Processes*Units: 3*

Prerequisite: Completion of PHOT 92 with grade of "C" or better

Hours: 90 (36 lecture, 54 laboratory)

Advanced study of alternative processes in photography designed to expand on the technical and creative concepts previously acquired. Exploration of the technical and aesthetic variations possible within the processes chosen for study. Creation of a cohesive fine art portfolio. (CSU)

PHOT 0095. Internship in Photography*Units: 0.5-4*

Designed for advanced students to work in an area related to their educational or occupational goal. Provides new on-the-job technical training under the direction of a worksite supervisor, allowing students to expand knowledge and skills in the chosen field. Mandatory orientation session and faculty approval to determine eligibility. One unit of credit is equal to 54 hours of work. Students may earn up to a total of 16 units in internship courses (any course numbered 95 and PDEV 94). (CSU-with unit limitation)

Program Student Learning Outcomes (PSLOs)

- Analyze the major historical and contemporary trends and influences within the medium of photography.
- Critique photographs orally and in writing for content, composition, craftsmanship, and originality with terminology commonly used in art and photography.
- Create photographs demonstrating good exposure control under a wide variety of lighting situations, including both natural and studio lighting.
- Utilize the darkroom or computer to produce final images that have appropriate contrast, density and color as well as incorporate the elements of design, design, principles and compositional conventions.
- Distinguish between the key principles of copyright laws and understand industry business practices, and other legal and ethical considerations.
- Develop a portfolio of images that illustrates the student photographer's style, skill with the medium and subject area interests.