

**Georgian College – Digital Photography & Imaging Equipment Costs
Estimated Student Expenses – for Incoming Students Fall 2014**

Estimated Up Front Expenses: \$1200-\$1600

Students who already own photography gear equivalent to the equipment listed below will have lower up front expenses

The Digital Photography and Imaging program at Georgian College has a fully equipped photo studio and computer labs for instructional use. We also offer photo quality printing at very low prices. However, students of the program are required to have a personal camera and certain related equipment that meet the following specifications.

A Digital Single Lens Reflex (DSLR) camera.

We recommend either Nikon or Canon if you are buying a new camera. An example of an acceptable Nikon camera would be the D5100 (\$500). An example of an acceptable Canon camera would be the T3i (\$500). There is great variation in the price of equipment. Generally you get what you pay for. Therefore, while the cheaper models (above) may seem tempting they may not last as long or perform as well as a higher quality model. Similarly, it can be a good investment to upgrade to the next higher quality zoom lens (e.g. 18-85) at the time of purchase, since the typical lens that comes with a camera (e.g. 18-55) may have limits in terms of usage. Students are advised to look for student pricing from camera stores and should consider purchasing an extended warrantee. If you already have a camera, it should be a DSLR model type with the ability to capture Camera RAW files as well as video.

Tripod

A good tripod is an essential tool in photography. Make sure to have a tripod with a Pan and Tilt or Ball Head. Do NOT get a tripod with a Video head. Once again, a cheaper tripod may be tempting as a purchase but a more expensive one that is solidly built will last a lifetime and may be the better choice in the long run. An example of an acceptable tripod would be the Manfrotto 055XPROB at \$240 with an 804RC2 Pan Head \$90 or 494RC2 Ball Head \$100

External Flash

It is highly recommended that students use external flashes manufactured by the same maker as the camera to ensure compatibility and the use of TTL flash. The Nikon SB700 (\$400) and Canon 430 EXII (\$390) are examples of external flashes. A less expensive flash unit from an after market manufacturer may also suffice.

Additional Studio Equipment

A flash meter is required. The Sekonic Flash Meter L-378 (\$400) is a good example. Another excellent meter that is often available used is the Sekonic L-358. Note that prices on used gear vary and that purchasing from a camera store where a warranty is given is HIGHLY recommended. In addition students will need a Safe Sync to attach to the camera's hot shoe (\$90) which connects the camera to the studio flash by a sync cable.

Other items that students tend to pick up over time include:

Photographic Accessories

Some students may wish to purchase additional lenses as well as miscellaneous gear such as a camera bag, memory cards, extra camera batteries, a memory card reader, etc.

Computer and Software Requirements

Students are not required to have a personal computer and software in order to complete the program, however it is recommended and students find working easier if they have their own computers. Computer labs are available on campus for students.

It is recommended that students have a monthly subscription to the Adobe Creative Cloud for \$20/month to be assured that you will have the most current software available. Students are strongly advised to wait until they are registered before purchasing software since students may qualify for substantial student discounts on software.

Additional costs

In addition to the up front costs outlined above, students will need to spend several hundred dollars per semester on printing, depending on their assignments. In addition, textbooks are required for some courses and their cost will vary from semester to semester.

If you have further questions regarding equipment requirements for the program, please contact:

Colette Mesdag, Program Coordinator
Digital Photography & Imaging
Colette.mesdag@georgiancollege.ca
705-728-1968 extension 1456