

Photo Collage

CTLT: DIGITAL ARTS PROJECTS

LEVEL OF DIFFICULTY: Easy

Making a photo collage on a computer can have some fantastic results. The goal is to combine a number of different pictures into one cohesive image. Whether it is putting your friend's head on a model's body or creating a serious digital work of art, a photo collage or montage has infinite options. You will need to learn some basic Photoshop skills to complete this project.

TIMELINE:

It does take some time to learn the skills needed. After getting a handle on the program, the time the project will take depends on how realistic you want your project to look and how many pieces you put together. Overall, give yourself **one to two weeks to complete the project**.

The Breakdown of How Your Time is Spent:

- **1 to 2 hour, Appointments to learn Photoshop:** Having someone help you learn Photoshop is much easier than looking at a manual. One or two, hour-long appointments will give you the skills to make a fabulous project. Email CTLT@goucher.edu with a list of days, dates and times you are free to schedule an appointment with a Digital Arts Specialist.
- **2 to 5 hours, Gathering Materials:** You'll need to find pictures to use for your collage.
- **5 to 24 hours, Creation of the project:** Once you have the skills, use Photoshop to create a digital photo collage. Some people only spend a few hours for a good project and others spend longer to make image complex and seamless. Depending on your expectations, and level of expertise, the project can take from 5 to 24 hours of computer time.
- **20 minutes to 1.5 hours, Printing:** If you are posting it on the web or printing on normal paper, you don't need to factor in extra time. However, if you want to use the poster printer, you will need to schedule an appointment in the binder at the CTLT desk and show up with your finished product. It should take about an hour and a half to set up and print, and you need to stay with your poster during that time.

EQUIPMENT:

- **A Computer with Adobe Photoshop**
 - All the library computers have Photoshop installed.
- **Pictures for the Collage**
 - Take your own pictures: The library has a number of digital cameras available to check out. Take some of your own pictures, upload them to a computer, and get started. If you need help, there is a brochure that covers how to upload photos or ask a Purple or Green Shirt on duty.
 - Use existing prints: Go to the library to scan your photos in the CTLT or DAC. If you need help, you can use a brochure or ask a Purple or Green Shirt.
 - Use existing digital pictures: Save your pictures to Darwin so you can access them on the public computers available at the Library.
 - Pictures from the Internet: Make sure you use quality stock photos that are free to use (not copyrighted). For more information, talk to a Digital Arts Specialist or email CTLT@goucher.edu.

WHERE TO GET HELP:

- **Pick up a brochure or manual:** The CTLT has great brochures and manuals that cover the basics of cameras and Photoshop, step by step. Pick one up in the CTLT and try it out before you start your project.
- **Have a problem with your project or need some quick tips?** Swing by the library and ask a specialist for some help (the Green Shirts) during most library hours between 9am and 11pm on weekdays.
- **Schedule an appointment with a specialist:** Digital Arts Specialists are available to help with any part of the process. From learning how to use Photoshop to getting important tips or guidelines so you have a quality project, request an appointment by emailing CTLT@goucher.edu.