Adobe Certified Associate

About the Adobe Certified Associate (ACA) Program

The Adobe Certified Associate (ACA) program is for graphic designers, Web designers, video production designers, and digital professionals seeking official entry-level recognition of their communication skills using Adobe products.

What is an ACA?

An Adobe Certified Associate is an individual who has passed an Adobe Product Proficiency Exam for a specific Adobe software product. Adobe Certified Associates are eligible to promote themselves to clients or employers as entry-level skilled users of Adobe digital media software. ACA certification is a recognized worldwide standard for excellence in Adobe software knowledge. There are four areas of ACA certification: Visual Communication using Photoshop, Web Communication using Dreamweaver, Rich Media Communications using Flash Professional, and Video Communication using Premiere Professional. To become an ACA, you must pass a communication program/product-specific proficiency exam and sign the ACA program agreement. When you become an ACA, you enjoy these special benefits:

- ◆ Professional recognition
- ◆ An ACA program certificate

What Does This Logo Mean?

It means this book will prepare you fully for the Adobe Certified Associate exam for Adobe Visual Communication using Photoshop CS6. The certification exam has a set of objectives, which are organized into broader skill sets. Throughout this book, content that pertains to an ACA objective is identified with the following Adobe Certified logo and objective number below the title of the topic:

 ACA: PS 3.1

Visual Communication Using Photoshop CS6
ACA Exam Objectives

Objective	Skill	Page
1.0	**Setting Project Requirements**	
1.1	Identify the purpose, audience, and audience needs for preparing image(s).	12
1.2	Demonstrate knowledge of standard copyright rules for images and image use.	370-371, 412-413
1.3	Demonstrate knowledge of project management tasks and responsibilities.	410-411
1.4	Communicate with others (such as peers and clients) about design plans.	12
2.0	**Identifying Design Elements When Preparing Images**	
2.1	Demonstrate knowledge of image resolution, image size, and image file format for web, video, and print.	13, 22-23, 28-29 410-411, 416-424
2.2	Demonstrate knowledge of design principles, elements, and image composition.	182-183, 274
2.3	Demonstrate knowledge of typography.	316-326
2.4	Demonstrate knowledge of color correction using Photoshop CS6.	206-207
2.5	Demonstrate knowledge of image-generating devices, their resulting image types, and how to access resulting images in Photoshop.	447, 454-455
2.6	Understand key terminology of digital images.	Glossary
3,0	**Understanding Adobe Photoshop CS6**	
3.1	Identify elements of the Photoshop CS6 user interface and demonstrate knowledge of their functions.	6-11
3.2	Demonstrate knowledge of layers and masks.	108-123, 126-128, 252-272
3.3	Demonstrate knowledge of importing, exporting, organizing, and saving.	17-19, 28-29, 130, 410-423, 466-479
3.4	Demonstrate knowledge of producing and reusing images.	410-423, 466-479
3.5	Demonstrate an understanding of and select the appropriate features and options required to implement a color management workflow.	454-455
4.0	**Manipulating Images using Adobe Photoshop CS6**	
4.1	Demonstrate knowledge of working with selections.	78-95
4.2	Use Photoshop guides and rulers.	48-49, 62-65, 80
4.3	Transform images.	96-97
4.4	Adjust or correct the tonal range, color, or distortions of an image.	178-179, 206-207
4.5	Demonstrate knowledge of retouching and blending images.	124, 154-155, 174-177

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| | Visual Communication Using Photoshop CS6 | |
| | ACA Exam Objectives *(continued)* | |

Objective	Skill	Page
4.6	Demonstrate knowledge of type.	316-326
4.7	Demonstrate knowledge of filters.	342-345
5.0	**Publishing Digital Images using Adobe Photoshop CS6**	
5.1	Demonstrate knowledge of preparing images for web, print, and video.	14, 416-422, 466-471, 494-503

Preparing for an Adobe Certified Associate Exam

Every Adobe Certified Associate Exam is developed from a list of objectives, which are based on studies of how an Adobe program is actually used in the workplace. The list of objectives determine the scope of each exam, so they provide you with the information you need to prepare for ACA certification. Follow these steps to complete the ACA Exam requirement:

1. Review and perform each task identified with a Adobe Certified Associate objective to confirm that you can meet the requirements for the exam.

2. Identify the topic areas and objectives you need to study, and then prepare for the exam.

3. Review the Adobe Certified Associate Program. To review it, go online to *http://www.adobe.com/education/instruction/ace*.

   Each Adobe certification exam corresponds to a particular Adobe application used for digital communication, and represents a single certification.

4. Register for the Adobe Certified Associate Exam.

   ACA testing is offered at authorized Certiport testing centers in many countries. To find the testing center nearest you, go online to *www.certiport.com*. When contacting an authorized training center, provide them with the Adobe Product program exam name you want to take, which you can take on a per-test basis; the student price is $65, while the commercial retail price is $80.

   There is also a recertification exam for those who have already passed an ACA exam with a previous exam version, which you can take on a per-test basis for the student price of $50. For more information about the recertification process, go online to *www.certiport.com*.

   As an educational provider, you can also conduct unlimited ACA testing with the ACA Classroom License. The once-a-year fee allows a school or institution to partner with Certiport to conduct unlimited online ACA testing for an entire campus or within one classroom with up to 30 computers. If you are interested in becoming an exam provider, contact a Certiport Representative at 1-800-933-4493 or email *adobeinfo@certiport.com*.

5. Take the ACA exam.

Taking an Adobe Certified Associate Exam

The Adobe Certified Associate exams are computer-delivered, closed-book tests consisting of 40 multiple-choice and application simulation questions that you have 50 minutes to complete. The exams are currently available worldwide in English only. They are administered by Certiport, independent third-party testing companies.

Exam Results

At the end of the exam, a score report appears indicating whether you passed or failed the exam. Diagnostic information is included in your exam report. When you pass the exam, your score is electronically reported to Adobe by Certiport. Within two weeks of passing a certification exam, you'll receive an official certificate in the mail with an Adobe Certified Associate logo that highlights your accomplishment.

Getting More Information

To learn more about the Adobe Certified Associate program, read a list of frequently asked questions, and locate the nearest testing center, go online to:

http://www.adobe.com/education/instruction/ace

To learn more about other Adobe certification programs, go online to:

http://www.adobe.com/support/certification