TESTIMONIALS

"PrintED has provided my graphic communications classes with the focus and guidance to keep up with the rapidly changing printing industry. The national industry standards provided by PrintED are a valuable framework for aligning curriculum. Our PrintED graduates have confirmed that they have been able to use their PrintED training and certification to open doors to further their education and employment opportunities."

DEBORA PARISOT, PrintED INSTRUCTOR
AREA CAREER CENTER, PERU, IL

"From an industry standpoint, PrintED speaks to the legitimacy of a graphic communications program, ensuring that students are being taught relevant content. When asked to place students in internships, those students that participate in a PrintED accredited program and achieve certification will be given preference."

PAUL FOSTER, VICE PRESIDENT
PRINTING & GRAPHICS ASSOCIATION MIDATLANTIC

"This PrintED program was amazing in the level of detail and all-encompassing nature of the curriculum. The program shows a high level of creativity and potential engagement of learners due to the variety of activities to deliver lessons. The objectives were clear with assessment mapped to objective. I wish that the type of program offered at this school was available to more students throughout the state, and the entire country for that matter."

ALISON MACLEAN, FREELANCE GRAPHIC DESIGNER
BRIDGEWATER, MA

"The PrintED program is thorough, well organized and committed to presenting a comprehensive view of the creative and technical graphic communications industry. The curriculum is of the first order and is highly commendable."

IAN HOCHBERG, SIGN AND GRAPHICS EXPERT
HIGH MOUNTAIN SIGNS, BALTIMORE, MD

The Graphic Arts Education and Research Foundation (GAERF) serves to advance knowledge and education in graphic communications by supporting programs to provide a well-prepared rising skilled workforce for the industry.

GAERF, a nonprofit foundation, is managed and directed by the Association for Print Technologies (formerly NPES) from their headquarters in Reston, Virginia.

GAERF

GRAPHIC ARTS EDUCATION AND RESEARCH FOUNDATION

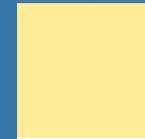1899 Preston White Drive
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PRINT ED

Promoting the Future of

Graphic Communications

through Accreditation

PRINT**ED**

YOUR QUESTIONS ANSWERED...

WHAT IS PrintED?
PrintED, administered by the Graphic Arts Education and Research Foundation (GAERF), is a national accreditation program based on industry standards and appropriate for secondary and post-secondary schools offering graphic communications curricula.

WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS OF ACCREDITATION?
To the student, PrintED provides a career pathway to enter the workplace with verifiable credentials, or to pursue further education with college credit already in hand.

To the educator, PrintED ensures an instructional program that is current and relevant, consistent across the nation, and aligned with industry standards.

To the employer, PrintED graduates promise a knowledgeable, trained, and skilled workforce.

HOW DOES A PROGRAM ACHIEVE ACCREDITATION?
After completing an application, an Evaluation Team Leader (ETL) is assigned to mentor the candidate program's instructor. The ETL maintains monthly contact with the instructor and visits the facility on two separate occasions. A team comprised of industry professionals conducts the final evaluation to determine if the program has met accreditation requirements. An applicant program is granted 12 months to complete the accreditation process. Accreditation is awarded for five years, with an Annual Status Report due at the end of each academic school year. Areas of accreditation include:

DIGITAL FILE PREPARATION AND OUTPUT
DIGITAL PRODUCTION PRINTING
GRAPHIC DESIGN
INTRODUCTION TO GRAPHIC COMMUNICATIONS*
OFFSET PRESS OPERATIONS/BINDERY AND FINISHING
SCREEN PRINTING

*Accreditation in Introduction to Graphic Communications, as well as in one other area, is required. Schools may choose to be accredited in additional areas.

DOES PrintED HAVE DEFINED STANDARDS?
PrintED has identified six standards that encompass the elements of a solid training program. For a program to be awarded accreditation, it must meet these standards in at least two accreditation areas.

Standard 1: Instructional Staff
The instructional staff must maintain technical competency, meet the requirements to be an approved PrintED instructor, and meet all state and local requirements for accreditation.

Standard 2: Facility, Equipment and Safety
The physical facility must be adequate to permit achievement of the program goals and performance objectives. In addition, the equipment must be of the type and quality found in the industry. Both the facility and equipment must meet today's safety standards.

Standard 3: Instruction
Program curriculum must incorporate current industry competencies, safety procedures, acceptable work habits and ethics, and assessments.

Standard 4: Purpose
Program must have clearly stated goals related to student services and employers served.

Standard 5: Administration
Administration must insure that instructional activities support and promote the goals of the program.

Standard 6: Program Budget
Funding must be provided to meet the approved program goals and performance objectives.

WHAT ARE THE GRAPHIC COMMUNICATIONS SKILLS COMPETENCIES?
The Graphic Communications Skills Competencies (GCSC), developed by educators and industry professionals, provide measurable or observable knowledge, skills, abilities, and behaviors critical to successful job performance. These competencies form the basis for instruction in the six areas of PrintED accreditation.

DOES PrintED PROVIDE ASSESSMENTS?
GAERF in partnership with SkillsUSA offers online assessments to include:

- **DIGITAL FILE PREPARATION/DIGITAL FILE OUTPUT**
- **DIGITAL PRODUCTION PRINTING**
- **GRAPHIC DESIGN**
- **INTRODUCTION TO GRAPHIC COMMUNICATIONS**
- **OFFSET PRESS OPERATIONS/BINDERY & FINISHING**
- **SCREEN PRINTING**

A student who receives a passing score on any of the SkillsUSA/PrintED assessments is awarded a **Student Certification** in that subject area, valid for two years. The certification, which does not require work experience, is designed to be the initial step for students seeking to build a career in the graphic communications industry.

HOW MANY PROGRAMS ARE PrintED ACCREDITED?
As accreditations are awarded on a continual basis, the most up-to-date information can be found on the GAERF website at www.gaerf.org.

WHAT IS THE FEE FOR ACCREDITATION?
The accreditation fee of $1800 includes two Evaluation Team Leader on-site visits, PrintED material, on-going support and an accreditation plaque.