Do I need to know digital arts or have a design background?
No, being creative, detail-oriented and having a passion for art, design and technology is all you need to successfully complete the certificate. However, we do recommend that you be familiar with digital design software or Adobe Creative Suite applications.

What are the computer requirements?
Since you will be spending 105 hours studying online at home, there are some minimum computer requirements you will need. We will give you your software package at the first class meeting, and if you bring a laptop with you, we will help you install it. There are additional requirements necessary to support the Adobe Creative Cloud that you will learn about at the information session.

What is included in the cost of the program?
Academy fee includes textbook, application for candidacy fee, parking, a 12-month subscription to Adobe Creative Cloud Design Premium package, and portfolio reception.

Does the full tuition have to be paid upfront?
No, you can receive an Early Bird discount of $300 off the tuition if you reserve your place by paying a $500 deposit before the specified date, with the balance due on or before the first day of class. Deposit is non-refundable after the specified date. Call Student Services at (951) 827-4105 for details.

Is financial aid available?
As a UCR Extension student, you may be eligible for private financial assistance. Call Student Services at (951) 827-4105 for details. Displaced or disadvantaged workers may be eligible for federal assistance through the Employment Development Department (EDD) of California. For students who qualify, funds may be applied toward the cost of UCR Extension course fees, books and materials.

Will I be able to get a new or better job when I finish?
Although we do not offer a formal job placement service, you will have ample opportunity to network with your instructors, who are seasoned industry professionals with extensive background and experience in the field and with your classmates who may be working already in the field.

Can I work full time and participate in the program?
The Hybrid Academy is designed to meet the needs of working individuals, with a blend of weekend classroom time, and live video/audio lecture, online learning. The total instructional time is 150 hours, but you should be prepared to spend additional time on homework and projects to complete your classes.