

Summary

TASA stands behind all methods of photography, traditional wet darkroom with film and digitally produced studio or computer touched imagery. We put together this survey to assist in educational planning. Seventeen two-year colleges, eleven four-year institutions, and five schools with no photo programs at this point in time participated in the survey. The charted sequence of photography courses is offered as information that might be useful in program planning in this area of study.

Most schools in our survey offering basic (wet or traditional) black & white and the color printing classes present them prior to entrance into the beginning digital courses or in combination. Photo-digital beginnings came out of traditional methods of image control. Photographers have customarily been compositing multiple images, changing color, saturation and sharpness in prints. Digital imaging through a computer's monitor makes the basic levels of image control consistent with learning in the traditional wet lab situation.

Each concept (wet lab, digital, alternative) has particular characteristics that contribute to its relative strength or weakness as an effective tool for teaching/learning methods. Determining how these tried and new technologies should be used in the service of education is a pressing problem confronting most higher education institutions. Considerations: 1. costs ; 2. diversity of demographic; and 3. maintaining quality. It is in this environment that education leaders are faced with making decisions about designing learning experiences.

Educational leadership should be very clear about institutional goals and possible area niches when planning (wet lab, digital, alternative) to serve students. Our ongoing survey suggests that there are a number of key issues to consider when thinking about the costs and benefits to students the institutions and their missions, as well as the course of action's effectiveness. Choices that make sense for a large research university, may be entirely different from choices that are realistic for a community college or a small suburban institution.

Whatever model emerges for a particular institution should be the result of careful planning and reflect a synthetic approach that includes wise use of the existing processes and cutting-edge technologies and is customized to the subject matter, to student needs, and to the institution's mission, goals, and budgets.