

College of the North Atlantic

Video Game Art & Design

Tools and Equipment

Updated June 26, 2026



FOR STUDENTS BEGINNING IN FALL 2026 AND GRADUATING IN JUNE 2029

Some materials and supplies will be purchased in Year 1 will be used throughout the 3-year program, such as a computer and basic drawing supplies. It is suggested that you check with each instructor at the beginning of the semester because software and textbooks may change, and new editions may be adopted. Some art and video editing software used requires a paid Adobe Photoshop subscription, some 3D modeling software and game engine software may be free (or free educational) versions, however license agreements and course choices fluctuate.

SOURCING ART SUPPLIES & TECHNOLOGY: Here are some examples of places to buy the items

Online

- Michael's (<https://canada.michaels.com>)
- Above Ground Art Supplies (www.abovegroundartsupplies.com/)
- Amazon (www.amazon.ca)
- BestBuy (<https://bestbuy.ca>)
- NewEgg (<https://newegg.ca>)
- Polymer Clay Canada (best for Sculpey products) (www.polymerclaycanada.com)

St. John's, NL

- Michael's (36 Stavanger Dr. St. John's, NL)
- Art Cansel (1133 Topsail Road, Mount Pearl, NL)
- Best Buy (3 Stavanger Dr., St. John's, NL)
- Walmart has some art supplies

COMPUTER WORKSTATION/DESKTOP AND PERIPHERALS:

- **Windows gamer workstation with a powerful graphics card*** A desktop computer is recommended (if looking at a gamer laptop, make sure the same minimum requirements are met). Prices fluctuate, estimated at around \$2500.00
 - Specifications of minimum computer requirements:
 - Windows 11 (not Mac)
 - Intel Core i7 or AMD Ryzen 7, or better
 - 32GB RAM or better
 - GeForce RTX 3070 or better (graphics card) with 8GB video memory
 - VR ready
 - Multiple USB 3.0 Type A and C ports
 - Internet capability
 - Quality sound card (minimum stereo sound capability and headphone/speaker outputs, audio/mic inputs)

*Note: If you already have a computer that meets the minimum requirements of Adobe Photoshop and online courses in general, you may use this for Year 1 and choose to wait by the beginning of Fall of Year 2 to purchase the more powerful computer described here.

- **4K flatscreen monitor** (not a curved monitor) (prices fluctuate, estimated at around \$400.00)
- **Digital Drawing Display/**Tablet, pressure sensitive - Such as the Wacom One 12 Drawing Tablet with Screen or Huion Kamvas Pro 12 (or larger) (prices fluctuate, estimate around \$300)
- **VR Headset:** A VR headset is required by Year 3, brand and specs are to be determined closer to the time as needed. Device prices & models fluctuate, it could be approximately \$400.00 plus taxes. (Check with Instructor Greg Wells closer to Year 3)

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- **Gaming headset** with stereo or surround sound (estimated at around \$100)
- All online courses require **internet** access, and a **webcam** with microphone
- **Microsoft 365** – Browser access is provided with your CNA log in, including OneDrive, Outlook, Word, Excel, Teams, and PowerPoint (no cost for students)
- **Adobe Photoshop Software** subscription is required – approx. \$25.99/mo (prices may fluctuate)

BACKUP: In case your main hard drive fails, you are responsible for keeping organized backups of your work on a daily basis. All Year 1, 2 & 3 courses require that you continuously back up your work on either an external hard drive (such as USB powered), or a cloud service such as One Drive (provided with your CNA login), or on a second hard drive inside your computer (such as: 1TB SSD / 1TB HDD and/or cloud service).

*Instructor may suggest additional/substitute supplies and textbooks for the courses, check at the start of each course.

Semester 1	FALL
Courses	Tools & Equipment
CM1100	TEXTBOOK: Simon & Schuster Handbook for Writers*
GD1130	N/A
PY1150	○ Digital Single Lens Reflex (DSLR) camera OR camera or cell phone which can take high-quality photographs ○ Adobe Photoshop software
VA1110	○ Sketch Pad by Artist's Loft, 9" x 12" 80 sheets, 50lb (or similar) ○ Faber Castell Pitt Artist Pen Set - Black set of 4 (or similar) ○ Winsor & Newton™ Studio Collection™ Sketching Pencil 10pc Tin Set (or similar; drawing pencils 2B, 6B, 8B, black, sepia and white charcoal pencils, sharpener, eraser, blending tool)
VA1115	Same as VA1110
VA1400	○ Strathmore 300 Series Cold Press 140-Pound 12-Sheet Watercolor Paper Pad, 9 by 12-Inch (or similar) ○ Royal & Langnickel® Menta™ Synthetic Squirrel Watercolour 5 Piece One-Stroke Variety Brush Set (or similar) ○ W&N Cotman Watercolour Pocket Plus Set (includes palette & brush) (or similar) ○ (Other supplies same as VA1110) • Sketch Pad by Artist's Loft, 9" x 12" 80 sheets, 50lb (or similar) • Faber Castell Pitt Artist Pen Set - Black set of 4 (or similar) • Winsor & Newton™ Studio Collection™ Sketching Pencil 10pc Tin Set
Semester 2	WINTER
CM1521	N/A
GD1120	N/A
GD1140	N/A
VA1120	○ Digital Drawing Display - Such as the Huion Kamvas Pro 12, or Wacom One Drawing Tablet with Screen (or larger)

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	○ Adobe Photoshop software TEXTBOOK: Adobe Photoshop CC Classroom in a Book* available on Vitalsource.ca
VA1140	Same as VA1110
VA1170	○ Sketch Pad by Artist's Loft, 9" x 12" 80 sheets, 50lb (or similar) ○ Good Quality Scissors ○ Clear tape such as Scotch Magic Tape ○ Glue stick for school & crafts such as Elmer's or Uhu ○ Sculpey ASSD01 Style and Detail Tools, Set of 3 (or similar) ○ Sculpey SS1 Super-, 1 Pound oven-bake (beige or other colour) or OR air-dry option: Sculpey AD2222 Air Dry Clay ○ Premium Sculpting & Armature Wire By Craft Smart, 0.055" x 32ft (or similar) ○ Long nose pliers with wire cutter
Semester 3	FALL
CM2200	N/A
GD1150	○ PlayMaker for Unity License for Windows – buy from Unity Store (Check with Instructor first as this may be updated) ○ Adobe Photoshop software TEXTBOOK: The Art of Game Design: A Book of Lenses*
GD1160	○ Adobe Photoshop software ○ TEXTBOOK: The Animator's Survival Kit: A Manual of Methods, Principles and Formulas for Classical, Computer, Games, Stop Motion and Internet Animators*
GD1170	○ Audio editing software TBD (free version)
GD1180	N/A
HY1120	TEXTBOOK: Art: A Brief History* available on Vitalsource.ca
Semester 4	WINTER
CM1400	TEXTBOOK: Technical Communications*
GD1600	N/A
GD2110	○ Unity Game Engine (free version) ○ PlayMaker for Unity License for Windows – buy from Unity Store (Check with Instructor first as this may be updated) ○ Adobe Photoshop software ○ Audio editing software TBD (free version)
GD2121	Same as GD2110
GD2130	TEXTBOOK: Video Game Storytelling: What Every Developer Needs to Know about Narrative Techniques*
HY1130	TEXTBOOK: Art: A Brief History* available on Vitalsource.ca

Semester 5	INTERSESSION
GD2140	• Adobe Photoshop software • Unreal game engine (free version) • Audio editing software TBD (free version)
GD2150	Same as GD2140
GD2160	N/A
Semester 6	FALL
GD3100	• Adobe Photoshop software • Unreal game engine (free version) • Audio editing software TBD (free version)
GD3110	Same as GD3100
GD3120	Same as GD3100
GD3130	○ Same as GD3100 ○ Video editing software TBD (free version)
EP1100	TEXTBOOK: (May change, check with Instructor at beginning of course) Canadian Entrepreneurship and Small Business Management*
Semester 7	WINTER
GD3140	○ Adobe Photoshop software ○ Unreal game engine (free version) ○ Video editing software TBD (free version) ○ Audio editing software TBD (free version)
GD3150	Same as GD3140
GD3160	Same as GD3140
GD3170	Same as GD3140
GD3190	Same as GD3140 ○ VR Headset tbd
Semester 8	INTERSESSION
GD3180	○ Adobe Photoshop software ○ Game engine TBD (free version) ○ Video editing software TBD (free version) ○ Audio editing software TBD (free version)