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## Explore Your Creativity With A Degree In Video Game Design

By **Andy West**

Video games have exploded in popularity, thanks to our high paced and pressurized world

crunching down on individuals. People need a break from reality and video games provide that venue of escapism, and businesses have definitely gotten the message loud and clear. Developing new games is a fierce industry and companies need people who can always bring on better games that stimulate all the senses at once. But how can you get into this rising segment and turn your interests in computers into something that's a lucrative, fun career full of opportunity?

A degree in video game design is the training you need to break into a market where you can create fantastical worlds or develop settings that are so realistic, you can almost touch them. Individuals are demanding more and more from software companies, and only the top quality games will succeed in today's competitive world. Investing your talents in a solid education that will give you the skills and know how to create high tech video games is a wise choice. The job opportunities will never peter out or become saturated, thanks to new technology that's always being put into the market, and you can get into the gaming craze by getting the best training possible to send you into an amazing career.

You'll have the chance to use your own imagination to create great characters that become popular household names. Remember Mario and Luigi? Well, those two characters were created by people with video game design skills and they earned their makers millions of dollars. What about Yoshi? The little dinosaur is another character created by someone with video game design skills that has made someone rich and famous. Why can't that person who develops the next popular, fun character be you? Online gaming is another venue that has become a multi-million dollar industry and all you have to do is look up World of Warcraft to see how many people are hooked on video games, making the market a rich one for job opportunities.

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So what's involved in video game design? Educational facilities will provide you with artistic training to help you create visual images that snag people's interest and keep them gaming, as well as the know how to apply that to animation and 3D modelling. Story development is a must, and you'll be able to think up new ways of challenging people with tricks and traps or enemies to battle to become heroes and earn glorious rewards and treasures. Not only that, those who offer degrees in video game design will help you to put together a profile that will make you an attractive asset to software companies looking for talented 3D artists and gaming developers.

One thing is for sure: Without a degree in video game design, the competition to break into the industry is so stiff that you'll never be able to get ahead. Great ideas and a creative imagination isn't all it takes to open fantastic opportunities and set you into an amazing career. Top quality skills and training that keep you on top of the game and get you that perfect job are the only way to go about finding your place in the lucrative industry of video games. You'll learn the practical side of design and animation to be able to develop games that bring in sales for businesses and earn the skills you need to be head hunted by companies. More than that, obtaining your degree in video game design won't just be an important investment and career choice, it'll also be a blast of fun as you expand your horizons and creativity, learning to think outside the box and come up with new, exciting worlds and characters.

Andy West is a freelance writer for Virginia College. Virginia College offers a professional Video Game Design program. Please visit Virginia College at

<http://www.vc.edu/site/program.cfm?programID=63>

to

learn more about earning a degree in animation and game design.

### **Are You Addicted To Your Video Game?**

**By Taisha Grant**

Once a person plays a video game, chances are they will like and enjoy the game and continue to play until a new game comes into the arena. Many game players have stacks filled with video games. Many people have so much merchandise that if they were to open a game store, they wouldn't have to worry about purchasing video games right away. Many video game players trade video games with friends, family and even strangers.

Several adults have become completely hooked on today's video games. Many state that it is not an addiction, it is simple a way for them to relax. One begins to wonder how they can possibly relax when they move around, jump and shot at the screen with their wireless controllers. Many parents are concerned about their children playing video games religiously...during the summer time, when school is out, many play three times a day.

There are several ways to determine if video game playing is an addiction or just a fun harmless

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hobby. Many have claimed that they can stop at anytime. Here are a few points to determine if you are a video game–aholic

–If you own 50 or more video games. You become possessive if one of your family members moves your games. So you place a small sign on top of your game equipment.

–If it was up to you, you would play video games day in and day out.

–You trade video games more than once a week. You trade games more than a stockbroker trades stocks from the Stock Exchange.

–When you are playing a game you want to constantly win all the time.

–If there were a fire within your home and the only exit is a window from a 22nd floor apartment. The only way to escape is to slide down a rope onto a helicopter. Instead of helping others out as well as yourself, you neatly wrap a clothe around your vide collection and you send it off to safety.

Role–playing games have become very popular among video game players. Video game players can assume another character roll involved in the story within a game. Not too long ago games were played using multi–sided dice. These role–playing games should not be taken seriously. If you are searching for a website that sells video equipment Video Games Box has what you need.

Taisha Grant writes about

<http://www.videogamesbox.com>

,

<http://www.videogamesbox.com/Coupons/eToys.html>

and

<http://www.videogamesbox.com/Coupons/MadCatzStore.com.html>

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