

UX Designer

UX (user experience) designers decide how an app or website works before anyone writes code. A portfolio gets you hired, not a diploma.

TYPICAL PAY

\$70,000

a year, full time

PAY RANGE

\$42k to \$120k

starting to experienced

TIME TO QUALIFY

2 to 4 years

after high school

DEMAND

Moderate

job outlook

LICENCE NEEDED

No

anyone can do it

WHERE YOU WORK

Tech companies, banks, agencies, government, remote

How you get there

- 1 High school** Grades 11 and 12
 Visual arts, communication technology, computer science, English. Redesign an app you hate and write up why.
- 2 Design program** 1 to 4 years
 A 4-year degree in interaction design (Sheridan, Simon Fraser University's School of Interactive Arts and Technology, OCAD University (Ontario College of Art and Design University), Emily Carr) or a college diploma or graduate certificate in UX (user experience) design. Boot...
- 3 Internship or co-op** During school
 Sheridan's degree has a required internship between third and fourth year. This is where most first jobs come from.
- 4 Portfolio and first job** After graduation
 A website showing 3 to 5 case studies: the problem, the research, the sketches, the final screens, and what happened. Employers read the thinking, not just the pictures.
- 5 Grow into product design** 3 to 6 years
 Junior, then intermediate, then senior. Senior designers own whole products and run research with real users.

Pros and cons

- + Creative work with a direct effect on millions of users
- + Remote and hybrid friendly
- + No licence; a strong portfolio can beat a fancy degree
- Crowded junior market; the first job is the hard one
- Job Bank rates the outlook limited in Ontario and Quebec, the two biggest markets
- Your work gets changed by engineers, executives and deadlines

Optional boosts

User research. Accessibility. Front-end code. Design systems.

Good to know

The term came from Apple

The phrase 'user experience' was popularized in the 1990s by Don Norman, a cognitive scientist at Apple, who felt 'interface' was too narrow for everything a person feels while using a product.

Job Bank still calls you a web designer

Canada's job statistics have no separate box for UX (user experience) design. It sits inside 'web designer' (NOC 21233), which is why the official pay range looks lower than what tech companies actually post.

Where these numbers come from

Job Bank: Web designer (NOC 21233), wages (updated Nov 2025)
 Sheridan College: Honours Bachelor of Interaction Design
 Simon Fraser University: School of Interactive Arts and Technology

Numbers checked September 2026. Pay figures are typical full-time annual amounts in Canadian dollars, based on Government of Canada Job Bank wage data and published salary grids. They vary by province, employer and experience. Tuition is for domestic students. Sources, links and the click-through version: <https://career.help/ca/careers/ux-designer>



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