



## Bucks County Community College

275 Swamp Road  
Newtown, PA 18940-4106  
215.968.8000

# Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

## Bucks County Community College Tattoo Art Certificate

### **What is the Tattoo Art certificate?**

The Tattoo Art certificate at Bucks County Community College is designed to provide students with foundational knowledge and skills related to tattoo art, including design principles, studio practices, health and safety procedures, professional ethics, and business fundamentals.

Bucks' program is intended to support students interested in exploring tattoo art as a professional pathway while emphasizing safe, ethical, and informed practice.

### **Does this certificate make one a licensed or certified tattoo artist?**

No. The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania does not certify or license tattoo artists or tattoo establishments. Therefore, completion of the Tattoo Art certificate does not grant professional licensure or state certification.

Bucks' program is an academic credential only. Because some jurisdictions do require certain licenses and certifications, graduates of this program may still need to complete additional training, apprenticeships, health certifications, or licensing requirements depending on the laws and regulations of the jurisdiction in which they intend to practice.

### **Why is Bucks offering a Tattoo Art Certificate?**

Tattooing is a growing field of practice with increasing public demand, evolving professional standards, and expanding expectations related to health, safety, and professionalism.

Bucks' program was developed to:



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- Provide structured educational preparation as a starting point for students pursuing entry into a field of practice traditionally learned through informal apprenticeships
- Promote health and safety awareness
- Support artistic and technical skill development
- Prepare students for professional expectations in tattoo establishments
- Create pathways into apprenticeships and entrepreneurial opportunities
- Support the preparation of qualified candidates for industry apprenticeships and entry-level positions

### **How does Pennsylvania House Bill 1180 relate to this program?**

Pennsylvania House Bill 1180 *Tattoo Practice Act* seeks to license tattoo artists and establishments in Pennsylvania by proposing the establishment of statewide standards for tattoo artists and tattoo establishments, including licensing requirements, health and safety training, inspections, and bloodborne pathogen education.

The proposed legislation highlights a demand for formal education and standardized professional preparation within the field of tattoo arts. Bucks' program aligns with these emerging expectations by emphasizing the following areas:

- Bloodborne pathogen awareness
- Communicable disease prevention
- Professional ethics
- Studio safety practices
- Industry professionalism

### **Is tattooing currently regulated in Pennsylvania?**

The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania does not currently certify or license tattoo artists or tattoo establishments. Therefore, tattoo artists and establishments in the Commonwealth adhere to regulations and ordinances at the county or municipal level rather than through a single statewide licensing system.



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Students are responsible for researching and complying with the laws, health requirements, and licensing expectations in the area in which they intend to work.

### **Will this program replace a tattoo apprenticeship?**

No. Many tattoo establishments still require apprenticeships for practical, supervised experience.

Bucks' certificate is designed to complement apprenticeship opportunities by helping students develop foundational artistic, technical, and professional knowledge required of tattoo artists. Some students pursuing the certificate may already have completed an apprenticeship and desire more knowledge, other students might be simultaneously completing an apprenticeship while a student at Bucks, and still others may choose to complete the certificate prior to pursuing an apprenticeship.

### **How many hours of supervised practice are included in the certificate?**

The program consists of four core courses (TATT 101, TATT 202, TATT 270 and TATT 271), each of which includes a minimum of 67.5 hours of direct instructional time. Students are expected to gain additional hours of practice through open studio hours, which offer additional opportunities for supervised experience.

### **Will students tattoo human skin in this program?**

Students will spend two semesters training on synthetic skin on campus (TATT 101 and TATT 202) before progressing to two in-shop apprenticeship courses (TATT 270 AND TATT 271) where they will begin supervised work on human skin. Program activities and instructional methods will follow all applicable college policies, safety standards, insurance requirements, and legal considerations. Specific instructional practices may vary by course and facility approval, however, students will be expected to demonstrate competency prior to progressing to tattooing real skin.



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### **Will the program include health and safety training?**

Yes. Health and safety are central components of the curriculum. Proposed Pennsylvania legislation, including HB1180 *Tattoo Practice Act*, places emphasis on bloodborne pathogen education, communicable disease prevention, and sanitary practices.

Bucks' program is designed to help students understand these professional responsibilities and industry expectations, specifically through HSCI 110 *Blood Borne Pathogens & Communicable Disease Training* and safety protocols embedded and applied in each tattoo course.

### **Does completing the certificate guarantee employment?**

No. Success in the tattoo industry depends on many factors, including artistic ability, portfolio quality, professionalism, mentorship, client development, and compliance with local regulations. Completion of the certificate does not guarantee employment, apprenticeship placement, acceptance into a tattoo establishment, or licensure eligibility.

### **Who should consider enrolling in this program?**

This program may be a good fit for:

- Emerging artists interested in tattoo art and practice
- Students seeking structured preparation before apprenticeships
- Individuals interested in creative entrepreneurship
- Artists exploring alternative and applied art careers
- Students interested in contemporary body art and visual culture

### **Why offer tattoo education at a community college?**

Community colleges have a long history of supporting workforce development, creative industries, applied arts education, and emerging career pathways. As the tattoo industry becomes increasingly regulated, accredited educational institutions



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can help provide accessible, structured, and safety-conscious preparation for students entering the field.

*If you have additional questions about the program, please [contact us](#).*