

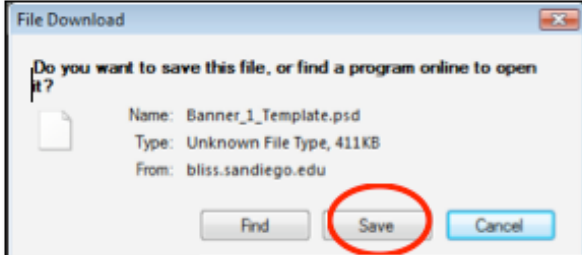
Customizing a Banner for your WebCT Course



Using Photoshop

Learn a few basic techniques and improve your WebCT course Home Page at the same time! Download one of the WebCT banner templates and customize it using Photoshop with these simple instructions.

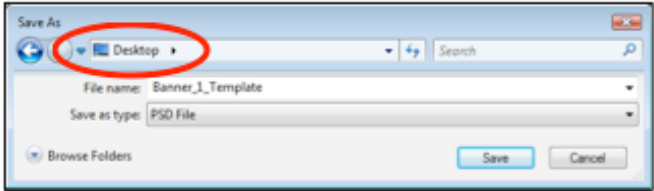
PC Users – Downloading and Saving the Template:



Do you want to save this file, or find a program online to open it?

Name: Banner_1_Template.psd
Type: Unknown File Type, 411KB
From: bliss.sandiego.edu

Find Save Cancel



Save As

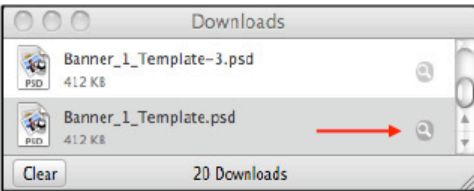
Desktop

File name: Banner_1_Template
Save as type: PSD File

Browse Folders Save Cancel

Select the link for the banner you would like to customize above, click on 'Save' and save it to the Desktop.

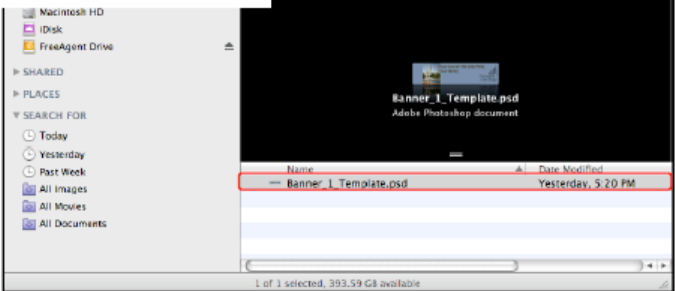
Mac Users – Downloading and Saving the Template:



Downloads

Banner_1_Template-3.psd 412 KB
Banner_1_Template.psd 412 KB

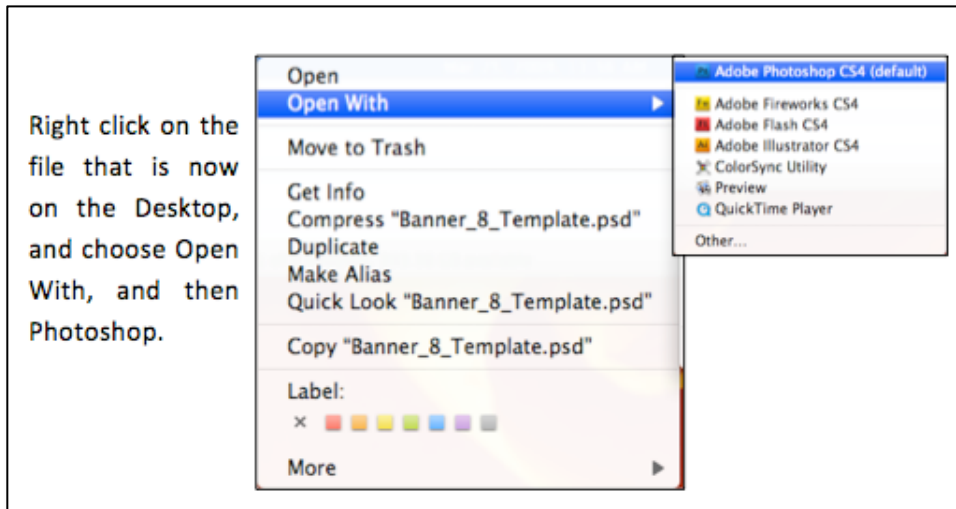
Clear 20 Downloads



Then select the file in the Finder window and drag it over onto the Desktop.

After clicking on the link above, click on the 'Finder' magnifier icon to open the Finder window.

Opening the File:

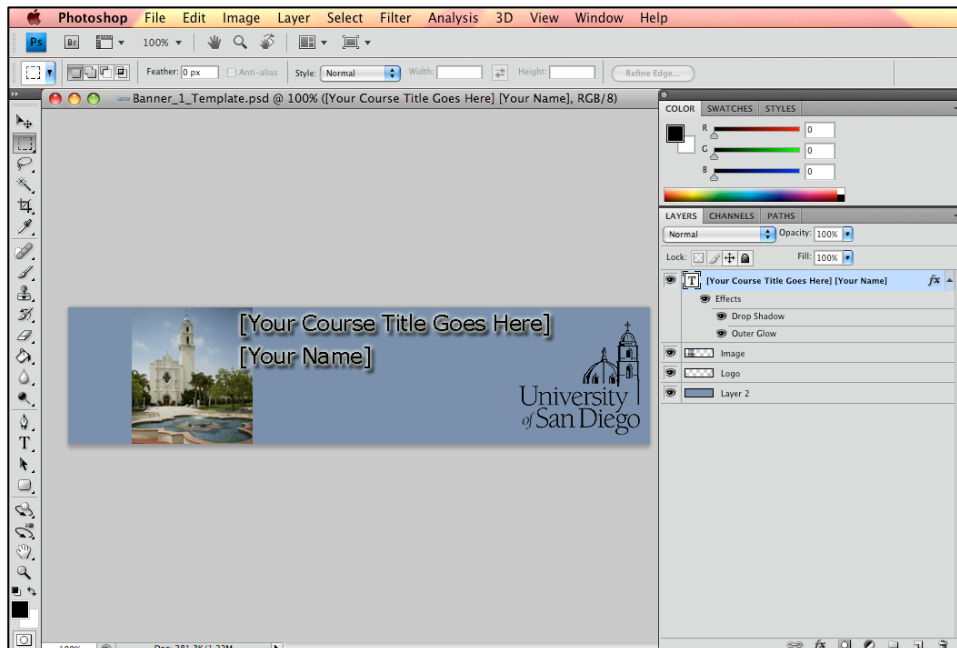


Customizing the Template in Photoshop:

The Editing Window

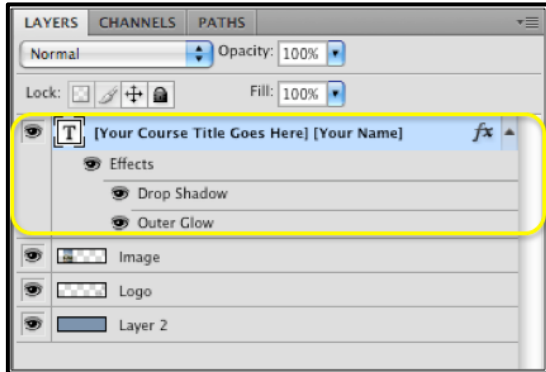
Once you have opened the template in Photoshop, you will see something that looks similar to the screen below. It may vary slightly depending on the 'view' you have chosen. Here you are seeing Photoshop CS4 and we are working on a Mac, but the program is basically the same in both PC and Mac platforms.

Before we begin editing this file, let's save it with a new name in order to have a working copy. Click on the File menu, Save As, and save to your Desktop with a name something like Intro_Photoshop_Banner.psd.



Working with Layers

Let's explore the Layers palette on the right side of the editing window just a bit. Layers are Photoshop's way of organizing your images, text, backgrounds, etc.

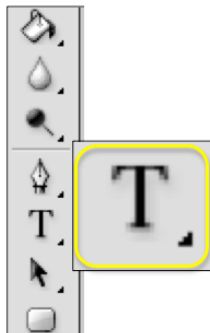


Imagine each layer as a transparency, and that these transparencies are stacked one atop the other in an order that achieves the effect you are looking for. In this case, the template you are working with has 4 layers; the background color, the USD logo, the image and the text. By clicking on a particular layer you can edit the properties of that layer without compromising the other layers, at this state they are independent of one another.

Begin by clicking on the text layer [Your Course Title Goes Here] [Your Name], it will be highlighted as you see above, once you have selected it. You will notice that this particular layer also has some additional properties or 'Effects' that have been added for you in order to make the text appear more 3-dimensional and stand out on the page.

The Text Tool

Next, select the Horizontal Text Tool from the tool bar on the left side of the window. This will allow you to edit the text in the placeholder on the text layer. It should look like this:



The cursor will take the shape of an I-beam and now you can select the placeholder text that you would like to edit by simply clicking and dragging across what you would like to type over. Once the text is highlighted, as below, you can type in the new information.

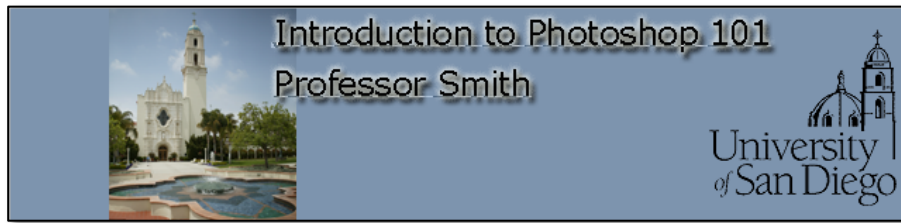
You will see that as you drag your cursor across the text, it changes color, letting you know that you have properly selected it.



Type over with your new information:

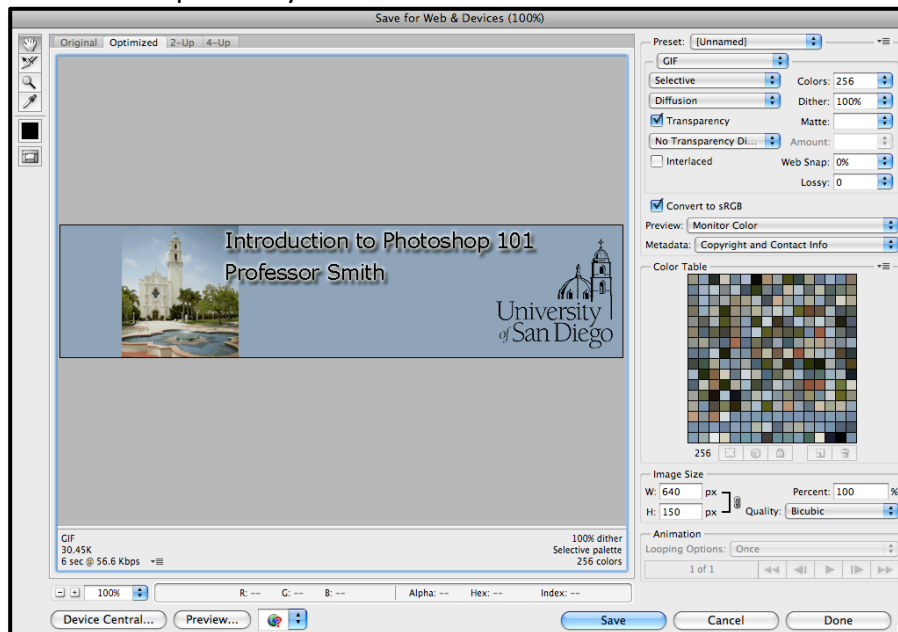


When you have finished making your edits, be sure to Save your file.



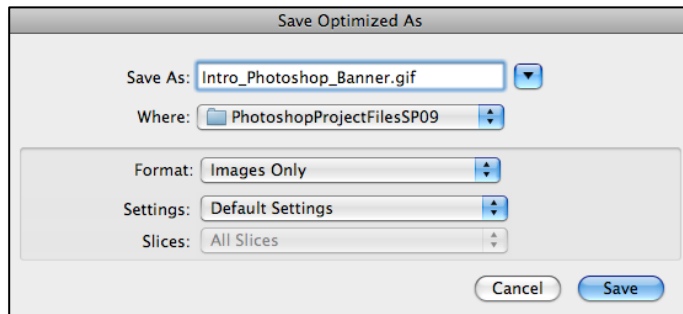
Saving for the Web and Devices

From the 'File' menu, select 'Save for Web and Devices.' A new window will open like you see below.



This is where you can optimize the file size and compare to the original. By clicking on the tabs in the upper left corner you can see the difference in file size. In this case the original file size was 375K, and the optimized size when saved for the Web is only 30k. For this file we need not do anything additional here, just click 'Save.'

You can save the optimized file with the same name you have given to the .psd file, just be sure it has a .gif extension.



You are now ready to add your new banner to your WebCT course!