



## Tips for Creating Large-Format Posters

### Software

Large format posters can be made in many programs.

Adobe InDesign is graphic design software used by professionals to create posters, periodical publications and print media. It is a good choice for this, especially if you are using a template or you are making something that needs to be updated periodically. InDesign allows for more flexibility and creativity.

Adobe Photoshop is an image editing software that can also be used for making large format posters. Many faculty are already familiar with the interface, so you may be more comfortable using it. If you use Photoshop, you will want to set your DPI (pixels per inch) at 150. Our plotters print out at 150 dots per inch. Any document with a higher resolution will take longer to print.

Microsoft Word can also be used for basic text-based posters.

### Document Size

Whatever program you use, it is important to begin with the right document size. Documents made in an 8 ½ x 11 format cannot simply be scaled up to poster size without an obvious loss in quality. Plotters at Wentworth are 24 and 36 inches wide. There is a narrow strip on either side that does not print, therefore your document size cannot exceed 35 inches on one side.

### Design

Because of memory and other limitations, it is best to work with a white background. Large flat areas of color take longer to plot, use more ink and resources, and sometimes show “seams” where the printheads do not line up perfectly. Large background images can take a very long time to load and print.

### Printing

When it comes time to print, you may want to save your document out as a PDF. This will alleviate problems moving between Mac and PC, or between different versions of software. PDFs should be opened in Photoshop and printed on the Davis Center.