Video game designers create interactive entertainment for mobile, online, and gaming consoles. Game designers use math, engineering, technology, art, and animation to bring action to life.

Trends
The increase in games developed for mobile devices and wireless devices is a major trend in gaming. Like other entertainment fields, the video game industry can be volatile.

The number of available positions for video game designers is expected to grow by 6% by 2022, which is slower than average for all fields. Competition is keen since video game design is considered a desirable field. An increasing number of game designers work Internationally.

Education & Training
The opportunities for aspiring game developers are incredibly diverse. Many game developers have education in software development, computer programming, computer science, or graphics and visualization. Skills and training in a specific effect or program can be beneficial. Other professionals involved in the game design process are digital artists, producers, musicians, and many others who collaborate in the making of a game.

Tips for Breaking In
- Obtain an internship, co-op, or related part-time job in the industry
- Develop a strong portfolio to showcase your artistic and/or technical skills
- Freelance whenever possible
- Develop a broad range of technical or artistic skills
- Take a variety of courses to help you decide which aspect of video gaming is most interesting to you
- Gain exposure to variety of video games, especially those that are the most popular, which is often casual games. Many new designers work on kids’ games or casual games.

Licenses & Certifications
There are no typical licenses or certification for video game designers, although there are certifications in some software products.

Earnings
Earnings depend on employer, location, and other factors. The median salary for video game designers was $83,410 in 2014. The median salary for all “Multimedia Artists and Animators” (which includes game designers) was $61,370 in 2012. Freelance designers may make more or less than the average.

Job market, salary, and other information on the How to Get a Job In... series is from O*Net Online and the Bureau of Labor Statistics’s Occupational Outlook Handbook.