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Digital Painting Course Prepares Students for Pre-Medical Illustration

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Medical Illustration is an effective tool that allows people to more clearly and accurately visualize medical and other scientific information. There are many applications in the medical illustration field, but one of the most common is education, whether the artwork is used in textbooks, courtrooms, or online. The Visual Integration of Science Through Art (VISTA) program at Louisiana Tech University aims to use art to more effectively communicate scientific material. One class offered by this program is a Digital Painting class which teaches students how to "paint" entirely digital pieces using Photoshop software. This class and medium gives students an experience similar to working in the medical illustration field. The final project in the class is a biological illustration piece that depicts a process or structure that is being researched at the university. The goal of the project is to create a visually pleasing design while remaining scientifically accurate.