THE BASICS OF CREATING A PIE GRAPH IN ADOBE ILLUSTRATOR

ORIGINALLY BY KELLY QUIGLEY WITH COPYPRESS.COM

SOME OF THE IMPORTANT TOOLS

Some of the highlighted tools below should look familiar and will function much like what you have used Photoshop or InDesign.

GETTING STARTED

This handout should help give you a quick tutorial on how to create a custom pie graph in Adobe Illustrator that you can insert into infographics, magazine designs or any document calling for a visually interesting summary of statistics.

We will go through a basic graph, the pie graph, to demonstrate this tool.

The process will roughly be the same no matter what you’re looking to create — bar graph, line graph, scatter plot, etc.

FINDING THE PIE GRAPH TOOL

Let’s find the tool first. It will be located in your tool bar on the left hand side of the screen (see below).

The black arrow in the bottom right corner of the tool indicates there is more than one tool nested in that button. Click and hold the button down until you see the pie graph option.

Breakdown of graduates at Wichita State:

• 3 percent associate’s degree
• 68 percent bachelor’s degree
• 27 percent master’s degree
• 2 percent doctoral degree
CREATING THE GRAPH

With your Pie Graph Tool selected, draw a circle of any size on your artboard, you can change the size later. Or, if you know specifically the size you want, click once on the artboard and a dialog will pop up asking you for exact dimensions.

At this point, you should have an artboard with a black circle on it and a dialog box that pops up beside it that looks like this:

Now, you can import your data from a spreadsheet (using the button circled above) or type it manually into the boxes. Make sure that you hit “enter” or the check to the far top right of the box to apply the numbers to your graph (see below).

Satisfied, you can close the dialog box. The system may or may not prompt you to save the data (this is if you made additional changes after clicking the check mark).

If you want to make multiple pie graphs in the same size, now would be your chance to do so. Copy and paste your graphs however and wherever you want, then right click (or Ctrl click for mac) and select “Data…” and the dialog box will reappear.
DESIGNING YOUR PIE

Make sure your numbers are correct because once we take our graph into design mode we will lose the capability to adjust the numbers.

To take your graph out of its grayscale blob, select the graph and then “Object” and then “Ungroup.”

You will receive a prompt from the system asking if you are sure because of all I said above, so forearmed with this knowledge, click “OK.”

After the initial “Ungroup” you will now be able to resize your graph, change colors, add/take away strokes etc. To be able to move your pie slices around and individually customize each sliver, you will need to hit Object>Ungroup again, without any prompts this time.

And always remember, when resizing an object hold “Shift” on your keyboard as you do so to prevent stretching and unwanted proportions. Holding shift will keep your pie graph a perfect circle.

Let’s look at some options on how to make your pie graph stand out.

- Add color with the swatches palette
- Pull the pieces apart with the Selection Tool
- Make a donut with the various Pathfinder tools
- Create additional shapes for a 3D look

BREAKDOWN OF GRADUATES AT WICHITA STATE

From year-to-year Wichita State averages 2,930 graduates in various programs. This graph shows approximately how much education is spread throughout those receiving degrees.

3 PERCENT associate’s degrees
27 PERCENT master’s degrees
68 PERCENT bachelor’s degrees
2 PERCENT doctoral degrees

Source: www.cappex.com