

BFA in Graphic Design

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Degree Program Description

The School of Visual Studies' BFA in Graphic Design program offers opportunities for creative development, provides instruction in design digital programs as well as design methodology, and trains students in the necessary technical and conceptual skills needed to pursue a career in the expanded Graphic Design industry. Through a variety of studio design courses and related art courses, students learn critical thinking skills, creative problem solving, technical skills, and become life-long learners. The BFA in Graphic Design is considered a professional degree intended to provide a solid foundation for a career in design and related fields. Students who earn a degree in Graphic Design pursue a variety of careers, including professional graphic design, illustration, web design, interactive media design, information design, data visualization, print and publication, packaging design, advertisement, art directors. Almost all businesses and non-profit organizations need designers for creative thinking and innovative problem solving, requiring the skills acquired in the BFA in Graphic Design degree.

Major Program Requirements

Graphic Design majors earning a BFA degree complete School of Visual Studies foundations courses, BFA core requirements, and School of Visual Studies Graphic Design courses. Students enrolled in the BFA degree program may not include graphic design, art or art history courses with a grade of D.

All Graphic Design students are assigned a School of Visual Studies academic advisor. Students are encouraged to meet regularly with the advisor to plan a program of study.

The graduation plan consists of 66-72 credit hours in Graphic Design and Studio Art courses and 12 credit hours of Critical Studies courses. A maximum number of 72 hours of course work may be taken in Graphic Design and Studio Art. Students must complete 35 major and art history credit hours at MU.

Studio courses with a grade of "D" or "F" may not be included in the graduation plan. 30 hours of the 120 needed to graduate must be numbered 3000 and above.

In addition to University (<https://catalog.missouri.edu/academicdegree/requirements/universityrequirements/>), general education (<https://catalog.missouri.edu/academicdegree/requirements/generaleducationrequirements/>), and College of Arts and Science (<https://catalog.missouri.edu/collegeofartsandscience/#undergraduatetext>) requirements, students must also meet the following major program requirements. All major requirements in the College of Arts and Science must be completed with grades of C- or higher unless otherwise indicated.

All students wishing to pursue a BFA degree in Graphic Design will need to pass the Graphic Design BFA Portfolio Review. A student will need to have completed the SVS Foundation Courses, (ART_VS 1020

Introduction to Visual Studies, ART_VS 1030 2-D Materials and Methods, ART_VS 1040 3-D Materials and Methods, ART_VS 1050 Drawing Materials and Methods, GD_VS 1400 Digital Tools and Concepts), and GD_VS 2410 Introduction to Typography (it is acceptable to be enrolled in the last class(es) the semester the portfolio is submitted) for the BFA.

Foundation Courses		15
ART_VS 1020	Introduction to Visual Studies	3
ART_VS 1030	2-D Materials and Methods	3
ART_VS 1040	3-D Materials and Methods	3
ART_VS 1050	Drawing Materials and Methods	3
GD_VS 1400	Digital Tools and Concepts	3
Core Requirements		9
ART_VS 2730	Screen Printing	3
or ART_VS 3900	RISO: An Introduction	
ART_VS 2600	Digital Photography	3
ART_VS 2310	Papermaking and Artists' Books	3
Graphic Design Course Requirements		33
GD_VS 2410	Introduction to Typography	3
Graphic Design Portfolio Review after GD_VS 2410		
GD_VS 2420	Design Methods and Production	3
GD_VS 2430	Calligraphy and Hand Lettering	3
GD_VS 3410	Interactive Media	3
GD_VS 3440	Packaging Design Systems	3
GD_VS 3442	Corporate Identity and Branding	3
GD_VS 3443	Letterpress	3
GD_VS 4400	Design Systems	3
GD_VS 4400	Design Systems	3
GD_VS 4410	Professional Portfolio Development	3
GD_VS 4420	Advanced Interactive Media	3
GD_VS 4976	Design - Senior Seminar	3
School of Visual Studies Studio Electives		9-15
DST_VS 1880	Introduction to Digital Media Production	3
ART_VS 2100	Hand-Built Ceramics	3
ART_VS 2210	Beginning Color Drawing	3
ART_VS 2240	Comics and Cartooning: Writing with Pictures	3
ART_VS 2700	Etching and Relief Printmaking	3
ART_VS 2800	Beginning Sculpture	3
DST_VS 2885	2D Animation I	3
ART_VS 3100	Wheel-Thrown Ceramics	3
ART_VS 3230	Beginning Illustration	3
ART_VS 3300	Fibers and Material Studies	3
ART_VS 3600	Black and White Photography	3
ART_VS 3700	Intermediate Printmaking	3
ART_VS 3800	Intermediate Sculpture	3
GD_VS 3430	Advanced Calligraphy and Hand Lettering	3
ART_VS 4020	Internship in Art	1-3
Critical Studies Requirements		12
ARH_VS 1130	Introduction to the History of Art	3
ARH_VS Course numbered 2000+	in Art History	3
ARH_VS Course numbered 3000+	in Art History	3
GD_VS 3441	The History of Graphic Design	3
or GD_VS 3441H	The History of Graphic Design - Honors	

Semester Plan

First Year			
Fall	CR	Spring	CR
ART_VS 1050		3 GD_VS 1400	3
ART_VS 1030		3 ART_VS 1040	3
ART_VS 1020		3 ARH_VS 1130 (Humanities from Arts and Science)	3
ENGLISH 1000		3 Math and Quantitative Reasoning	3
Behavioral Science from Arts and Science		3 Missouri State Law Requirement, Social Science from Arts and Science	3
		15	15
Second Year			
Fall	CR	Spring	CR
GD_VS 2410		3 GD_VS 2420	3
ART_VS 2600		3 ART_VS 2730	3
ART_VS 2310		3 GD_VS 2430	3
ARH_VS 3820W (First Writing Intensive, Humanities)		3 Biological or Physical Science lab	3
Behavioral or Social Science		3 Humanities (non- Art History)	3
Graphic Design Portfolio Review (required this semester)			
		15	15
Third Year			
Fall	CR	Spring	CR
GD_VS 3410		3 GD_VS 4400	3
GD_VS 3443		3 GD_VS 3442	3
School of Visual Studies Elective		3 GD_VS 3441	3
Biological, Physical, or Mathematical Science		3 School of Visual Studies Elective	3
Art History 2000+ level (Humanities)		3 Biological, Physical, or Math Science	3
		15	15
Fourth Year			
Fall	CR	Spring	CR
GD_VS 4410		3 GD_VS 4410 Professional Portfolio Development (repeatable)	3
GD_VS 4976W		3 School of Visual Studies Elective	3
GD_VS 3440		3 School of Visual Studies Elective	3
GD_VS 4420		3 Internship	3
Second major, minor, or elective		3 Second major, minor, or elective	3
		15	15

Total Credits: 120

Degree Audit

The degree audit is an automated report reflecting a student's academic progress toward the completion of a degree.

MU students can request a degree audit by logging in to myDegreePlanner (<https://mydegreeplanner.missouri.edu>). Students may also access myDegreePlanner via myZou, in the Student Center, click on the Academic Progress Tile, then select Request Degree Audit. The audit automatically pulls in the student's MU course work, transfer courses and courses in progress. This is available to current students, admitted students, and those who last attended less than three terms ago.

Past MU students can request a degree audit by contacting the Academic Advising Unit of the division in which they were last enrolled at MU. For contact information, go to <https://advising.missouri.edu/contact/>.

Prospective students, can access a preliminary MU degree audit via <https://www.transferology.com> (<https://www.transferology.com/>). Information on the college credits already earned will have to be manually entered before it can be evaluated against current degree requirements.

For additional details on degree audits, go to <https://registrar.missouri.edu/degrees-audits/degree-audits/>.

Major and Career Exploration

The University of Missouri has many resources to assist you in exploring majors and career possibilities. For guidance, visit the Majors and Careers (<https://career.missouri.edu/majors-careers/>) website or view specific resources below.

- If you are considering a change of major or are exploring multiple majors, schedule an appointment with an advisor in the Discovery Center (<https://discoverycenter.missouri.edu/>) by calling (573)884-9700 or through MU Connect (<https://mizzou.starfishsolutions.com/starfish-ops/dl/instructor/serviceCatalog.html?bookmark=service/3761489>) Discovery Center service in you success network.
- If you have decided on a major, visit an academic advisor in the School or College that you are interested in to discuss the process of declaring the major (<https://advising.missouri.edu/majors-minors/changing-major/>).
- If you would like to learn more about your career interests, abilities, values and talents, visit the MU Career Center (<https://career.missouri.edu/connect/>). No Appointment is necessary to explore career options with one of our staff members.
- If you would like information about MU majors and degree programs, visit:
 - the Degrees, Majors (Degree Programs), Emphasis Areas, Minors and Certificates (<https://catalog.missouri.edu/degreesanddegreeprograms/>) page in the catalog,
 - the MU Majors (<https://majors.missouri.edu>) website.

For additional major and career exploration resources, visit Major & Career Exploration (<https://catalog.missouri.edu/majorcareereexploration/>) in the catalog.