

BFA in Graphic Design

The Bachelor of Fine Arts (BFA) in graphic design is the professional degree for students intending to enter the field of visual communication and design. The program provides courses in typography, illustration, photography, book design, advertising, package design, computer graphics and design theory.

The study of graphic design develops the ability to solve communication problems within a cultural, aesthetic, technical, ethical and economic context. Designers create visual messages that serve many needs including advertising, packaging, publishing, identity and branding, websites and digital graphics. These solutions require creativity and lateral thinking, as well as the technical, verbal and written skills to solve specific client problems in their communications.

Graphic design has its roots in a variety of disciplines, including sociology, linguistics, technology, and art and design history. The field has traditionally been linked to commerce and the ability of merchants and institutions to communicate with specific audiences. It is also related to philosophical, literary, architectural and artistic movements.

Throughout their course of study, graphic design majors assemble a professional portfolio of work to present to potential employers. Career options include advertising agencies, art studios, corporate art departments and freelance work.

The art foundation studies program and the preparatory coursework in the graphic design program enable design majors to meet criteria for application into the degree after the mid-program review. A limited number of students are accepted into the program based on portfolio review during ARTF 202. Students admitted into the program are required to complete the graphic design emphasis coursework during the four consecutive semesters of their junior and senior years. They are also required to enroll in ARTG 354 each of those semesters for a total of 4 credit hours.

Program Requirements

A minimum total of 120 credit hours is required for the BFA in graphic design and includes 62 credit hours of art and art history courses. Students must also meet the university's scholastic, residence and general education requirements for graduation. A grade of *C* (2.000 grade points) or better is required in all major courses. A minimum GPA of 2.000 is required within the major. In addition to meeting the requirements of the WSU General Education Program (<http://catalog.wichita.edu/undergraduate/academic-information/general-education-program/>), students in the BFA in graphic design must take the following courses. (One ARTH 125_ may count as a general education course.)

Course	Title	Hours
General Education		
Select courses to meet General Education requirements ¹		34-35
Art Foundation Curriculum		
ARTF 102	Introduction to Art and Design ²	3
ARTF 136	Foundation 2-D Design ²	3
ARTF 145	Foundation Drawing ²	3
ARTF 189	Foundation 3-D Design ²	3
ARTF 202	Mid-Program Review	0
Art History		
Select two different ARTH 125_ courses (one of which may count towards General Education)		6
Select two different ARTH courses at or above the 300 level		6
Introductory Graphic Design		

ARTG 110	Vector Applications	1
ARTG 111	Pixel-Based Applications	1
ARTG 112	Layout Applications	1
ARTG 216	Typography I	3
ARTG 234	Introduction to Graphic Design	3
ARTG 235	Graphic Design Concepts	3
Graphic Design Program Studies		
ARTG 316	Typography II	3
ARTG 334	Exploration of Graphic Design Media	3
ARTG 335	Sequential Media	3
ARTG 337	Drawing for Visual Communication	3
ARTG 354	Professional Practices in Graphic Design (complete four enrollments)	4
ARTG 434	Graphic Design Campaigns	3
ARTG 435	Graphic Design Capstone	3
ARTG 490	Graphic Design Applications	3
ARTG 491	Interactive Design	3
ARTG 481N	Internship	1
ID 300	Human-Centric Design Thinking	3
MKT 300	Marketing	3
COMM 425	Advertising and Promotional Writing	3

Major Electives

Graphic design electives should be chosen with the approval of a graphic design advisor. In addition to any graphic design courses, students may also choose electives from other courses offered in the School of Art, Design and Creative Industries including studio arts, art education and art history. Students may also choose classes from other programs within the university including communication, business, entrepreneurship, marketing and technical theatre.

Total Credit Hours 120

Note: 45+ upper-division credit hours are required for graduation. Model programs of study are available in the School of Art, Design and Creative Industries office and at the ADCI website (<http://wichita.edu/adci/>)³.

¹ Required major courses may also count towards General Education requirements. Students will need to select additional electives to reach 120 credit hours required for graduation with assistance from an advisor.

² At least 6 credits of ARTF courses must be completed and students must be concurrently enrolled in the remaining ARTF courses to enroll in ARTF 202.

³ Link opens new window.

Applied Learning

Students in the BFA in graphic design program are required to complete an applied learning or research experience to graduate from the program. This requirement can be met by completing four semesters of ARTG 354, as well as a sequence of four upper-division studio classes, including a capstone course (ARTG 334, ARTG 335, ARTG 434 and ARTG 435).