Graphic Design (BFA)

This program is offered by the Leigh Gerdine College of Fine Arts/Department of Art, Design, and Art History and is only available at the St. Louis home campus.

Program Description

The BFA in graphic design degree integrates art and design based on studio practice and a comprehensive examination of the history and theories of visual studies. Through this trans-media approach, students learn to connect content with design in order to convey a significant message, individually and through collaboration with others. Students acquire technical knowledge, practical professional experience and achieve an awareness of relevant ethical issues. Throughout the program, students learn how graphic designers can make a positive, sustainable impact on society by engaging in many different forms of cultural production, thereby promoting leadership through the development of innovative work in an ever-changing global community.

Students in the BFA graphic design program fulfill the same core requirements as for the BA in studio art. In addition, they must complete 9 further credit hours in art history and criticism; 24 further credit hours in design courses; 3 credits of a practicum experience; and 3 credit hours with the BFA thesis.

Learning Outcomes

Successful graduates of the art with an emphasis in graphic design program will be able to:

- Express an individual, creative voice through an artistic practice that engages with contemporary global art and design discourse.
- Implement the formal vocabularies of art and design as a foundation for artistic dialogue.
- Practice drawing as a means to develop ideas.
- Draw upon the history of art and design as a wellspring for ideas; solutions and meanings within one’s own artistic practice.
- Analyze and discuss art and design through discipline-and emphasis-specific vocabularies and methods.
- Implement technical knowledge, skills, theory and methods applicable to the field of graphic design in concept development, research, production, craft and presentation.
- Employ design-specific ethics and values while engaging with contemporary issues in the field of graphic design.
- Practice innovation as a professional graphic designer.

Special Requirements

All studio majors must register for ART 2900 DADAH Critique in the first semester after completing 18 studio credits. For traditional freshmen this will occur in the fall or spring of their sophomore year. For transfer students this will occur in their first semester at Webster, or when they have a combined total of 18 studio credits. The DADAH Critique is a review of student progress by DADAH full and part-time faculty held on one day during the fall and spring semesters. Following the review, students will meet with their advisor to discuss faculty concerns and recommendations as written on the evaluation form by the advisor during the review. In some cases a student may be advised to undergo a second review in the following semester. The department notifies students of portfolio review dates.

Students must apply for BFA candidacy by completing the BFA candidacy form and presenting an acceptable selection of specialized work. This must take place one year prior to graduation. Successful completion of a written application and submission of a selection of work that demonstrates emphasis specialization, technical facility and conceptual sophistication are required for acceptance. Students receive either written notification of acceptance or a recommendation to continue pursuing a BA after the portfolio and application are reviewed by the faculty of the Department of Art, Design, and Art History.

Degree Requirements

For information on the general requirements for a degree, see Baccalaureate Degree Requirements under the Academic Policies and Information section of this catalog.

- 84 required credit hours
- Applicable University Global Citizenship Program hours, with accommodations for art and design BFAs
- Electives

Global Citizenship Program for Art and Design BFAs

- GLBC 1200 Global Cornerstone Seminar
- 6 credit hours from courses designated ‘Roots of Cultures’ (ARHS 2200 or ARHS 2210 will fulfill GCP and major requirements simultaneously)
- 3 credit hours from courses designated ‘Social Systems & Human Behavior’
- 3 credit hours from courses designated ‘Global Understanding’
- 3 credit hours from courses designated ‘Physical & Natural World’ or ‘Quantitative Literacy’
- KEYS 4XXX Global Keystone Seminar

NOTE: Except where specified otherwise, the above courses must not also satisfy major requirements. One course from above must be coded for the ‘Ethical Reasoning’ skill; other GCP skills requirements are fulfilled by DADAH core distribution courses.

Arts Appreciation’ is satisfied in meeting the requirements for the major.

Required Courses

Core Distribution:

- ART 1010 Creative Strategies (3 hours)
- ART 1110 Introduction to Drawing (3 hours)
- ART 1120 Principles of Drawing (3 hours)
- DESN 1210 Design Concepts (3 hours)
- DESN 1220 Design: 3-D (3 hours)
- ART 2110 Figure Drawing (3 hours)
- ART 2120 Intermediate Drawing (3 hours)
- ARHS 2200 Current Art (3 hours)
- ARHS 2210 Intercultural History of Art (3 hours)
- ART 2900 DADAH Critique (0 hours)
- ART 4020 Visual Arts Seminar (3 hours)

Studio course distribution (see below) (15 hours)

BFA-specific courses:

- ART 3900 B.F.A. Review (0 hours)
- ARHS courses at 3000-level or above (9 hours)
- DESN 1500 Digital Visualizations (3 hours)
- DESN 2200 Design Play (3 hours)
- DESN 2300 Type Dialogues (3 hours)
- DESN 2500 Design for Digital Portfolios (3 hours)
- DESN 3200 Design Theory and Methods (3 hours)
- DESN 3050 Topics in Design (1-3 hours)
- DESN 3800 Professional Practice in Graphic Design (3 hours)
- DESN 4200 Design for Good (3 hours)
Graphic Design (BFA)

- ART 4800 Practicum (3 hours)
- ART 4950 BFA Senior Thesis (3 hours)

Other Program Requirements

Students must complete a minimum of 15 credit hours of coursework selected from at least five of the following studio areas: ceramics, drawing, electronic and time-based art, painting, papermaking, printmaking, photography, and sculpture.

Recommended electives outside of Art, Design, and Art History

- ADVT 3500 Visual Communication for Advertising and Public Relations (3 hours)
- ADVT 4040 Advertising Production: Print (3 hours)
- ADVT 4040 Advertising Production: Internet (3 hours)
- ADVT 4910 Advertising Campaign Production (3 hours)
- INTM 1600 Introduction to Interactive Digital Media (3 hours)
- INTM 2200 Visual Design for Interactive Media (3 hours)
- INTM 3200 Interface Design (3 hours)