



Bachelor of Fine Arts

Major: Graphic Design

2023-2024 Sample 4-Year Plan

Total Degree Requirements: 120 credits

Student _____ Student ID# _____ Student Phone # _____

Advisor _____ Minimum GPA 2.50 Minor/Career Interest(s) _____

Students are not limited to this plan; it is meant to be used as a guide for planning purposes in consultation with your advisor. The sample schedule is one possible path to completing your degree within four years. For official program requirements, please refer to the [Undergraduate Catalog](#).

First Year

Fall

Prefix + Number	Course Title	Prerequisites/Comments	Credits	Semester	Grade
ART 111	Drawing I (SGR #4)		3	F/S	
ART 122	Design II Color		3	F/S	
DSGN 121	Design I 2D		3	F	
General Elective			3	F/S	
SGR #6	Natural Science		3	F/S	
Total Credit Hours			15		

Spring

Prefix + Number	Course Title	Prerequisites/Comments	Credits	Semester	Grade
GDES 101	Computer Graphics		3	F/S	
ART 112	Drawing II	p. ART 111	3	S	
DSGN 110	Creative Thinking		3	S	
ENGL 101	Composition I (SGR #1)	p. Placement	3	F/S	
SGR #6	Natural Science		3	F/S	
Total Credit Hours			15		

Second Year

Fall

Prefix + Number	Course Title	Prerequisites/Comments	Credits	Semester	Grade
GDES 203	Animation Foundations I	p. ART 111	3	F/S	
GDES 209	Design Research	p. GDES 101	3	F	
GDES 216	Typography	p. GDES 101	3	F/S	
ARTH 211	History of World Art I		3	F	
CMST 101	Foundations of Communication (SGR #2)		3	F/S	
Total Credit Hours			15		

Spring

Prefix + Number	Course Title	Prerequisites/Comments	Credits	Semester	Grade
GDES 207	Interactive Design I	p. GDES 216	3	S	
GDES 310	Brand Strategy and Identity Design	p. GDES 216	3	S	
ARTH 212	History of World Art II		3	S	
SOD Elective	Cross Disciplinary Experience	See catalog for elective list	3	F/S	
ENGL 201	Composition II (SGR #1)	p. ENGL 101	3		
Total Credit Hours			15		

Summer

Prefix + Number	Course Title	Prerequisites/Comments	Credits	Semester	Grade
GDES 482	Travel Studies	2 nd or 3 rd year Summer	3	SU	
Total Credit Hours			3		



Third Year

Fall

Prefix + Number	Course Title	Prerequisites/Comments	Credits	Semester	Grade
GDES 307	Interactive Design II	p. GDES 207	3	F	
GDES 312	Sustainable Package Design	p. GDES 310	3	F	
GDES 402	Portfolio Design	p. GDES 310	3	F	
ARTH 312	History of Graphic Design		3	F	
SOD Elective	Cross Disciplinary Experience	See catalog for elective list	3	F	
Total Credit Hours			15		

Spring

Prefix + Number	Course Title	Prerequisites/Comments	Credits	Semester	Grade
GDES 304	Motion Graphics		3	S	
GDES 410	Data Visualization Design	p. GDES 310	3	S	
ART/GDES Elective		Drawing: Mixed Media, Drawing III, Printmaking, Illustration, Letterpress, Seeing & Drawing the Land, Digital Drafting & Mapping, Drawing Architecture	3	F/S	
SGR #3	Social Sciences	SGR #3 Satisfied by coursework from 2 different disciplines	3	F/S	
SGR #5	Mathematics	p. Placement	3	F/S	
Total Credit Hours			15		

Summer

Prefix + Number	Course Title	Prerequisites/Comments	Credits	Semester	Grade
GDES 401 or GDES 494	Professional Studio Practice or Internship		3	SU	
Total Credit Hours			3		

Fourth Year

Fall

Prefix + Number	Course Title	Prerequisites/Comments	Credits	Semester	Grade
GDES 415	Publication Design	p. GDES 310	3	F	
ART/GDES Elective	Graphic Design Elective	Animation, Photography, Video Media	3	F/S	
SGR #3	Social Sciences	SGR #3 Satisfied by coursework from 2 different disciplines	3	F/S	
SGR #4	Humanities/Arts	Choose non-ART, ARTH or DSGN course	3	F/S	
Total Credit Hours			12		

Spring

Prefix + Number	Course Title	Prerequisites/Comments	Credits	Semester	Grade
GDES 417	UX and UI Design	Capstone	3	S	
ART Elective	Art Studio Elective		3	F/S	
ARTH 490	Seminar: History of Modern Design		3	S	
DSGN 452	Design Capstone		2	S	
Electives	Taken as needed to complete any additional degree requirements		1		
Total Credit Hours			12		

Comments/Notes

Students from all academic majors can pursue graduation with Fishback Honors College distinction. View the [Honors program requirements](#).

Graphic Design students must maintain at least a major GPA of 2.6; overall GPA or 2.5 on a 4.0 scale for the duration of the program. A grade of a “C” or better is required in all ART, ARTE, ARTH, GDES, DSGN, LA, ARCH, and ID courses.

As part of the College of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences, students in this program must complete

- a minimum of 33 upper division credits (300-400 level courses)
- a capstone course in the major

Students with any modern language experience are strongly encouraged to complete the placement test. To begin Modern Language coursework above the 101 level, take the free modern language placement test at <https://www.sdstate.edu/school-american-and-global-studies/language-placement-information>