# South Dakota State University

**Bachelor of Fine Arts**
**Major: Graphic Design**
**2025-2026 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 | |
| ART 122 | Design II Color | | 3 | F/S | |
| DSGN 121 | Design I 2D | | 3 | F | |
| SGR #6 | Natural Sciences | | 3 | F/S | |
| General Elective | | | 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 | |
| SGR #1 | Written Communication | p. Placement | 3 | F/S | |
| SGR #6 | Natural Sciences | | 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 | |
| SGR #2 | Oral Communication | | 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 | |
| SGR #1 | Written Communication | p. ENGL 101 | 3 | F/S | |
| | | **Total Credit Hours** | 15 | | |

**Summer**

| Prefix + Number | Course Title | Prerequisites/Comments | Credits | Semester | Grade |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| DSGN 482 | Travel Studies | 2nd or 3rd 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 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** | 12 | | |

**Information Subject to Change. This is not a contract.**

p. = Course Prerequisite
Semester: F = Fall, S = Spring, SU = Summer

**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 IV: 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 is satisfied by coursework from 2 disciplines; one must fulfill civics requirements. | 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<br>or GDES 494 | Professional Studio Practice<br>or Internship | | 3 | SU | |
| | | **Total Credit Hours** | 3 | | |

## FOURTH YEAR

**Fall**

| Prefix + Number | Course Title | Prerequisites/Comments | Credits | Semester | Grade |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| GDES 312 | Sustainable Package Design | p. GDES 310 | 3 | F | |
| 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 is satisfied by coursework from 2 disciplines; one must fulfill civics requirements. | 3 | F/S | |
| SGR #4 | Arts and Humanities | Choose non-ART, ARTH or DSGN course | 3 | F/S | |
| | | **Total Credit Hours** | 15 | | |

**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-global-studies/language-placement-information.