

BFA IN GRAPHIC DESIGN



SACRAMENTO STATE

In Workflow

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3. ALS College Committee Chair (rebeccakah.mulholland@csus.edu)
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Approval Path

1. 2025-10-08T16:37:24Z
Emily Potts (emily.potts): Rollback to Initiator
2. 2025-10-09T02:32:08Z
Emily Potts (emily.potts): Approved for DOD Committee Chair
3. 2025-10-09T14:50:59Z
Richard Pratt (rpratt): Approved for DOD Chair
4. 2025-11-19T19:33:26Z
Rebeccakah Mulholland (rebeccakah.mulholland): Approved for ALS College Committee Chair
5. 2025-11-19T19:34:56Z
Gladys Francis (gladys.francis): Approved for ALS Dean

History

1. Feb 28, 2019 by 212408496
2. Feb 28, 2019 by 212408496
3. Feb 28, 2019 by 212408496
4. Apr 28, 2020 by 220267334
5. Apr 20, 2021 by 220267334
6. Apr 5, 2024 by Richard Pratt (rpratt)

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Viewing: BFA in Graphic Design

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Changes proposed by: Richard Pratt (101016418)

Academic Group: (College)

Arts & Letters

Academic Organization: (Department)

Design

Catalog Year Effective:

2026-2027 Catalog

Individual(s) primarily responsible for drafting the proposed degree major program:

Name (First Last)	Email	Phone 999-999-9999
Richard Pratt	rpratt@csus.edu	916-278-3659

Type of Program:

Major

Program Change Type:

Non-Substantive

Is this a pilot program?

No

Pilot program as of:

NA

Delivery Format:

Fully Face to Face

Title of the Program:

BFA in Graphic Design

Designation: (degree terminology)

Bachelor of Fine Arts

Briefly describe the program proposal (new or change) and provide a justification:

Limited possibilities for the Department to offered DSGN 20 has forced us to remove it from the required list for majors and make it one option of many.

University Learning Goals**Undergraduate Learning Goals:**

Competence in the disciplines
 Knowledge of human cultures and the physical and natural world
 Intellectual and practical skills
 Personal and social responsibility
 Integrative learning

Program Learning Outcomes**Program Learning Outcomes**

Learning Outcome
1) Solve communication problems through an analysis of multiple possible solution and the interaction of audience and context.
2) Develop visual forms through an understanding of visual organization/composition, information hierarchy, symbolic representation, typography, aesthetics, and the construction of meaning.
3) Implement design solutions using the appropriate tools and technology.
4) Summarize basic business practices related to professional work places, and organize projects and work as a member of a larger team.
5) Apply an understanding of design history, theory, and criticism from a variety of perspectives to visual artifacts.

Learning Outcomes Display

Course Code	PLO 1	PLO 2	PLO 3	PLO 4	PLO 5
DSGN 4					
DSGN 10					
GPHD 5					
GPHD 20					

GPHD 25					
GPHD 30					
PHOT 12					
ART 1A					
ART 1B					
ART 1C					
ART 3A					
ART 3B					
ART 5					
DSGN 20					
INTD 15					
INTD 20					
PHOT 15					
PHOT 20					
GPHD 120					
GPHD 125					
GPHD 130					
GPHD 135					
GPHD 140					
GPHD 145					
GPHD 150					
GPHD 155					
ANTH 2					
ANTH 146					
ANTH 141					
ANTH 164					
ART 20A					
ART 20B					
ART 97					
ART 120					
ART 144					
ART 197A					
ART 198					
COMS 55					
COMS 114					
CSC 1					

CSC 8					
CSC 10					
DSGN 101					
GPHD 195					
GPHD 199					
INTD 25					
INTD 30					
INTD 123					
INTD 124A					
INTD 124D					
INTD 125					
MKTG 101					
MKTG 121					
MKTG 122					
MKTG 123					
MKTG 125					
PHOT 11					
PHOT 40					
PHOT 101					
PHOT 102					
PHOT 111					
PHOT 141					

Will this program be required as part of a teaching credential program, a single subject, or multiple subject waiver program (e.g., Liberal Studies, Biology) or other school personnel preparation program (e.g., School of Nursing)?

No

Do these changes impact the degree roadmap?

No

Catalog Description:

Units required for major: 79

Minimum units required for BFA: 120

Program Description

The Bachelor of Fine Arts in Graphic Design has been developed to prepare students for professional practice and/or preparation for admission to graduate level study.

The course of study is a layered exploration that starts with fundamental principles of visual communication paired with an intensive introduction to the creative process. Exposure to multiple facets of two and three-dimensional design opens up the students' ability to engage in interdisciplinary work. Each successive layer builds in complexity to encompass technical, conceptual, and research challenges that run concurrently with a series of classes devoted to professional practice. Historical perspective and ethical concerns are addressed throughout the curriculum. A series of curated electives provide an additional conduit for students to explore possible interdisciplinary connections in their future design practice. The programs goal is to provide the community with a comprehensive visual problem solver that has a strong aesthetic ability coupled with a clear understanding of the strategic and conceptual challenges facing them in practice.

Admission Requirements: Course prerequisites and other criteria for admission of students to the degree major program, and for their continuation in it.

Admission Requirements

The Graphic Design program at Sacramento State is one of the most highly sought-after programs in Northern California. Due to the large number of applicants, the program is officially impacted and enrollment in upper division coursework is subject to a supplemental application.

The application for admission includes completion of a specific set of required lower division prerequisites and submission of a portfolio. Portfolio specifications and application procedures are available on the Department of Design website (<http://csus.edu/design>). It is highly recommended that interested students speak with a Graphic Design advisor as soon as possible.

Minimum Grade Requirement

Students wishing to become Graphic Design majors must complete a series of required lower division courses with a grade of "C" or better and then must apply for admission to the program.

Prerequisite Lower Division Course Requirements

When submitting an application with the required portfolio students must have completed or be enrolled in the following courses:

Code	Title	Units
GPHD 25	Visual Basics	3
GPHD 30	Visual Basics II	5
PHOT 12	Digital Photography II	3
At least two of the following:		6
DSGN 4	Design and Thinking	
GPHD 5	Introduction to Graphic Design	
GPHD 20	History Of Graphic Design	
Total Units		17

Technology Requirement

Students that have been accepted to the Graphic Design program, with the Department of Design, are required to own a laptop computer with appropriate software for upper division courses. Upon beginning upper division coursework this requirement must be met. Before purchasing, please consult your major advisor or the Department of Design Office for the specific minimum requirements for the laptop computer and software.

As defined by policy <http://www.csus.edu/umannual/acadaff/fsm00010.htm>, a change in units constitutes a substantive change to the program. If your changes constitute a substantive change, please refer back to the "Program Change Type" field above to ensure that "Substantive" is selected.

Program Requirements: (If new courses are being created as part of a new program, it will be useful to propose courses first.)

Program Requirements

Code	Title	Units
Required Lower Division Design Core Courses (7 Units)		
DSGN 4	Design and Thinking	3
DSGN 10	Think Make	4
Required Lower Division Major Courses (17 Units)		
GPHD 5	Introduction to Graphic Design ¹	3
GPHD 20	History Of Graphic Design	3
GPHD 25	Visual Basics	3
GPHD 30	Visual Basics II	5
PHOT 12	Digital Photography II	3
Required Lower Division Lecture (9 Units)		
Select three of the following:		9
ART 1A	Art, Religions, and Power before 1400	
ART 1B	Art, Empires, and Cross-Cultural Exchange, 1400-1800	
ART 1C	Global Modern and Contemporary Art	
ART 3A	Traditional Asian Art	
ART 3B	Modern and Contemporary Asian Art	
ART 5	Art of the Americas	
DSGN 20	Design and Society Since 1780	
INTD 15	Introduction to Interior Design	
INTD 20	Design	

PHOT 15	Survey of Photography	
PHOT 20	The Photographic Self	
Required Upper Division Courses (40 Units)		
GPHD 120	Typography I	5
GPHD 125	Graphic Design Systems I	5
GPHD 130	Typography II	5
GPHD 135	User Interface Design	5
GPHD 140	User Experience Design	5
GPHD 145	Typography II	5
GPHD 150	Professional Practice	5
GPHD 155	Graphic Design Systems II	5
Required Electives (6 Units)		
Select two of the following:		6
ANTH 2	Introduction to Cultural Anthropology ¹	
ANTH 146	Ethnographic Analysis	
ANTH 141	Thinking About Culture	
ANTH 164	Course ANTH 164 Not Found	
ART 20A	Beginning Drawing ¹	
ART 20B	Intermediate Drawing	
ART 97	Beginning New Media Art	
ART 120	Advanced Drawing	
ART 144	Digital Printmaking	
ART 197A	New Media: 2D Character Animation	
ART 198	New Media: Physical Computing	
COMS 55	Media Communication and Society	
COMS 114	Communication and American Culture	
CSC 1	Introduction to Computer Science	
CSC 8	Introduction to Internet Technologies	
CSC 10	Introduction to Programming Logic	
DSGN 101	World Design and Visual Culture	
GPHD 195	Fieldwork in Graphic Design	
GPHD 199	Special Problems	
INTD 25	Design Fundamentals	
INTD 30	Beginning AutoCAD and SketchUp	
INTD 123	Survey of Western Architecture and Interiors	
INTD 124A	American Design	
INTD 124D	Principles of House Design	
INTD 125	Urban Design and Society ¹	
MKTG 101	Principles Of Marketing	
MKTG 121	Marketing Research and Information	
MKTG 122	Buyer Behavior	
MKTG 123	Public Relations and Ethics in Business	
MKTG 125	Advertising	
PHOT 11	Digital Photography I	
PHOT 40	Darkroom Photography	
PHOT 101	Photography, Inception to Mid-Century	
PHOT 102	Photography, a Social History	
PHOT 111	Intermediate Digital Photography	
PHOT 141	Intermediate Darkroom Photography	
Total Units		79

¹ Course also satisfies General Education (GE)/Graduation Requirement.

General Education Requirements ¹

Code	Title	Units
Area 1: English Communication (9 Units)		
1A - English Composition		3
1B - Critical Thinking		3
1C - Oral Communication		3
Area 2: Mathematical Concepts and Quantitative Reasoning (3 Units)		
Area 2 Course - Lower Division		3
Area 3: The Arts and Humanities (6 Units)		
3A - Arts		3
3B - Humanities		3
Area 4: Social and Behavioral Sciences (6 Units)		
Area 4 Course -Lower Division		3
Area 4 Course - Lower Division		3
Area 5: Physical and Biological Sciences (7 Units)		
5A - Physical Science		3
5B - Biological Science		3
5C - Laboratory		1
Area 6: Ethnic Studies (3 Units)		
Area 6 Course		3
Upper Division Courses: (9 Units)		
Area 3 Course - Upper Division		3
Area 4 Course - Upper Division		3
Area 2 OR Area 5 Course - Upper Division		3
Total Units		43

¹ To help you complete your degree in a timely manner and not take more units than absolutely necessary, there are ways to use single courses to meet more than one requirement (overlap). For further information, please visit the General Education page (<https://catalog.csus.edu/colleges/academic-affairs/general-education/>).

Note: There is no way to list all possible overlaps so please consult with a professional advisor. The Academic Advising Center can be visited online (<http://www.csus.edu/acad>), by phone (916) 278-1000, or email (advising@csus.edu).

² Required in Major; also satisfies GE.

³ Department offers students an "Select from the following" option:

- If student chooses to take ANTH 2, they will meet one area of Area 4 (lower division).
- If students chooses to take INTD 125, they will meet the upper division Area 4 requirement.

Graduation Requirements ¹

Code	Title	Units
Graduation Requirements (required by CSU) (9 Units)		
American Institutions: U.S. History		3
American Institutions: U.S. Constitution & CA Government		3
Writing Intensive (WI)		3
Graduation Requirements (required by Sacramento State) (12 Units)		
English Composition II		3
Race and Ethnicity in American Society (RE)		3
Foreign Language Proficiency Requirement ²		6

¹ To help you complete your degree in a timely manner and not take more units than absolutely necessary, there are ways to use single courses to meet more than one requirement (overlap). For further information, please visit the General Education page (<https://catalog.csus.edu/colleges/academic-affairs/general-education/>).

Note: There is no way to list all possible overlaps so please consult with a professional advisor. The Academic Advising Center can be visited online (<http://www.csus.edu/acad>), by phone (916) 278-1000, or email (advising@csus.edu).

² If not satisfied before entering Sacramento State, it may be satisfied in General Education Area C2 (Humanities). "C- or better required." The alternative methods for satisfying the Foreign Language Proficiency Requirement are described here: <https://www.csus.edu/college/arts-letters/world-languages-literatures/foreign-language-requirement.html> (<https://www.csus.edu/college/arts-letters/world-languages-literatures/foreign-language-requirement.html>)

Fiscal Impact to Change an Existing Program

Indicate programmatic or fiscal impact which this change will have on other academic units' programs, and describe the consultation that has occurred with affected units:

This will allow the Department to offer fewer low enrollment courses saving the Department and College money.

Provide a fiscal analysis of the proposed changes:

Without these changes the Department would have to offer 2-3 more sections of DSGN 20 each AY, in order to meet demand for a required course. We are not able to afford that at this time.

How will the above changes be accommodated within the department/College existing fiscal resources?

It will free up resources for other courses.

Will the proposed changes require additional resources?

No

What additional space, equipment, operating expenses, library, computer, or media resources, clerical/technical support, or other resources will be needed?

None

Estimate the cost and indicate how these resource needs will be accommodated:

There will be less cost.

Reviewer Comments:

Emily Potts (emily.potts) (Wed, 08 Oct 2025 16:37:24 GMT): Rollback: Recommend to hold until following catalog year.

Key: 379