

BA IN DESIGN STUDIES



SACRAMENTO STATE

In Workflow

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Approval Path

1. 2026-02-06T18:54:52Z
Emily Potts (emily.potts): Approved for DOD Committee Chair
2. 2026-02-09T19:36:32Z
Richard Pratt (rpratt): Approved for DOD Chair
3. 2026-02-18T19:13:34Z
Rebeccak Mulholland (rebeccak.mulholland): Rollback to Initiator
4. 2026-02-25T01:53:15Z
Emily Potts (emily.potts): Rollback to Initiator
5. 2026-03-03T01:22:51Z
Emily Potts (emily.potts): Approved for DOD Committee Chair
6. 2026-03-03T18:00:49Z
Richard Pratt (rpratt): Approved for DOD Chair
7. 2026-03-03T18:11:02Z
Rebeccak Mulholland (rebeccak.mulholland): Approved for ALS College Committee Chair
8. 2026-03-03T18:13:14Z
Shawna Malvini Redden (malviniredden): Approved for ALS Dean

History

1. Jul 18, 2019 by 212408496
2. Apr 23, 2021 by Katie Dickson (katiedickson)
3. Mar 12, 2025 by PJ Carlino (pj.carlino)
4. Sep 15, 2025 by Janett Torset (torsetj)

Date Submitted: 2026-02-28T23:06:13Z

Viewing: BA in Design Studies

Last approved: 2025-09-15T15:11:17Z

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Changes proposed by: PJ Carlino (223012504)

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
PJ Carlino	pj.carlino@csus.edu	617-396-1278

Type of Program:

Major

Program Change Type:

Substantive

Is this a pilot program?

No

Delivery Format:

Fully Face to Face

Title of the Program:

BA in Design Studies

Designation: (degree terminology)

Bachelor of Arts

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

The proposed revisions strengthen the Design Studies B.A. by clarifying disciplinary identity, improving scaffolding for design-specific analytical writing and research, and making professional pathways more legible to students in an interdisciplinary major. Design Studies is neither a studio training program nor a history major; it is an interdisciplinary field that examines design as a cultural, social, historical, ethical, and technological phenomenon. The revisions prioritize discipline-appropriate preparation, coherent sequencing from lower- to upper-division coursework, and student-centered clarity regarding the purpose and outcomes of the major.

Recent assessment and curriculum review identified a structural gap in students' preparation for design-specific analytical writing and research. The changes below address this gap while foregrounding interdisciplinarity as a core strength of the program.

1. Removal of HIST 100 as a Required Course**Justification:**

HIST 100 is an upper-division history methods course focused on disciplinary historical research practices, including archival work, historiography, and formal historical writing. Its methodological orientation and prerequisite structure are designed to prepare students for advanced work in the discipline of History. While historical thinking is essential to Design Studies, requiring a history-department methods course as a core requirement creates a misalignment between disciplinary goals.

Removing HIST 100 clarifies that Design Studies requires design-centered analytical and research preparation rather than disciplinary training in historical methods. Students who wish to pursue deeper historical methods training may still elect HIST 100 where appropriate, but it will no longer function as a required foundation for the major.

2. Addition of DSGN 5: Introduction to Design Studies (Lower Division)**Justification:**

DSGN 5 is proposed as a required lower-division gateway course that introduces Design Studies as an interdisciplinary field distinct from studio design training. The course emphasizes comprehension, synthesis, and field literacy rather than technical skill-building, preparing students for advanced coursework across the major.

The addition of DSGN 5 provides early conceptual orientation, shared vocabulary, and disciplinary clarity, improving student success and coherence across the curriculum.

3. Addition of DSGN 185: Professional Practices (Upper Division)**Justification:**

Design Studies' interdisciplinary breadth is a core strength, but it can make professional pathways difficult for students to identify and articulate. DSGN 185 provides structured preparation for professional and post-graduate opportunities in design-related fields. The course emphasizes professional communication, career research, project management, and portfolio/profile development tailored to interdisciplinary design careers. While students are prepared for opportunities at traditional design firms, portfolios emphasize analytical, research-driven, and contextual work consistent with the Design Studies B.A. orientation.

DSGN 185 functions as a professional "bookend" that complements the introductory gateway (DSGN 5) by explicitly translating Design Studies learning into careers, civic engagement, and graduate study.

4. Revisions to DSGN 20: Design & Society

4a. Addition of Prerequisite: ENGL 5 or ENGL 11 (or equivalent) with C– or better; Sophomore Standing

Justification:

Program-level assessment identified a gap in students' preparation for design-specific analytical writing, particularly in relation to Program Learning Outcome 2 (research, scholarship, and communication). DSGN 20 has been redesigned as a lower-division course that introduces design-specific analytical frameworks, research practices, and academic writing prior to upper-division coursework. Adding ENGL 5 or ENGL 11 (or equivalent) with a C– or better, along with sophomore standing, ensures students enter DSGN 20 with sufficient baseline academic readiness. The prerequisite does not increase overall writing requirements but clarifies sequencing so DSGN 20 can focus on disciplinary application rather than remediation. The change is not anticipated to create bottlenecks or increase time to degree.

4b. Change of Course Classification to CS#04 Lecture/Recitation (K-factor = 1 WTU per unit)

Justification:

DSGN 20 includes frequent short writing assignments, scaffolded research activities, draft-based essays, and regular formative feedback aligned with program assessment goals. The lecture/recitation classification supports the instructional workload and feedback intensity required for seminar-based writing instruction.

This change does not increase course rigor; it ensures appropriate instructional conditions for sustained, individualized feedback necessary for developing foundational analytical and writing competencies in Design Studies.

5. Revision of DSGN 101 Prerequisite: Replace HIST 100 with DSGN 20

Justification:

Revising the prerequisite for DSGN 101 from HIST 100 to DSGN 20 better aligns with pedagogical intent and student preparation within the Design Studies curriculum. DSGN 101 emphasizes comparative analysis, material culture, and recurring design dynamics rather than disciplinary historical methodology.

DSGN 20 provides more relevant conceptual and analytical preparation by training students to analyze designed objects through design-specific lenses (technology, economics, consumerism, labor, ethics, and cultural meaning) while developing introductory research and writing skills. This substitution strengthens curricular coherence and better supports DSGN 101's learning objectives.

6. Addition of a "C– or Better" Requirement for Major Courses

Justification:

Requiring a grade of C– or better in all Design Studies major courses ensures that students completing the B.A. have met minimum expectations for achievement of the program's learning outcomes. Because the Design Studies curriculum is designed as an integrated program of study, successful completion of the major requires demonstrated competency across the full set of analytical, research, writing, and interpretive skills articulated in the program learning outcomes.

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

PLO 1 Describe critical perspectives in the evaluation of design, including the history of ideas about the role of design in culture and of ideas informing design practice over time.

PLO 2 Employ overview knowledge of design practice, history, theory, criticism, and technology and the tools and techniques of research, scholarship, and communication in the production of scholarly analytical work about design.

PLO 3 Recognize how the products and practices of design form a relationship to art, politics, and economics.

PLO 4 Identify differences among audiences/users for design, and an understanding of how audience/user values and behaviors are reflected in the design of communications, products, images, and environments.

PLO 5 Articulate the individual, local, national, and global levels at which design problems can be formulated and addressed, and demonstrate the ability to discern observable or potential consequences of specific design action in complex systems.

PLO 6 Examine how design principles are incorporated into the products and practices of design, and how they influence use and interpretation.

PLO 7 Formulate questions for research that address individual and social need and gaps in scholarship, and breakdown complex questions into researchable components.

Learning Outcomes Display

Course Code	PLO 1	PLO 2	PLO 3	PLO 4	PLO 5	PLO 6	PLO 7
DSGN 4	1	1	1	1	1	1	
DSGN 10		1		1	1		
DSGN 5	1	1			1	1	1
DSGN 20		1		1	1		
ART 1A	1	1					
ART 1B	1	1					
ART 1C	1	1					
ART 2	✓	✓					
ART 3A	✓	✓					
ART 3B	✓	✓					
ART 5	1	1					
ARCH 1A	1	1					
ARCH 1B	1	1					
GPHD 20	✓	✓					
PHOT 15	✓	✓					
GPHD 25		✓			✓		✓
INTD 25		✓			✓		✓
PHOT 11		1			1		1
PHOT 12		1			1		1

PHOT 40		1			1		1
ANTH 2	✓			✓	✓		✓
ENVS 10	1			1	1		1
ETHN 11	1			1	1		1
ETHN 30	1			1	1		1
ETHN 53	1			1	1		1
FASH 30	✓			✓	✓		✓
FASH 31	1			1	1		1
GEOG 2	✓			✓	✓		✓
HRS 71	✓			✓	✓		✓
PHOT 20	✓			✓	✓		✓
SOC 3	✓			✓	✓		✓
WGS 50	1			1	1		1
WGS 75	1			1	1		1
WGS 85	1			1	1		1
DSGN 101	3	3			2	2	2
DSGN 130		2			2		2
DSGN 150		2	3	3	3	2	2
DSGN 185		2		2	2	2	2
DSGN 192		3			3	3	3

ART 100	2	2					
ART 107	2	2					
ART 108	✓	✓					
ART 109	✓	✓					
ART 110	2	2					
ART 111	✓	✓					
ART 112	✓	✓					
ART 113B	2	2					
ART 117A	2	2					
ART 117B	2	2					
ART 117C	2	2					
ART 172	2	2					
HRS 168	✓	✓					
HRS 180	✓	✓					
ART 118B	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	
FASH 130	2	2	2	2		2	
INTD 124A	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	
INTD 124D	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	
INTD 124E	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	
INTD 125	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	

PHOT 101	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	
PHOT 102	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	
ANTH 176	✓	✓		✓	✓		
DSGN 195	2	2		2	2		
DSGN 199	2	2		2	2		
ETHN 100	✓	✓		✓	✓		
ETHN 131	✓	✓		✓	✓		
FASH 137	2	2		2	2		
GEOG 144	✓	✓		✓	✓		
GEOG 147	✓	✓		✓	✓		
GEOG 148	✓	✓		✓	✓		
HIST 162	✓	✓		✓	✓		
HIST 163	✓	✓		✓	✓		
HIST 164	✓	✓		✓	✓		
HIST 165	✓	✓		✓	✓		
HIST 166	✓	✓		✓	✓		
HIST 184	✓	✓		✓	✓		
HIST 193	✓	✓		✓	✓		
HRS 162	✓	✓		✓	✓		

MKTG 101	2	2	2	2		
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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

Please attach a Comprehensive Program Assessment Plan

DESIGN STUDIES BA Comprehensive Program Assessment Plan 2.pdf

Please attach a Curriculum Map Matrix

DESIGN STUDIES BA Curriculum Map Matrix.pdf

Please attach a five-year budget projection

2026 01 31 DSGN Teaching Budget Projection SUMMARY.pdf

Do these changes impact the degree roadmap?

Yes

Please attach the updated roadmap:

2026 Design Studies BA Roadmap.pdf

Briefly describe the change:

DSGN 5 Is added to the roadmap in the first semester an DSGN 185 is added to the roadmap in the 7 th semester. HIST 100 is removed from the roadmap.

Catalog Description:

Units required for Major: 49

Minimum units required for BA: 120

Program Description

The Bachelor of Arts in Design Studies is intended for students interested in the social, cultural, and ethical dimensions of design. This interdisciplinary field investigates methods of design practice and their impact on society. Students engage with diverse perspectives, examining the social, historical, political, and physical contexts within which design is conceived, produced, and used. Within Design Studies classes, students embark on a journey of inquiry, interrogating the man-made world to unravel fundamental questions about how society functions, how identity is formed, historical trajectories, and future possibilities.

Our curriculum integrates studio practice, research methodologies, and comprehensive studies in art and design history. A cornerstone of our program lies in the exploration of social design and responsibility, equipping students for careers in design management, research, education, advocacy, promotions and marketing, public history, journalism, law, as well as in museums and galleries.

Upon graduation, students are not only prepared for professional endeavors but are also academically equipped to pursue advanced studies in design and related fields through M.A., M.F.A, and Ph.D. programs.

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

All major course requirements require a minimum grade of "C-" or better.

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 Courses (11 Units)		
DSGN 4	Design and Thinking	3
DSGN 10	Think Make	4
DSGN 5	Course DSGN 5 Not Found (Introduction to Design Studies)	1
DSGN 20	Design and Society Since 1780	3
Required Lower Division Art History Elective (3 Units)		
Select one of the following:		3

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 2	History of Islamic Art	
ART 3A	Traditional Asian Art	
ART 3B	Modern and Contemporary Asian Art	
ART 5	Art of the Americas	
Required Lower Division Design History Elective (3 Units)		
Select one of the following:		3
ARCH 1A	History of Architecture: Prehistory to 1800	
ARCH 1B	History of Architecture: 1800 to Today	
GPHD 20	History Of Graphic Design	
PHOT 15	Survey of Photography	
Required Lower Division Design Studio Elective (3 Units)		
Select one of the following:		3
GPHD 25	Visual Basics	
INTD 25	Design Fundamentals	
PHOT 11	Digital Photography I	
PHOT 12	Digital Photography II	
PHOT 40	Darkroom Photography	
Required Lower Division Complementary Studies Elective (3 Units)		
Select one of the following:		3
ANTH 2	Introduction to Cultural Anthropology	
ENVS 10	Introduction to Environmental Science	
ETHN 11	Introduction to Ethnic Studies	
ETHN 30	Introduction to Chicano/Latino Studies	
ETHN 53	Introduction to Native American Studies	
FASH 30	Fashion and Human Environment	
FASH 31	Textile Science: Fibers and Fabrics	
GEOG 2	Cultural Geography	
HRS 71	Arts and Ideas of Asia: Medieval to Modern	
PHOT 20	The Photographic Self	
SOC 3	Social Problems	
WGS 50	Introduction to LGBTQ Studies	
WGS 75	Introduction to Disability Studies	
WGS 85	Introduction to Women's & Gender Studies	
Required Upper Division Courses (14 Units)		
DSGN 101	World Design and Visual Culture	3
DSGN 130	Design Research Methods	3
DSGN 150	Contemporary Topics in Design	3
DSGN 185	Course DSGN 185 Not Found (Professional Practices)	2
DSGN 192	Senior Seminar: Design Studies	3
Required Upper Division Art History Elective (3 Units)		
Select one of the following:		3
ART 100	Modern and Contemporary Native American Art	
ART 107	Global Baroque Art: Power and Persuasion	
ART 108	19th Century Art	
ART 109	Modern Art	
ART 110	US and Caribbean Art: Race and Representation 🌐	
ART 111	Latin American and Latino Art History ✍️	
ART 112	Contemporary Art	
ART 113B	Asian Art in Pop Culture, New Media, and Video Games ✍️	
ART 117A	Art of India and Southeast Asia	
ART 117B	Art of China and Japan	
ART 117C	Art of Korea	
ART 172	African American Art and Visual Culture 🌐	

HRS 168	Images Of America  
HRS 180	The Film
Required Upper Division Design History Elective (6 Units)	
Select two of the following:	
ART 118B	California Architecture and Urban History
FASH 130	History Of Western Fashion
INTD 124A	American Design
INTD 124D	Principles of House Design
INTD 124E	Film/Design
INTD 125	Urban Design and Society
PHOT 101	Photography, Inception to Mid-Century
PHOT 102	Photography, a Social History
Required Upper Division Complementary Studies Elective (3 Units)	
Select one of the following:	
ANTH 176	Museums, Culture, and Society
DSGN 195	Internship in Design Studies
DSGN 199	Special Problems
ETHN 100	Ethnic America  
ETHN 131	La Raza Studies 
FASH 137	Clothing, Society, and Culture
GEOG 144	Transforming the City
GEOG 147	Urban Geography
GEOG 148	Urban and Regional Planning
HIST 162	Social History of the United States
HIST 163	The City in US History
HIST 164	History of American Capitalism
HIST 165	American Environmental History
HIST 166	Popular Culture
HIST 184	California Architecture and Urban History
HIST 193	Public History
HRS 162	American Space and Identity
MKTG 101	Principles Of Marketing

Total Units **49**

General Education Requirements

Code	Title	Units
Area A: Basic Subjects (9 Units)		
A1	Oral Communication	3
A2	Written Communication	3
A3	Critical Thinking	3
Area B: Physical Universe and Its Life Forms (13 Units)		
B1	Physical Science	3
B2	Life Forms	3
B3	Lab (Note: Lab experience to be taken with one of the following: B1, B2 or B5)	1
B4	Math Concepts	3
B5	Additional Course (Any B to reach 12 units) - Take upper-division course to complete Area & upper division requirements.	3
Area C: Arts and Humanities (12 Units)		
C1	Arts	3
C2	Humanities	3
C1/C2	Area C Course	3
C1/C2	Area C Course - Take upper-division course to complete Area & upper division requirements.	3
Area D: The Individual and Society (6 Units)		
Area D Course		3
Area D Course		3
Area D Course		0
Area D Course	- Take upper-division course to complete Area & upper division requirements.	0

Area E: Understanding Personal Development (3 Units)

Area E Course

3

Area F: Ethnic Studies

Area F Course

Total Units**43****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:

The proposed revisions include targeted increases in instructional demand, particularly for writing-intensive instruction in DSGN 20. The changes in classification to CS#04 - Lecture /Recitation (K-factor=1 WTU per unit). is expected to be balanced by reduced Design Studies enrollment in HIST 100 (also CS#04), since it will no longer be a required course for the major. Adjustments to DSGN 20 class size align instructional conditions with assessment-driven feedback needs and support equitable learning environments.

Attach a copy of correspondence with these units:

2026 01 23 Consultation HIST 100.pdf

Provide a fiscal analysis of the proposed changes:

The change requires a reallocation of teaching units between departments but there is no net increase in teaching units or non-personnel budget.

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

Re-allocation of WTUs from HIST to DSGN

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:

None

Please attach any additional files not requested above:

2026 Design Studies BA Roadmap.pdf

Reviewer Comments:

Emily Potts (emily.potts) (Fri, 06 Feb 2026 18:54:29 GMT): The Department of Design Curriculum Committee endorses the proposed revisions to the Design Studies B.A. as an assessment-driven refinement that improves curricular coherence, disciplinary alignment, and student preparation. DSGN 5 introduces early disciplinary knowledge. DSGN 20 provides a discipline-specific pre-requisite for DSGN 101. DSGN 185 develops students understanding of professional pathways. The committee affirms that the proposed changes are pedagogically grounded in documented instructional practices and program assessment. Changes are intended to align existing instructional resources with approved learning outcomes.

Rebekkah Mulholland (rebekkah.mulholland) (Wed, 18 Feb 2026 19:13:34 GMT): Rollback: NDT 123 – Remove from the list as it was deactivated last fall. The Learning outcomes display grid needs to be filled out

Emily Potts (emily.potts) (Wed, 25 Feb 2026 01:53:15 GMT): Rollback: request from submitter, more changes needed.

PJ Carlino (pj.carlino) (Sat, 28 Feb 2026 23:07:33 GMT): I removed INTD 123 because the course has been deactivated. In input the Learning Outcomes Display Grid.

Key: 384