

# BFA IN GRAPHIC DESIGN

**Units required for major: 78**  
**Minimum units required for BFA: 121**

## 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

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
DSGN 4	Design and Thinking	3
GPHD 5	Introduction to Graphic Design	3
GPHD 20	History Of Graphic Design	3
GPHD 25	Visual Basics	3
GPHD 30	Visual Basics II	5
INTD 20	Design	3
INTD 25	Design Fundamentals	3
PHOT 11	Digital Imaging	3
PHOT 20	The Photographic Self	3
<b>Total Units</b>		<b>29</b>

## 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.

## Program Requirements

Code	Title	Units
<b>Required Lower Division Design Core Courses (21 Units)</b>		
DSGN 4	Design and Thinking	3
GPHD 20	History Of Graphic Design <sup>1</sup>	3
GPHD 25	Visual Basics	3
INTD 20	Design <sup>1</sup>	3
INTD 25	Design Fundamentals	3
PHOT 11	Digital Imaging <sup>1</sup>	3
PHOT 20	The Photographic Self	3
<b>Required Lower Division Major Courses (8 Units)</b>		
GPHD 5	Introduction to Graphic Design <sup>1</sup>	3
GPHD 30	Visual Basics II	5
<b>Required Lower Division Art History (3 Units)</b>		
Select one of the following:		3
ART 1A	Art in the Western World: From Stone Age to End of Middle Ages	
ART 1B	Art in the Western World: From Renaissance to Baroque	
ART 1C	Global Modern and Contemporary Art	
ART 3A	Traditional Asian Art	
ART 3B	Modern and Contemporary Asian Art	
ART 5	Native American Art	
<b>Required Upper Division Courses (40 Units)</b>		
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
<b>Required Electives (6 Units)</b>		
Select two of the following:		6
ANTH 2	Introduction to Cultural Anthropology <sup>1</sup>	
ANTH 146	Ethnographic Analysis	
ANTH 141	Culture Theory	
ANTH 164	Culture Change	
ART 20A	Beginning Drawing <sup>1</sup>	
ART 20B	Intermediate Drawing	
ART 97	Beginning Electronic Art	
ART 120	Advanced Drawing	
ART 144	Digital Printmaking	
ART 197	Intermediate Electronic Art	

ART 198	Advanced Electronic Art
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 30	Introduction to Computer Aided Design
INTD 123	Survey of Western Architecture and Interiors
INTD 124A	American Design
INTD 124D	Principles of House Design
INTD 125	Urban Design and Society <sup>1</sup>
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 12	Digital Photography II
PHOT 40	Basic Techniques of Photography
PHOT 101	Photography, Inception to Mid-Century
PHOT 102	Photography, a Social History
PHOT 111	Intermediate Digital Imaging
PHOT 141	Intermediate Black and White Photography
Total Units	78

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

## General Education Requirements <sup>1</sup>

Code	Title	Units
<b>Area A: Basic Subjects (9 Units)</b>		
A1	Oral Communication	3
A2	Written Communication	3
A3	Critical Thinking	3
<b>Area B: Physical Universe and Its Life Forms (13 Units)</b>		
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
<b>Area C: Arts and Humanities (6 Units)</b>		
C1	Arts <sup>3</sup>	0
C2	Humanities	3
C1/C2	Area C Course <sup>3</sup>	0
C1/C2	Area C Course - Take upper-division course to complete Area & upper division requirements.	3
<b>Area D: The Individual and Society (6-12 Units)</b>		
Area D Course		3
Area D Course		3

Area D Course <sup>3</sup>	0 - 3
Area D Course - Take upper-division course to complete Area & upper division requirements. <sup>3</sup>	0 - 3
<b>Area E: Understanding Personal Development (3 Units)</b>	
Area E Course	3
Total Units	37-43

- <sup>1</sup> 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 (<http://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](mailto:advising@csus.edu)).
- <sup>2</sup> Required in Major; also satisfies GE.
- <sup>3</sup> Department offers students an "Select from the following" option:
- If student chooses to take ANTH 2, they will meet one area of Area D (lower division).
  - If students chooses to take INTD 125, they will meet the upper division Area D requirement.

## Graduation Requirements <sup>1</sup>

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

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- <sup>2</sup> 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/wll/flgr/>