

Graphic Design - B.S.

Curriculum

Effective May 17, 2024 FYS1020 and CAR0010 will no longer be requirements in our undergraduate programs.

The Graphic Design bachelor's degree program combines visual design foundation courses and pre-professional educational experience to prepare students for careers in professional graphic design.

Upon completion of the program, graduates are expected to:

- Demonstrate knowledge of the common elements, vocabulary, visual culture and history of design, and the interaction of these elements in modern context.
- Apply professional processes to analyze a problem, conduct research, propose solutions, write specifications and execute delivery of a product.
- Communicate, create and develop successful solutions to visual concepts reflecting the principles of visualization and design, typography, imagery, user-experience and aesthetics.
- Use traditional tools, technology, materials and production methods of the discipline to create effective solutions to design problems.
- Design solutions that respond to the physical, cognitive, cultural, social and/or ethical elements of the audience.

Students in this degree program prepare for a wide range of career opportunities in the creative industries where graphic design and web design intersect. Sample job titles in this rapidly changing professional market include graphic designer, digital designer, visual designer, UI/UX (user interface) designer, web designer, creative/art director, digital designer, interactive designer, multimedia designer and more.

The academic and experiential focus of this program prepares students to solve various digital communication problems using visual design and digital tools. Learning is professionally focused and performance-based using current digital software and hardware in university labs and studios.

There are two major focus areas that students can choose from: (1) web design or (2) print design courses to fine tune skill sets in two major areas of the field.

In their sophomore year, students assemble a comprehensive portfolio that demonstrates their increasingly sophisticated mastery of design. Students begin to identify and present themselves as independent designers through the development of focused identity that carries through to all of their presentation materials.

The senior year is highlighted with real-world experience in the Design Team courses and through internships. Students develop competitive skills in project management by creating, managing and presenting graphic design projects for real-world clients.

In Design Team I and II, senior-level students apply their knowledge to real-world problems through experiential education. Working from the John J. Bowen Center for Science and Innovation, students provide design solutions for community partners. Students hone their design skills by creating, editing and presenting visual collateral that includes branding/logo design; print peripherals, including pamphlets, posters, organizational identity kits and infographics; video; motion graphics; and websites. Students work in project teams supervised by faculty.

Students complete the Senior Portfolio Assessment course, which guides them through the assembly of a comprehensive digital and physical portfolio that demonstrates their increasingly sophisticated mastery of design. With faculty guidance, students gather, revise and organize their best works as well as enhance their portfolios with additional advanced design projects. In the final week of the course, students present and defend their work to a select group of faculty and visiting industry professionals. This course is the springboard for students to start applying for internships and other experiential education opportunities that are required of the program. Students also show their work in the annual Senior Showcase Exhibit.

Other opportunities such as study abroad, national competitions and school exhibitions are also available to qualified students and complement the college experience.

Graphic Design

A four-year program leading to the bachelor of science degree

Major Courses		
GDES1000	Drawing for Design	3
GDES1001	First Year Design Student Seminar	1
GDES1020	Design Theory and Practice	3
GDES1030	Vector-Based Design	3
GDES1040	Foundations of Web Design	3
GDES1050	Image Editing and Design	3
GDES1060	User Experience and Content Design I	3
GDES2000	Typography	3
GDES2030	Editorial & Publication Design	3
GDES2050	Content Management Systems	3
GDES2060	Portfolio Assessment for Digital	3
GDES2061	Portfolio Assessment for Print	3
GDES3015	Design Team I	4
GDES3025	Design Team II	4
GDES3250	Brand Identity Design and Development	3
GDES3300	Design for Video I	3
GDES4050	Senior Portfolio Assessment	3
IDES1010	Introduction to 3D Design	3
Major Focus		
Choose one of the areas below for a Major Focus:		9
Web Design		
GDES3215	Coding for Web Design	
GDES3235 or GDES3315	User Experience and Content Design II Introduction to Programming with JavaScript	
GDES3355	Web Design & User Experience Studio	
Print Design		
GDES3210	Advanced Publication & Print	
GDES3260	Package Design	
GDES3270	Wayfinding & Environmental Graphics	
Applied/Experiential Learning		
Choose 6 credits of the following:		6
DEE3999	Directed Experiential Education ^D	
TECX4099	College of Engineering & Design Internship ^{IC}	
TECX4190	Technical Solutions Design Project	
Related Professional Studies		
ADVC1010	Marketing Communications	3
CAR0010	Career Management	1
FYS1020	First-Year Seminar	1
A&S Core Experience		
Communications Foundation Courses		9
ENG1020	Rhetoric & Composition I	
ENG1021	Rhetoric & Composition II	
ENG1030	Communication Skills	
Integrative Learning		6
Two ILS courses, one at the 2000 level, and one at the 4000 level		
Arts and Humanities		6
ART3020	Art History	
One course from HIST, HUM, LIT, PHIL or REL		
Mathematics		6
MATH1002	A Survey of College Mathematics (or higher, based on student's placement)	
MATH2001	Statistics I	
Science		3
One course from BIO, CHM, PHY or SCI		
Social Sciences		6
SOC1001	Sociology I	
or SOC2005	Honors Seminar: Social Inequalities	
One course from ANTH, ECON, GEND, LEAD, PSCI, PSYC or RES		
A&S Electives		6
MCOM1210	Foundations of Digital Photography	
One course with an EASC attribute		
Free Electives [#]		
6 credits selected from 1000-4999 numbered offerings within the university		6
Total Credits		122.0

^D Directed Experiential Education (DEE) opportunities are based on project availability with community partners and student eligibility. For more information, visit Experiential Education & Career Services (EE&CS).

^L Typically, internships require a minimum of six credits. Students interested in a 9 or 12-credit internship can apply additional experiential learning and free elective credits, if available. Students are strongly encouraged to contact a faculty advisor before scheduling internship and free elective credits.

In addition to classes, free elective credits may be applied to a number of options such as internship, study abroad, Directed Experiential Education courses and courses in a specialization or minor as relevant. For students who qualify for the J2 program, up to four graduate courses may apply. Students are strongly encouraged to contact a faculty advisor before scheduling free elective credits.

Note: Students must pass MATH0010 Pre-Algebra or have equivalent placement scores to enroll in required math courses.

Note: Students must pass ENG0001 Writing Workshop or have equivalent placement scores to enroll in ILS 2000-level courses.

In collaboration with academic colleges across all JWU campuses, JWU Global Study Abroad programs offer a variety of international, domestic, and digital options for major, minor, free electives, experiential learning, and transferable courses. There are many affordable options for students during a semester, winter session, spring and/or summer breaks. Faculty-led, exchange, affiliate, and direct-enroll programs range in duration from one week to a full semester or full year. Financial aid may be applied, and some partners offer external scholarships. Premiere programs do not qualify for JWU scholarships or grants; however federal aid is available. Visit the study abroad website for information, program descriptions and online applications. Where will you go? Wherever you decide, make the best of your educational journey!

Accelerated Program Options

J2 Program

The JWU J2 program allows qualified students enrolled in a matriculating undergraduate program to take graduate level courses at JWU. Students interested in pursuing this option should meet with their academic advisor to discuss their interest, qualifications, and plans. The undergraduate student may take up to four graduate courses (maximum 12 credits) and are limited to 6 credits a semester and 3 credits per session (Fall Session I and Fall Session II).

The completion of graduate credits to fulfill undergraduate program requirements does not guarantee acceptance into the graduate program after completion of the baccalaureate degree. Matriculating undergraduate students who wish to formally enroll in a graduate program, must fulfill all requirements for entrance into the intended graduate program and complete a graduate program application.

Note: Not all graduate courses are included as part of this policy. Courses offered as part of the Masters of Arts in Teaching, Masters of Education, Masters of Science in Physician Assistant Studies and doctoral courses are excluded from this policy and are restricted to program majors only. Additional courses and/or programs as determined by individual colleges may also have restricted access.

Eligibility Criteria:

To be eligible to enroll in graduate level courses (excludes: Masters of Arts in Teaching, Masters of Education, Masters of Science in Physician Assistant Studies, doctoral courses and other programs as outlined by the colleges).

Undergraduate students must meet the following criteria:

- Undergraduate cumulative GPA of 3.00 or higher
- Completed & registered undergraduate credits at least 90 credits
- Meet the individual course prerequisites

Appeal to Eligibility Criteria: College Dean or designee will receive a copy of the Petition Form, Student's GPS and email requesting appeal if the student requests to appeal the GPA or earned/registered credit criteria. College Dean / designee will review and determine approval.

These courses carry graduate credit and will replace undergraduate degree requirements when applicable, traditionally free-electives (maximum of 12 credits). The course will be applied to the undergraduate degree in the order in which they are taken (if required) and will also be applied towards both the students undergraduate and graduate GPA.

Students should maintain enrollment in at least 12 credits of undergraduate coursework to maintain full-time status; graduate course enrollment is not calculated into undergraduate full-time status. For students already attending full-time as undergraduates (12 credits or more) and paying the full-time tuition, the graduate credits will be included in full-time tuition fee. Students attending part-time (11 credits or less) will pay the cost per-credit undergraduate tuition for the graduate course.

Course registration will be based on space availability and students enrolled in graduate level courses will be required to maintain good academic standing at the undergraduate and graduate level.