DIGITAL MULTIMEDIA DESIGN, B.DES.

Begin Campus: World Campus
End Campus: World Campus

Program Description

The Bachelor of Design (B.Des.) in Digital Multimedia Design (DMD) is an online undergraduate degree delivered in collaboration with the Colleges of Arts & Architecture, Communications, Information Sciences and Technology, and World Campus (WD). The major helps prepare individuals to be leaders in digital media technologies and multimedia industries. This interdisciplinary degree develops students’ design thinking through courses in art and design, critical thinking through courses that promote active, critical and ethical use of communications media and technologies, and systems thinking through courses in information technology and human interaction.

The DMD will help individuals build capacities to be creative leaders and change agents who engage with critical issues through interconnected projects in design, technology, and communications across a wide spectrum of industries. This discipline integration creates the conditions for working in the collaborative, adaptive environments that characterize the digital media professions. Combining methods, tools, and approaches from each discipline provides the basis for developing design literacy, visual literacy and digital literacy when responding to problems and issues of local and global importance.

What is Digital Multimedia Design?

Digital Multimedia Design involves learning to design, use, and apply digital platforms, formats, and devices in a range of online interdisciplinary settings. You will develop your digital literacy by coding and creating multiple digital forms using a variety of computer languages; expand your visual literacy in developing multimedia narratives; and enhance your design literacy in exploring ideas in creative problem-solving situations. Digital media generally refers to the storage and transmission of information in increasingly varied multimedia digital formats and devices, and within changing modes of communication. Design is a means by which we respond to change in a purposeful way by focusing on issues, problems, and opportunities and developing plans for taking innovative and tactical actions. Our goal is to prepare you to be a new generation 21st-century learner, and the curriculum embodies its purpose because the entire degree is delivered online through Penn State’s World Campus.

You Might Like This Program If...

You are inspired by learning processes that challenge you to explore knowledge beyond given boundaries, build alternative options for bringing different media together, or collaborate with others to find new ways of communicating ideas. When the changing face of digital media and the open-ended nature of digital design are brought together in settings involving information science and technology, communications, and visual arts, the outcome is beyond our imagination.

Entrance to Major

For specific information on entrance procedures, please visit the website for the College of Arts and Architecture (https://sova.psu.edu/apply/undergraduate-application).

Direct Admission to the Major

Incoming first-year students who meet the program admission requirements are admitted directly into the major. Admission restrictions may apply for change-of-major and/or change-of-campus students.

For more information about the admission process for this major, please send a request to the college, campus, or program contact (listed in the Contact tab).

Degree Requirements

For the Bachelor of Design in Digital Multimedia Design, a minimum of 120 credits are required:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Requirement</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>General Education</td>
<td>45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Requirements for the Major</td>
<td>75</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

General Education

Connecting career and curiosity, the General Education curriculum provides the opportunity for students to acquire transferable skills necessary to be successful in the future and to thrive while living in interconnected contexts. General Education aids students in developing intellectual curiosity, a strengthened ability to think, and a deeper sense of aesthetic appreciation. These are requirements for all baccalaureate students and are often partially incorporated into the requirements of a program. For additional information, see the General Education Requirements (http://bulletins.psu.edu/undergraduate/general-education/baccalaureate-degree-general-education-program) section of the Bulletin and consult your academic adviser.

The keystone symbol appears next to the title of any course that is designated as a General Education course. Program requirements may also satisfy General Education requirements and vary for each program.

Foundations (grade of C or better is required.)

- Quantification (GQ): 6 credits
- Writing and Speaking (GWS): 9 credits

Knowledge Domains

- Arts (GA): 6 credits
- Health and Wellness (GHW): 3 credits
- Humanities (GH): 6 credits
- Social and Behavioral Sciences (GS): 6 credits
- Natural Sciences (GN): 9 credits

Integrative Studies (may also complete a Knowledge Domain requirement)

- Inter-Domain or Approved Linked Courses: 6 credits

University Degree Requirements

First Year Engagement

All students enrolled in a college or the Division of Undergraduate Studies at University Park, and the World Campus are required to take 1 to 3
credits of the First-Year Seminar, as specified by their college First-Year Engagement Plan.

Other Penn State colleges and campuses may require the First-Year Seminar; colleges and campuses that do not require a First-Year Seminar provide students with a first-year engagement experience.

First-year baccalaureate students entering Penn State should consult their academic adviser for these requirements.

**Cultures Requirement**
6 credits are required and may satisfy other requirements
- United States Cultures: 3 credits
- International Cultures: 3 credits

**Writing Across the Curriculum**
3 credits required from the college of graduation and likely prescribed as part of major requirements.

**Total Minimum Credits**
A minimum of 120 degree credits must be earned for a baccalaureate degree. The requirements for some programs may exceed 120 credits. Students should consult with their college or department adviser for information on specific credit requirements.

**Quality of Work**
Candidates must complete the degree requirements for their major and earn at least a 2.00 grade-point average for all courses completed within their degree program.

**Limitations on Source and Time for Credit Acquisition**
The college dean or campus chancellor and program faculty may require up to 24 credits of course work in the major to be taken at the location or in the college or program where the degree is earned. Credit used toward degree programs may need to be earned from a particular source or within time constraints (see Senate Policy 83-80). For more information, check the Suggested Academic Plan for your intended program.

**Requirements for the Major**
To graduate, a student enrolled in the major must earn a grade of C or better in each course designated by the major as a C-required course, as specified by Senate Policy 82-44. Senate Policy 82-44 states that the college or program where the degree is earned. Credit used toward degree programs may need to be earned from a particular source or within time constraints (see Senate Policy 83-80). For more information, check the Suggested Academic Plan for your intended program.

**Prescribed Courses**
- **ART 201** Introduction to Digital Art and Design Criticism
- **ART 211Y** Introduction to Digital Art and Design Criticism
- **COMM 215** Basic Photography for Communications
- **COMM 230** Writing for Media
- **DMD 100** Digital Multimedia Design Foundations
- **DMD 300** Digital Multimedia Design Studio
- **DMD 400** Digital Multimedia Design Capstone
- **IST 140** Introduction to Application Development
- **IST 250** Introduction to Web Design and Development

**Additional Courses**
- **ART 10** Introduction to Visual Studies
- **ART 20** Introduction to Drawing
- **ART 122** Commentary on Art
- **ART 203**
- **ART 204**
- **ART 302**
- **ART 402**
- **COMM 118** Introduction to Media Effects
- **COMM 180** Survey of Electronic Media and Telecommunications
- **COMM 280** Introduction to Telecommunications Technologies
- **COMM 342** Idea Development and Media Writing
- **COMM 428A** Principles of Strategic Communications
- **COMM 428E** Social Media Strategies
- **COMM 469** Photography for the Mass Media
- **COMM 481** Advanced Multimedia Production
- **COMM 492** Internet Law and Policy
- **COMM 493** Entrepreneurship in the Information Age
- **IST 242** Intermediate & Object-Oriented Application Development
- **IST 261** Application Development Design Studio I
- **IST 311** Object-Oriented Design and Software Applications
- **IST 361** Application Development Design Studio II
- **IST 413** Usability Engineering

**Learning Outcomes**
- Apply practical and technological competencies by integrating skills in design thinking, systems thinking, and critical thinking to address problems, implement ideas, produce work, and assess outcomes;
- Develop the capabilities necessary to use digital technologies in multimedia projects through exploration, expression, and communication that engage a multiplicity of ideas, forms, actions, and settings;
- Demonstrate communication skills by creating and presenting ideas, concepts and designs in written, verbal and visual forms;
- Acquire career oriented knowledge and strategic thinking skills that can be applied through project organization and management in a variety of social contexts and professional settings;
- Embody cultural diversity and ethical awareness through experiences that engage and encompass a multiplicity of social situations and complex communities;
- Demonstrate competencies and capabilities to enable the use of skills to create, execute, and evaluate communication strategies in multimedia contexts making them a valuable asset for businesses, corporations, government, and nonprofit organizations.
## Academic Advising

The objectives of the university’s academic advising program are to help advisees identify and achieve their academic goals, to promote their intellectual discovery, and to encourage students to take advantage of both in-and out-of-class educational opportunities in order that they become self-directed learners and decision makers.

Both advisers and advisees share responsibility for making the advising relationship succeed. By encouraging their advisees to become engaged in their education, to meet their educational goals, and to develop the habit of learning, advisers assume a significant educational role. The advisee’s unit of enrollment will provide each advisee with a primary academic adviser, the information needed to plan the chosen program of study, and referrals to other specialized resources.

READ SENATE POLICY 32-00: ADVISING POLICY (http://senate.psu.edu/policies-and-rules-for-undergraduate-students/32-00-advising-policy)

### University Park

**Anna Divinsky**  
School of Visual Arts Advising Coordinator  
12 Borland Building  
University Park, PA 16802  
814-867-0450  
axd289@psu.edu

### World Campus

**Penn State World Campus**  
Undergraduate Academic Advising  
301 Outreach Building  
University Park, PA 16802  
814-863-3283  
advising@outreach.psu.edu

### Suggested Academic Plan

The suggested academic plan(s) listed on this page are the plan(s) that are in effect during the 2019-20 academic year. To access previous years’ suggested academic plans, please visit the archive (http://bulletins.psu.edu/undergraduate/archive) to view the appropriate Undergraduate Bulletin edition (Note: the archive only contain suggested academic plans beginning with the 2018-19 edition of the Undergraduate Bulletin).  

### World Campus

The course series listed below provides only one of the many possible ways to move through this curriculum. The University may make changes in policies, procedures, educational offerings, and requirements at any time. This plan should be used in conjunction with your degree audit (accessible in LionPATH as either an Academic Requirements or What If report). Please consult with a Penn State academic adviser on a regular basis to develop and refine an academic plan that is appropriate for you.

### First Year

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fall</th>
<th>Credits</th>
<th>Spring</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ART 201*</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>COMM 230*</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COMM 215*</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Additional Course for Major</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DMD 100*</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>General Education Course</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENGL 15, 15A, or 30†</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>General Education Course</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Second Year

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fall</th>
<th>Credits</th>
<th>Spring</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>IST 250*</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>General Education Course</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Third Year

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fall</th>
<th>Credits</th>
<th>Spring</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>DMD 300*</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>ENGL 202A, 202B, 202C, or 202D‡</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Fourth Year

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fall</th>
<th>Credits</th>
<th>Spring</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>General Education Course</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>DMD 400*</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Total Credits 120

* Course requires a grade of C or better for the major  
† Course requires a grade of C or better for General Education  
‡ Course is an Entrance to Major requirement  
§ Course satisfies General Education and degree requirement

### ADDITIONAL COURSES (30 credits)

- ART 010 GA(3); ART 020 GA(3); ART 122 US(3); ART 202(3); ART 203(3); ART 204(3); ART 302(3); ART 402(3); COMM 118 GS(3); COMM 180 GS(3); COMM 280(3); COMM 342(3); COMM 428A(3); COMM 428E(3); COMM 469(3); COMM 481(3); COMM 492(3); COMM 493(3); IST 242(3); IST 261(3); IST 311(3); IST 361(3); IST 413(3)

### SUPPORTING COURSES (18 credits)

- Select 6 credits of "history of art, design, technology and communications" in online coursework from World Campus offerings in consultation with an adviser.  
- Select 12 credits of related online coursework from World Campus in consultation with an adviser.

---

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Credits</th>
<th>General Education Course</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
University Requirements and General Education Notes:

US and IL are abbreviations used to designate courses that satisfy University Requirements (United States and International Cultures).

W, M, X, and Y are the suffixes at the end of a course number used to designate courses that satisfy University Writing Across the Curriculum requirement.

GWS, GQ, GHW, GN, GA, GH, and GS are abbreviations used to identify General Education program courses. General Education includes Foundations (GWS and GQ) and Knowledge Domains (GHW, GN, GA, GH, GS, and Integrative Studies). Foundations courses (GWS and GQ) require a grade of ‘C’ or better.

Integrative Studies courses are required for the General Education program. N is the suffix at the end of a course number used to designate an Inter-Domain course and Z is the suffix at the end of a course number used to designate a Linked course.

Career Paths

The Digital Multimedia Design degree expands your access to a range of learning communities – those typically out of reach for students enrolled in one program within one discipline. Your take courses across three colleges – Arts and Architecture, Communications, Information Sciences and Technology – and it happens entirely online. We are preparing a new generation of 21st-century learners and leaders in art and design media, visual communication, and digital literacy. You are introduced to different domains of knowledge from across disciplines and you integrate these ways of knowing into a personal portfolio of multimedia projects that demonstrate your creative capabilities in multiple digital forms and contexts.

Careers

The fully integrated scope of this program will equip you with skills considered central to many 21st-century jobs, such as creative problem-solving capabilities, capacity to exercise leadership in team building around collaborative projects because of your fluency in digital languages, visual communication, and design proficiency. You will learn to apply contemporary design methods to engage real-world issues in conceptually robust, technically varied, and expressively rich projects. These problem-based and project management skills are invaluable for many new career paths emerging within the creative industries and the creative economy.

Opportunities for Graduate Studies

Due to the multidisciplinary scale of this program, the range of digital visual communication forms, art and design practices, and creative computer applications in media and communications, filmmaking, gaming, and animation that you encounter is extensive. You will have opportunities to pursue broad-based experiences, and to follow specialized pathways of interest. You design your own program pathways around a cluster of digital courses as your skill levels grow and your professional aspirations emerge. The pathways are meant as a starting point for your academic career and will help guide a conversation with a DIGMD program adviser.

Professional Resources

- College Art Association (http://www.collegeart.org)
- National Art Education Association (https://www.arteducators.org)
- National Council of Art Administrators (http://www.nccaarts.org)
- Pennsylvania Art Education Association (http://paeablog.org)

Accreditation

- National Association of Schools of Art and Design (NASAD)
- National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE)
- Middle States Association (MSCHE)

Contact

University Park
SCHOOL OF VISUAL ARTS
12 Borland Building
814-867-0450
axd289@psu.edu
http://sova.psu.edu

World Campus
SCHOOL OF VISUAL ARTS
107 Patterson Building
University Park, PA 16802
814-867-5297
msc227@psu.edu
https://www.worldcampus.psu.edu/degrees-and-certificates/penn-state-online-digital-multimedia-design-bachelors-degree/overview

MORE INFORMATION ABOUT OPPORTUNITIES FOR GRADUATE STUDIES (https://sova.psu.edu/degree/master-fine-arts-art)

MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE SCHOOL OF VISUAL ARTS ACCREDITATIONS (https://sova.psu.edu/about/accreditations)