### Graphic Design, B.Des.

**Begin Campus:** Any Penn State Campus  
**End Campus:** University Park

### Program Description

This degree is intended to prepare students for careers in graphic design. The program includes the technical skills and the creative and intellectual capacity essential to the practices of graphic design and is intended to prepare students for employment in design studios, advertising agencies, packaging, publications and corporate design, film and television graphics, and Web and interactive design.

### What is Graphic Design?


**You Might Like This Program If...**

- Bad typography on billboards and passing trucks drives you nuts
- You love words and images and colors
- You are engaged and creative, digital and analog
- You like art, advertising, psychology, and entrepreneurship
- You defy classification and don't like being stuck in ruts

Designers are agile thinkers and creators who blend concepts and craft, art and ideas. If you’re interested in everything and love challenges, graphic design could be your ‘thing.’

### Entrance to Major

Acceptance into the Graphic Design major is determined by a portfolio review by faculty after the completion of GD 1S, GD 100, GD 101, GD 102, and IST 110 with grades of C or better in all of these courses. Typically, this review will take place in the second semester.

### Degree Requirements

For the Bachelor of Design degree in Graphic Design, a minimum of 121 credits is required:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Requirement</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>General Education</td>
<td>45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Electives</td>
<td>6-12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Requirements for the Major</td>
<td>73</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

3-9 of these 45 credits are included in the Requirements for the Major.

### 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 [http://senate.psu.edu/policies-and-rules-for-undergraduate-students/32-00-advising-policy]). For more information, check the Suggested Academic Plan for your intended program.

Requirements for the Major
This includes 3-9 credits of General Education courses: 3 credits of GS and 0-6 credits of GA courses.

A grade of C or better is required for all courses in the major. To graduate, 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.

Credit used toward degree programs may need to be earned from a particular source or within time constraints (see Senate Policy 83-80 [http://senate.psu.edu/policies-and-rules-for-undergraduate-students/32-00-advising-policy]). For more information, check the Suggested Academic Plan for your intended program.

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 need 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)

Suggested Academic Plan

University Park 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>ENGL 15, 15A, or 30‡</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>GD 102*#</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GD 1S*#</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Additional Course for Major (see list below)*†</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IST 110*#</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>General Education Course</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IST 110†#</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>General Education Course</td>
<td>3</td>
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</table>

General Education Course | 3 | 16 | 15

Second Year

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fall</th>
<th>Credits</th>
<th>Spring</th>
<th>Credits</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>GD 200*</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>GD 202*</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GD 201*</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>GD 203*</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IST 250*</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>IST 256*</td>
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## Additional Course for Major (see list below)¹

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Credits</th>
<th>Spring Credits</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PHOTO 200⁺</td>
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## General Education Course

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
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<th>Spring Credits</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3 General Education Course</td>
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### Third Year

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Course</th>
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<th>Spring Credits</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CAS 100A, 100B, or 100C⁺</td>
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<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GD 300⁺</td>
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<td>4</td>
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<tr>
<td>GD 301⁺</td>
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<td>General Education Course 3</td>
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### Fourth Year

<table>
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<th>Course</th>
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<th>Spring Credits</th>
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<td>GD 495⁺</td>
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<td>Elective</td>
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<tr>
<td>General Education Course (GHW)</td>
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<td>General Education Course (GHW) 1.5</td>
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</table>

Total Credits 121

* Course requires a grade of C or better for the major

† Course satisfies General Education and degree requirement

# Course is an Entrance to Major requirement

### Additional Course for Major Selection (12 credits)

- Select 6 credits from History of the Arts coursework, which may be counted toward General Education Arts requirement.
- Select 6 credits from GD 297(3); GD 304(3); GD 310(3); GD 397(3); GD 401(3); GD 404(3); GD 495(3); GD 497(3) (Sem: 5-6)

### 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.

All incoming Schreyer Honors College first-year students at University Park will take ENGL/CAS 137 in the fall semester and ENGL/CAS 138 in the spring semester. These courses carry the GWS designation and replace both ENGL 30 and CAS 100. Each course is 3 credits.

### FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT:

Erica Quinn, Academic Adviser  
Graphic Design  
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stuckemanadviser@psu.edu

### Career Paths

Penn State Graphic Design (PS-GD) develops a pathway for placement in the nation’s top creative firms. The undergraduate B.DESign program will prepare you for broad opportunities in today's global marketplace. In addition to providing you with a robust foundation in technical skills, key concepts, methods, and tools, the PS-GD program will foster and hone your overall creative and intellectual capacity. Our degree prepares students for employment in design studios, advertising agencies, publishing, corporate design, and more, creating broadcast graphics, packaging and print products, websites, mobile apps, and interactive media. You also can choose to undertake specialized graduate studies.

### Careers

All Penn State Graphic Design (PS-GD) students complete at least one summer internship with leading creative agencies around the country. This provides real-world experience and helps you build a professional network even before you graduate. PS-GD students enjoy a nearly 100 percent placement in top agencies. In addition to gaining active faculty and alumni connections nationwide, as a PS-GD student you benefit from an in-house career adviser who can connect you with professional opportunities. Graphic designers are in high demand across industries, and PS-GD graduates are active in such diverse fields as film production, web design, advertising, publishing, and environmental design.

### Opportunities for Graduate Studies

While graduates of Graphic Design programs may opt to pursue Master of Fine Arts (MFA) programs in specialized topics or focus areas, professional practice opportunities are readily available to Bachelor of Design graduates.

### Professional Resources

- American Institute of Graphic Arts (AIGA) (http://www.aiga.org)  
- Graphis New Talent Annual (http://www.graphis.com)  
- College Art Association (CAA) (http://www.collegeart.org)

### Accreditation

The Penn State Graphic Design program is accredited through the National Association of Schools of Art and Design. NASAD is an association of approximately 323 schools of art and design, primarily at the collegiate level, but also including postsecondary non-degree-granting schools for the visual arts disciplines. It is the national accrediting agency for art and design and art and design-related disciplines.
Contact

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