PROFESSIONAL PHOTOGRAPHY, B.DES.

Begin Campus: University Park

End Campus: University Park

Program Description

The major in Professional Photography is a professional undergraduate degree in photography designed to provide in-depth, formal education that will prepare students for careers in client-based professional photography or related fields. Students enrolled in the program will acquire practical skills and learn creative techniques relevant to professional photographic image making. The degree program focuses on building and synthesizing career oriented competencies essential to photographers’ professional, intellectual, and cultural lives.

The learning objectives and essential competencies of the Professional Photography major align with NASAD standards for undergraduate professional degrees. NASAD is the professional agency responsible for accrediting Penn State’s art and design programs within the College of Arts and Architecture. This B. Des. in Professional Photography also addresses student career success and economic development.

What is Photography?

Photography involves using image making technologies to take visual samples of the world around us to create responses, representations, and interpretations that cause us to think about what we see, and to question what we know. This creative and critical practice emerges from innumerable motivations that arise from a deep-felt desire for personal expression, or a belief that visual arts and design can influence how we encounter and understand everyday life. Whether exploring and applying photography as a means of responding to personal ideas and issues, or using image making to meet a client’s expectations, the discipline requires a range of specialized knowledge and skills in the use of tools, techniques, technologies, and processes to enable working from a concept to finished photographic forms. Hence, developing your individual visual language as a photographer involves mastery of materials, equipment, and processes, and developing a vision of aesthetic forms, functions, and content relationships.

You Might Like this Program If...

Your personal interests and professional aspirations are inspired by the power of photography to reach into our lives to capture the diversity, complexity, and humanity. Virtually all visual information we encounter online and in print media relies on photography to communicate content in visually stimulating and aesthetically pleasing ways. Although photographic images are found in many disciplines, the art of photography remains firmly embedded within the imagination of seeing.

MORE INFORMATION ABOUT PROFESSIONAL PHOTOGRAPHY (https://sova.psu.edu/degree/bdes-professional-photography)

Entrance to Major

Admission to the major in Professional Photography requires acceptance to the University Park campus and an application to the program, which includes a portfolio review after the applicant completes the foundational courses PHOTO 100 or PHOTO 101, PHOTO 200 or PHOTO 202, and PHOTO 201.

Additional Information

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

Degree Requirements

For a Bachelor of Design in Professional Photography 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>Electives</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Requirements for the Major</td>
<td>60</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Retention Requirements: Retention will be determined through verification of sustained academic growth as demonstrated by earning of grades of C or higher within the major. Failure to do so is grounds for an academic warning, with clear written strategies and a time frame for the student to return to good standing.

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**
A grade of C or better is required for all courses in the major. To graduate, a student enrolled in the major must earn at least a C grade in each course designated by the major as a C-required course, as specified by Senate Policy 82-44.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PHOTO 404</td>
<td>Professional Photography Capstone Seminar: Self-Marketing and Professional Presence</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHOTO 406</td>
<td>Product Photography</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHOTO 407</td>
<td>Portrait Photography</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Additional Courses**

**Additional Courses: Require a grade of C or better**
Select 18 credits from the following:

- AA 322  Arts Marketing
- AA 324  Arts Entrepreneurship and the Law
- AA 424  Arts Entrepreneurship Capstone Research Project
- ART 122Y  Introduction to Digital Art and Design Criticism
- ART 411  Seminar in Contemporary Art
- COMM 269  Photojournalism
- COMM 469  Photography for the Mass Media
- GD 100  Introduction to Graphic Design
- GD 200  Graphic Design Studio I
- GD 201  Typography
- GD 300  Design Photography
- PHOTO 99  Foreign Studies—Photo
- PHOTO 100  Introduction to Photography
- PHOTO 199  Foreign Studies—Photo
- PHOTO 200  Photo Studio I
- PHOTO 210  Introduction to Architectural Photography
- PHOTO 295  Internship
- PHOTO 296  Independent Studies
- PHOTO 297  Special Topics
- PHOTO 299  Foreign Studies—Photo
- PHOTO 300  Photo Studio II
- PHOTO 303  Professional Photography: Studio Technique and Photocomposition
- PHOTO 397  Special Topics
- PHOTO 399  Foreign Studies—Photo
- PHOTO 400  Digital Photography in the Studio
- PHOTO 402  Photographic Narratives
- PHOTO 405  Creative Projects in Photography
- PHOTO 410  Photographing Motion and Athletic Events
- PHOTO 495  Internship
- PHOTO 496  Independent Studies
- PHOTO 497  Special Topics
- PHOTO 499  Foreign Studies—Photo

**Supporting Courses and Related Areas**

**Supporting Courses and Related Areas: Require a grade of C or better**
Select 9 credits from any of the following areas in consultation with an adviser:

- a. Architecture (ARCH)
- b. Art (ART)
- c. Art Education (AED)
- d. Art History (ARTH)
- e. Arts and Architecture (A&A)
- f. Communications (COMM)
- g. Communications Arts and Sciences (CAS)
- h. Graphic Design (GD)
i. Integrative Arts (INART)

j. Landscape Architecture (LARCH)

k. Theatre (THEA)

Must include 6 credits from history of the arts and design coursework.

### 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

**Angela Rothrock**

School of Visual Arts Advising Coordinator

211 Patterson Building

University Park, PA 16802

814-865-0444

arb184@psu.edu

### Suggested Academic Plan

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>PHOTO 101*</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>PHOTO 201*</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Supporting Course*</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Supporting Course*</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elective</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>General Education Course (GN)</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENGL 15, 15A, or 30†</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>General Education Course (GH - US/IL)</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>General Education Course (GN)</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>General Education Course (GQ)</td>
<td>3</td>
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<td></td>
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#### Second Year

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fall</th>
<th>Credits</th>
<th>Spring</th>
<th>Credits</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PHOTO 202*</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>PHOTO 303*</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>AA 325†</td>
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<td>Additional Course for Major (see list)†</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>CAS 100†</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>General Education (GN)</td>
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#### Third Year

<table>
<thead>
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<th>Spring</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PHOTO 301*</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>PHOTO 401*</td>
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<tr>
<td>Additional Course for Major (see list)†</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>ENGL 202A, 202B, 202C, or 202D</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>General Education (GS - US/IL)</td>
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<td>Additional Course for Major (see list)†</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elective</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>History of Art (GA)</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Additional Course for Major (see list)†</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Supporting Course*</td>
<td>3</td>
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#### Fourth Year

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fall</th>
<th>Credits</th>
<th>Spring</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PHOTO 406*</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>PHOTO 404</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHOTO 407†</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>Additional Course for Major (see list)†</td>
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<tr>
<td>Additional Course for Major (see list)†</td>
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<td>Elective</td>
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<tr>
<td>General Education (GS)</td>
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<td>General Education (GHW)</td>
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<td>General Education (GHW)</td>
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<td>History of Art (GA)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Elective</td>
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<td>14.5</td>
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</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

1. Additional Courses (18 credits)

2. Supporting Courses and Related Areas (15 credits): Select 15 credits from any of the following areas in consultation with an adviser:

- Architecture
- Art
- Art Education
- Art History
- Arts and Architecture
- Communications
- Communication Arts and Sciences
- Graphic Design
- Integrative Arts
- Landscape Architecture
- Theatre

### 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.

Career Paths

The B. Des. degree in Professional Photography will give you a
comprehensive orientation to the diverse field of photography by
strengthening your technical, creative, and intellectual competencies
and capabilities. Your experience in this program will ensure you
are well prepared to identify and create professional quality images
for photographic applications in a wide variety of disciplines and
careers. This professionally directed degree is consistent with the
university's imperative of improving your career success, opportunities
for professional development, and the impact you can make to the
cultural economy.

Careers

The creation and use of photographic images has increased
exponentially since the development of digital photography in the mid
1990s and you will encounter the use of photographic images across
all disciplines and in many professional careers. Advanced camera
and software technology has made taking and editing photographs
substantially easier and the quality achieved among practitioners has
dramatically increased. Our goal is to help you achieve a balanced
approach in acquiring the necessary skills and knowledge to develop your
confidence and attitude in being able to pursue your professional interest
in photography.

Opportunities for Graduate Studies

A capstone photography project serves as both a culminating experience
and a creative and critical assessment that will help you identify the
distinctive look of your portfolio. Through peer review, and input from
faculty who are all exhibiting photographic artists, you will receive
mentoring about career options and further educational opportunities,
such as applying for graduate school.

Professional Resources

• College Art Association (http://www.collegeart.org)
• National Art Education Association (https://www.artheaducators.org)

Accreditation

• National Council of Art Administrators (http://www.ncaaarts.org)
• Pennsylvania Art Education Association (http://paedblog.org)

Contact

University Park
SCHOOL OF VISUAL ARTS
210 Patterson Building
814-865-0444
arb184@psu.edu
http://sova.psu.edu

MORE INFORMATION ABOUT POTENTIAL CAREER OPTIONS FOR
GRADUATES OF THE PROFESSIONAL PHOTOGRAPHY PROGRAM
(https://sova.psu.edu)

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)