

McHenry County College	Columbia College Chicago
Degree: Associate in Applied Science	Degree: Bachelor of Fine Arts
Focus: Graphic Arts	Major: Graphic Design
Minimum credits at McHenry: 67*	Credits completed at Columbia: 61

Degree Information

The Graphic Design BFA is a rigorous, professionally focused degree in visual communications where you will gain experience in research and client management. Learn more about the program, faculty, and career opportunities at colum.edu/academics/programs/graphic-design.

Admissions & Deadlines

Columbia accepts and reviews applications to our Bachelor of Fine Arts programs beginning in **September** with a deadline of **mid-January**, except for the following majors:

December 1 Deadline

- Acting, BFA
- Contemporary, Jazz, and Popular Music, BMus
- Music Composition, BMus
- Musical Theatre Performance, BFA

Refer to our [Application Deadlines](#) as well as the [Transfer Timeline](#) and [Transfer Checklist](#) to plan your transfer.

Tuition & Scholarships

General Tuition and Fees: colum.edu/tuition

Scholarships and Financial Aid: colum.edu/scholarships

Contact Information

Want to learn more?

Web: colum.edu/transfer

Email: transfer@colum.edu

More Information

Completion of this transfer guide does not guarantee admission to Columbia College Chicago. In order to be considered for admission to the Bachelor of Fine Arts (BFA), all applicants following this guide are required to earn a B or better in all major courses. Additionally, the Columbia semester plan should be considered a guide and all Columbia transfer students should work with their academic advisor to ensure that they are making progress toward graduation.

Completing the AAS will waive the following major requirements: ARTS 110 Drawing I, DSGN 110 Design Thinking, and GRDE 136 Design Lab.

Columbia College Chicago participates in the Illinois Articulation Initiative (IAI). Students who complete the AAS degree prior to transferring to Columbia College Chicago have the choice of completing the IAI General Education Core Curriculum (GECC) at Columbia or the Columbia Core Curriculum. Students will work with their Columbia advisor on the best course of action. Additionally, all degree-seeking Columbia students are required to complete 9 credit hours of 200-level (or higher) coursework, a Columbia Experience course as indicated, as well as at least two courses (6 credit hours) with a Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) designation to meet graduation requirements.

*Though the AAS requires only 60 credit hours, it is recommended that MCC students complete 66 credit hours by taking ENG 152 and ART 150 or 151. Taking less than 66 hours at MCC will impact your degree completion at Columbia.

McHenry County College Transfer Pathway

SEMESTER 1

McHenry County College		Columbia College Chicago	
Course Title	Credits	Course Title	
ART 250 Digital Photography	3	Collegewide Elective*	
ENG 151 Composition I	3	ENGL 111 Writing and Rhetoric I	
GRA 125 Digital Illustration	3	Collegewide Elective*	
GRA 185 Color Theory	3	ARTS 120 Color Theory and 2 credits of Foundation Skills	
MCC 101 The College Experience	1	Collegewide Elective*	
WEB 105 Web Fundamentals	3	Collegewide Elective*	

SEMESTER 2

McHenry County College		Columbia College Chicago	
Course Title	Credits	Course Title	
ART 252 Digital Photography II	3	Collegewide Elective*	
GRA 167 Graphic Design I	3	GRDE 231 Graphic Design	
GRA 168 Computer Art I	3	ARTS 106 Fundamentals of Visual Design	
GRA 180 History of Graphic Design	3	ARTH 225 History of Communication Design	
IAI Social and Behavioral Science course	3	Social Science course	

SEMESTER 3

McHenry County College		Columbia College Chicago	
Course Title	Credits	Course Title	
ANI 100 2-D Animation (Program Elective)	3	Collegewide Elective (Sub for ANIM 270 Motion Graphics I**)	
ART 153 2D Design	3	Collegewide Elective*	
GRA 183 Typography I	3	GRDE 238 Typography for Graphic Design	
GRA 267 Graphic Design II	3	GRDE 232 Graphic Design II: Semiotics and Form	
IAI Physical or Life Science course	3	Science course	

SEMESTER 4

McHenry County College		Columbia College Chicago	
Course Title	Credits	Course Title	
ART 253 3D Design (Program Elective)	3	ARTS 105 Foundation Studio	
GRA 275 Portfolio Design	3	Collegewide Elective*	
SPE 151 Introduction to Speech	3	Meets IAI Communication Requirement	
WEB 175 Website Development I	3	GRDE 240 Website Design I	
200-Level IAI Social and Behavioral Science course	3	Social Science course	

Highly Recommended Coursework

McHenry County College		Columbia College Chicago	
Course Title	Credits	Course Title	
ART 150 Humanities through the Arts OR ART 151 Art Appreciation	3	ARTH 105 Introduction to Visual Culture	
ENG 152 Composition II	3	ENGL 112 Writing and Rhetoric II	

Total transfer credits toward Columbia degree

66

*Collegewide electives will be applied toward required graduation hours at Columbia College Chicago.

**Work with your Columbia advisor to request that this course be substituted for ANIM 270.

Remaining Coursework at Columbia College Chicago

SEMESTER 5

Course Title	Credits
BUSE 130 Business of Design	3
GRDE 305 Publication Design	3
GRDE 331 Graphic Design III: Visual Identity and Narrative	3
Mathematics course	3
Humanities course	3
Total Credit Hours	15

SEMESTER 6

Course Title	Credits
ARTS 333 Letterpress Studio or GRDE 336 Design Lab II	3
GRDE 332 Graphic Design IV: Narrative & Research Studio	3
GRDE 340 Website Design II	3
CCCX Columbia Experience course with DEI designation	3
200-Level Social Science course	3
Total Credit Hours	15

SEMESTER 7

Course Title	Credits
GRDE 317 Photo Communication	3
GRDE 348 Experimental Typography	3
GRDE 431 Graphic Design V: Branded Environments	3
Science course with lab	4
Collegewide Elective	2
Total Credit Hours	15

SEMESTER 8

Course Title	Credits
DSGN 350 Portfolio	3
GRDE 480 Graphic Design Practicum: Client Design Studio	6
200-Level Humanities course with DEI designation	3
Collegewide Elective	2
Collegewide Elective	2
Total Credit Hours	16

Total Degree Credit Hours

128