

Degree: Associate of Applied Science

Degree: Bachelor of Arts

Major: Communication Design - Graphic Design

Major: Graphic Design, General Concentration

Credits completed at Elgin: 62

Credits at Columbia College Chicago: 58

The Bachelor of Arts in Graphic Design program seeks to provide students an education in various aspects of visual communications, while encouraging them to experience other creative fields. Coursework introduces opportunities to identify communications problems, research, generate and analyze multiple solutions, and evaluate potential outcomes. Students may focus on graphic design in the context of a broader program of general studies, choosing to pursue a minor or a double major if appropriate. Learn more at colum.edu/academics.

1 st Semester Courses	Credits	Columbia Course/IAI GECC Category
CDN 101 Introduction to 2D-Design	3	ARTS 105 Foundation Studio
CDN 103 Conceptual Visualization	3	ARTS 199 Topics in Foundation Skill: (x3)
CDN 105 Color Theory	3	Foundation Skills: ARTS 120, 199, and 199 (1 hr each)
CDN 107 Introduction to Digital Design	3	GRDE 136 Design Lab
MTH 102 Gen Ed Stats or MTH 104 Liberal Arts Math	3	Mathematics course
Total Semester Credit Hours	15	

2 nd Semester Courses	Credits	Columbia Course/IAI GECC Category
CDN 108 Designing with InDesign	3	Collegewide Elective*
CDN 109 Design/Adobe Illustrator	3	Collegewide Elective*
CDN 110 Image Design/Photoshop	3	Collegewide Elective*
CDN 115 History of Graphic Design	3	ARTH 225 History of Communication Design
CDN 219 Basic Web Design	3	Collegewide Elective*
ENG 101 English Composition I	3	ENGL 111 Writing and Rhetoric I
Total Semester Credit Hours	18	

3 rd Semester Courses	Credits	Columbia Course/IAI GECC Category
CDN 200 Typography	3	GRDE 238 Typography for Graphic Design
CDN 201 Layout Design	3	GRDE 231 Graphic Design I: Form and Structure
CDN 221 Advanced Web Design	3	GRDE 240 Website Design I
CDN 230 Introduction to Videography	3	Collegewide Elective*
IAI Social & Behavioral Science course	3	Social & Behavioral Science course
Total Semester Credit Hours	15	

4 th Semester Courses	Credits	Columbia Course/IAI GECC Category
CDN 217 Freelance Principles and Practices	3	Collegewide Elective*
CDN 223 Digital Publishing	3	GRDE 305 Publication Design
CDN 240 Portfolio Review	2	DSGN 350 Portfolio
ENG 102 English Composition II	3	ENGL 112 Writing and Rhetoric II
Art course from Liberal Education list	3	Humanities course
Total Semester Credit Hours	14	

Completion of AAS Degree: 62 credit hours

COLUMBIA COLLEGE CHICAGO COURSES

5th Semester Courses

GRDE 232 Graphic Design II	3
Science course	3
200-level Humanities course with DEI designation	3
Collegewide Elective	3
Collegewide Elective	3

Total Semester Credit Hours 15

6th Semester Courses

ENGL 130 Oral Expression	3
GRDE 340 Website Design II	3
Innovation and Impact course (Columbia Experience)	3
Science course with Lab	3
Collegewide Elective	3

Total Semester Credit Hours 15

7th Semester Courses

COLL 200 Internship	0
GRDE 331 Graphic Design III: Visual Identity and Narrative	3
Humanities course	3
Collegewide Elective	3
Collegewide Elective	3
Collegewide Elective	2

Total Semester Credit Hours 14

8th Semester Courses

GRDE 325 Packaging Design or GRDE 348 Experimental Typography	3
Social Science course	3
Collegewide Elective	3
Collegewide Elective	3
Collegewide Elective	2

Total Semester Credit Hours 14

Completion of BA Degree: 120 credit hours

Students who complete the AAS would be waived from the following major requirements: ARTH 105 Introduction to Visual Arts, ARTS 210 Drawing I, and DSGN 110 Design Thinking.

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, Columbia Experience courses as indicated, as well as at least 6 credit hours of courses with a Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) designation to meet graduation requirements.

BA in Graphic Design Concentrations

General

GRDE 305 Publication Design
GRDE 331 Graphic Design III: Visual Identity and Narrative
GRDE 340 Website Design II

One of the following courses:

GRDE 325 Packaging Design
GRDE 348 Experimental Typography

Publication Design

GRDE 305 Publication Design
GRDE 315 Book Design

Six credits from the following courses:

GRDE 331 Graphic Design III: Visual Identity and Narrative
GRDE 332 Graphic Design IV: Narrative & Research Studio
JOUR 484 College Magazine Workshop

Website Design

GRDE 340 Website Design II
GRDE 350 Web Design III
INMD 114 Web Development I

One of the following courses:

GRDE 325 Packaging Design
GRDE 331 Graphic Design III: Visual Identity and Narrative
GRDE 348 Experimental Typography

Consider pursuing a complementary minor:

- Creative Advertising
- Entrepreneurship
- Photography
- Marketing
- Design Management
- Motion Graphics
- User Experience

READY TO APPLY?

Visit colum.edu/apply

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