Communication Design Major, B.F.A.

Department of Art		Available Program Format(s): In-Person
College of Letters, Arts and Sciences		

About the Program

The B.F.A. in Communication Design is a professional degree that combines oral, written, and visual communication to address a diversity of design problems, from toothpaste tubes to cell phone screens, trademarks and logos, magazines and books to websites. This diversity of contemporary design practice is reflected in the degree which couples sound strategies in research, practice, and visual studies. The Department of Art's Communication Design program challenges students to become informed, thinking designers. The Department of Art and MSU Denver are accredited by the National Association of Schools of Art and Design (N.A.S.A.D.).

Student Outcomes

- Show evidence of intellectual inquiry and curiosity in design research.
- Convey ideas that are consistently reinforced through cohesive works that are the result of the process of making.
- Effectively articulate oral, written and visual design processes and concepts.

General Degree Requirements

To earn a degree, students must satisfy all requirements in each of the four areas below, in addition to their individual major requirements.

- Degree and Certificate Requirements
- General Studies Requirements
- Ethnic Studies & Social Justice Graduation Requirement
- Senior Experience Graduation Requirements

Program Requirements

- A total of 120 semester hours are required for graduation.
- A grade of C- or better is required for each course in this program to count toward the bachelor's degree. Students should note that programs differ in the minimum grade required.
- A minor is not required for this program.
- Art History, Theory and Criticism is a distinct academic discipline from Art or Communication Design, although all reside within the Department of Art and share common foundations.
- All students entering the department wishing to pursue the Bachelor of Fine Arts (B.F.A.) in Communication Design will be admitted under the B.A. in Art. Entrance into the B.F.A. Communication Design program is contingent on passing a formal portfolio review upon completing 21 credits in ART, CDES, or ARTH, inclusive of the 18 hours of foundations courses required for all students in the department. Students must earn a minimum of a 3.0 G.P.A. in this coursework in the major at the time of portfolio review and have completed the Written Communication, Oral Communication, and Quantitative Literacy General Studies requirements. The G.P.A. will be calculated in a degree progress report processed by the department as "what-if" for the Communication Design major) at the time of portfolio review.
- Students who are not admitted to the B.F.A. degree may reapply up to three times. Should a student not be admitted and continue in the B.A. in Art, that student must select a minor and work toward all of the requirements of the B.A. in Art, which includes upper-division ART coursework.
- The course CDES 3225 Integrated Production Techniques is restricted to Communication Design students who have passed the B.F.A. in Communication Design portfolio review. Students are advised to work with an advisor to plan their degree progress and anticipated portfolio application date well in advance of this course.
- Communication Design students must have a suitable laptop computer before proceeding with CDES 3225 and subsequent courses. See an advisor for specifications.

General Studies Requirements: 33 credits

Students should consult the General Studies Requirements for a list of courses that fulfill the General Studies Requirements for degree completion.

- Written Communication (6 credits)
- Oral Communication (3 credits)
- Quantitative Literacy (3 credits)
- Arts and Humanities (6 credits)
- Historical (3 credits)
- Natural and Physical Sciences (6 credits)
- Social and Behavioral Sciences (6 credits)
- Global Diversity (0 or 3 credits**)

Ethnic Studies & Social Justice Requirement: 0 or 3 credits

- Students should consult the Ethnic Studies & Social Justice Graduation Requirement for a list of courses that fulfill the ESSJ Requirement for degree completion.
- Many programs include courses that meet this requirement. Students should consult with their advisor to determine what program courses may fulfill this requirement.

Art Foundation Requirements: 18 credits

Course Name	Credits:	Term Taken	Grade	Gen Ed
ART 1101 - Studio Foundations: 2D	Credits: 3			
ART 1141 - Studio Foundations: Drawing	Credits: 3			
ART 1501 - Studio Foundations: 3D	Credits: 3			
ART 1531 - Studio Foundations: 4D	Credits: 3			
ARTH 1600 - World Art I: Art Prior to 1400	Credits: 3			
ARTH 1700 - World Art II: Art 1400-1900	Credits: 3			

Communication Design Requirements: 58 credits

Course Name	Credits:	Term Taken	Grade	Gen Ed
ARTH 2080 - Art of the 20th and 21st Centuries	Credits: 3			
ARTH 3690 - History of Communication Design	Credits: 3			
ARTH 4480 - Art Theory and Criticism	Credits: 3			
CDES 2222 - Fundamentals of Communication Design	Credits: 3			
CDES 2225 - Typographic Syntax	Credits: 3			
CDES 2226 - Design Inquiry	Credits: 3			
CDES 2302 - Interactive Systems	Credits: 3			
CDES 2602 - Interface Design and Development	Credits: 3			
CDES 3215 - Typographic Aesthetics	Credits: 3			
CDES 3222 - Design Research Methods	Credits: 3			
CDES 3225 - Integrated Production Techniques	Credits: 3			
CDES 3623 - Identity and Systems Design	Credits: 3			
CDES 3625 - Narrative Design	Credits: 3			
CDES 4400 - Thesis Preparation	Credits: 1			
CDES 4450 - Professional Practices in Communication Design	Credits: 3			
CDES 4600 - Communication Design Portfolio Development	Credits: 3			
CDES 4625 - Communication Design Internship	Credits: 3			
or				
CDES 4650 - Studio M	Credits: 3			
Choose 9 credits from:				
CDES 3001 - Zeromile and 'Zines	Credits: 3			
CDES 3101 - Community-Based Design	Credits: 3			
CDES 3300 - Data-Driven Design	Credits: 3			
CDES 3500 - Site Specific Studies in CDES: Variable Topics	Credits: 3			
CDES 3602 - Interactive Design I	Credits: 3			
CDES 3980 - Communication Design Junior Internship	Credits: 1-4			
CDES 4051 - Sight Sound Syntax	Credits: 3			
CDES 4151 - Design in Public Space	Credits: 3			
CDES 4152 - Citizen Designers: Social Poster Design	Credits: 3			
CDES 4202 - Interactive Design II	Credits: 3			
CDES 4251 - Designing the Human Experience	Credits: 3			
CDES 4252 - Mobile Prototyping	Credits: 3			
CDES 4300 - Variable Topics in Communication Design	Credits: 3			
• ARTH XXXX - Upper Division Art History Elective (3 credits)*				

Neither ARTH 3300 nor ARTH 3360 (CHS 3025) may be used as an art history elective for the B.F.A. in Communication Design. ARTH 3300 or ARTH 3360 (CHS 3025) may be used to meet the ESSJ Requirement.				

Senior Experience: 3 credits

Course Name	Credits:	Term Taken	Grade	Gen Ed
CDES 4721 - Communication Design Senior Experience: Exhibition and Thesis	Credits: 3			

Summary of Requirements

General Studies Requirements	33 credits
ESSJ Requirement	0-3 credits
Art Foundation Requirements	18 credits
Communication Design Requirements	58 credits
Senior Experience	3 credits
Unrestricted Electives	5-14 credits
Total for the Communication Design Major, B.F.A.	**120 credits**

Required courses for the major may also count for General Studies and ESSJ requirements, so the total credits listed may be greater than the number required to complete the degree. Therefore, it is important that you work with your advisor to make sure you are meeting requirements for your degree.

Notes: