BACHELOR OF FINE ARTS WITH A MAJOR IN GRAPHIC DESIGN

In the BFA in graphic design program students learn to solve problems with persuasive, visual communication and develop their vision under the mentorship of GW’s acclaimed graphic design faculty. The program helps students develop and execute brand strategies in diverse media formats, including print, web, motion, and mobile devices. They complete the program with a strong understanding of concept ideation, design processes and methods, visual communication strategies, messaging, wireframing, design development, and production workflow. Graphic design students also have opportunities to participate in real-world projects, such as the World Studio’s Design Ignites Change and Design Lab. At the end of the program, students participate in NEXT, GW’s award-winning, school-wide thesis exhibition. Program graduates pursue employment in a variety of unique career paths and have obtained full-time positions at established companies such as Apple, Harper’s Bazaar, National Geographic, the Smithsonian Institution, the Daily Beast, and Discovery Communications.

For more information, visit the program website. (https://corcoran.gwu.edu/graphic-design-undergraduate/)

ADMISSIONS

For more information on the admission process, please visit the Office of Undergraduate Admissions website (https://undergraduate.admissions.gwu.edu/). Applications may be submitted via the Common Application (https://go.gwu.edu/commonapp/).

Supporting documents not submitted online should be mailed to:

Office of Undergraduate Admissions
The George Washington University
800 21st Street NW, Suite 100
Washington DC 20052

Contact for questions:
gwadm@gwu.edu or 202-994-6040

REQUIREMENTS

The following requirements must be fulfilled:

The general requirements stated under Columbian College of Arts and Sciences, Undergraduate Programs (http://bulletin.gwu.edu/arts-sciences/#degreeregulationstext).

78 credits in program-specific courses, including 57 credits in required courses and 21 credits in elective courses.

Code | Title | Credits
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CAH 1090 | Art History I: Art Now, Contemporary Perspectives in the Visual Arts | 
CAH 1091 | Art History II: Historical Perspectives in the Visual Arts | 
CFN 1090 | First-Year Studio 1: Drawing and Surface | 
CFN 1091 | First-Year Studio 2: Form and Materials | 
CFN 1092 | First-Year Studio 3: Time and Light | 
CFN 1093 | First-Year Studio 4: Interaction | 
CGD 1090 | Design Fundamentals I | 
CGD 1091 | Design Fundamentals II | 
CGD 2050 | Typography I | 
CGD 2060 | Typography II | 
CGD 2090 | Design Studio I | 
CGD 2091 | Design Studio II | 
CGD 3090 | Graphic Design Studio III | 
CGD 3091 | Graphic Design Studio IV | 
CGD 4090 | Graphic Design Thesis I | 
CGD 4091 | Graphic Design Thesis II | 
CGD 4170 | Professional Practices for Designers | 

6 credits of courses in art and design history

Required

CAH 3150 | Theories and History of Graphic Design | 

One course selected from the following:

CAH 3060 | History of Design | 
CAH 3065 | Digital Media Culture | 

Electives

12 credits in advanced CGD elective courses at the 3000 or 4000 level.

9 credits in elective courses from any art or design studio area (CGD, CIXD, CPJ, and CSA).

Students should consult their advisor for a sample program of study.
GENERAL EDUCATION

In addition to the University General Education Requirement (http://bulletin.gwu.edu/university-regulations/general-education/#text), undergraduate students in Columbian College must complete a further, College-specific general education curriculum—Perspective, Analysis, Communication, or G-PAC (http://bulletin.gwu.edu/arts-sciences/gpac/). Together with the University General Education Requirement, G-PAC engages students in active intellectual inquiry across the liberal arts. Students achieve a set of learning outcomes that enhance their analytical skills, develop their communication competencies, and invite them to participate as responsible citizens who are attentive to issues of culture, diversity, and privilege.

G-PAC approved courses, Dean’s Seminars, and Sophomore Colloquia that may be available for registration are listed on the CCAS Advising website (https://advising.columbian.gwu.edu/general-education-courses/).

Coursework for the University General Education Requirement is distributed as follows:

• Writing—one approved course in university writing and two approved writing in the disciplines (WID) courses.
• Humanities—one approved course in the humanities that involves critical or creative thinking skills.
• Mathematics or Statistics—one approved course in either mathematics or statistics.
• Natural or Physical Science—one approved laboratory course that employs the process of scientific inquiry.
• Social Sciences—two approved courses in the social sciences.

Coursework for the Columbian College general education curriculum is distributed as follows:

• Arts—one approved course in the arts that involves the study or creation of artwork based on an understanding or interpretation of artistic traditions or knowledge of art in a contemporary context.
• Global or Cross-Cultural Perspective—one approved course that analyzes the ways in which institutions, practices, and problems transcend national and regional boundaries.
• Humanities—one approved course in the humanities that involves critical thinking skills (in addition to the one course in this category required by the University General Education Requirement).
• Local or Civic Engagement—one approved course that develops the values, ethics, disciplines, and commitment to pursue responsible public action.
• Natural or Physical Science—one approved laboratory course that employs the process of scientific inquiry (in addition to the one course in this category required by the University General Education Requirement).
• Oral Communication—one course in oral communication.

Certain courses are approved to fulfill the requirement in more than one of these categories.

Courses taken in fulfillment of G-PAC also may be counted toward majors or minors. Transfer courses taken prior to, but not after, admission to George Washington University may count toward the University General Education Requirement and G-PAC, if those transfer courses are equivalent to GW courses that have been approved by the University and the College.