

B.F.A., Communication Design: Graphic Design

College of Visual Arts and Design Suggested Four-Year Curriculum

2026-2027 • Expires August 2034

Key: ■ UNT Core Requirement ◆ Course required for entry review

Fall Semester: 15 credits
◆ ART 1600: Foundations - Perception & Translation
◆ ART 1700: Foundations - Space
■ ART 2350: Art History Survey I
◆ ADES 1500: Intro to Communication Design*
■ ENGL 1310: First-Year Writing I (or 1311: Honors)
*Candidacy Portfolio Review at the end of the semester

Spring Semester: 15 credits
◆ ART 1800: Foundations - Narrative & Representation
◆ ART 1900: Foundations - Systems & Transformations
■ ART 2360: Art History Survey II
◆ ADES 1540: Foundations for Communication Design
■ College Math (MATH 1580 recommended)
Entry Review and Degree Plan at the end of the semester

Fall Semester: 15 credits
ADES 1510: Typography I
ADES 2515: Image Making & Color Theory
■ ART 2370: Art History Survey III
■ Life/Physical Science
■ ENGL 1320: First-Year Writing II (or 1321: Honors)

Spring Semester: 15 credits
ADES 2510: Typography II
ADES 2520: Graphic Design
Menu I Course
■ Life/Physical Science
■ Social & Behavioral Sciences

Fall Semester: 15 credits
ADES 3500: Publication Design
ADES 3510: Interaction Design I
Advanced Art History Elective (ARTH)
■ HIST 2610 U.S. History to 1865 (or 2675: Honors)
Elective

Spring Semester: 15 credits
ADES 3545: Communication Design Studio
ADES 3545: Communication Design Studio
ARTH 4842: History of Communication Design
■ HIST 2620: U.S. History since 1865 (or 2685: Honors)
Menu II Course

Fall Semester: 15 credits
ADES 4520: GD Advanced Campaigns
ADES 4541: Portfolio Development
Advanced Art History Elective (ARTH)
Advanced Elective (any subject, 3000+)
■ PSCI 2305: U.S. Pol. Behavior & Policy (or 2315: Honors)

Spring Semester: 15 credits
ADES 4533: Advanced Communication Design Studio
ADES 4525: GD Final Portfolio
■ Core Course (See Academic Advisor)
Advanced Elective (any subject, 3000+)
■ PSCI 2306: U.S. & Texas Const./Inst. (or 2316: Honors)
Total Required Credit Hours: 120

Menu I: 3 hours from ASTU 2101, 2102, 2201, 2401, 2402, 2501, 2601, 2602, 2701, 2702, 2801, or 2802.

Menu II: 3 hours from ADES 4700, ART 4120, MKTG 3650/3651, ANTH 3101, 3130, 3140, 3300; BEHV 3150.

*ADES 1500: Introduction to Communication Design and candidacy portfolio review occurs during fall semester only.

Please refer to the statement regarding "Time to Degree Completion" on page 2.

Graduation Requirements: Students are encouraged to run their [online degree audit](#) regularly to track the completion of all requirements for this degree. Additional graduation requirements include: 42 hours must be advanced; 24 of the 42 advanced hours must be completed at UNT. Must have a 2.0 GPA (UNT & overall) and a 2.5 GPA within the major. **Grades of C or better are required for all CVAD requirements.** Students who do not have an official degree plan on file before the semester they plan to graduate may not apply for graduation.

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Entering students interested in pursuing a major in the Design Department in the College of Visual Arts and Design are classified as pre-majors.

Admission to the Communication Design major occurs through the following process:

- Have at least a 2.75 GPA on the required CVAD courses and a minimum 2.25 UNT grade point average;
- Complete at least 30 hours of college courses, including ART 1600, 1700, 1800, 1900 and ADES 1500, with a grade of C or better;
- Successfully complete the Communication Design Candidacy Portfolio Review
 - Students are required to select either the Graphic Design or User-Experience Design concentration. This decision is considered final. The review occurs in fall semesters only.
 - After successful review, students may enroll in ADES 1540.
- Complete ADES 1540 with a grade of C or better;
- Maintain at least a 2.75 GPA on the required CVAD courses and a minimum 2.25 UNT grade point average;
- Successfully complete the Communication Design Entry Portfolio Review and be admitted into the graphic design concentration.
 - All subsequent ADES coursework is restricted to those admitted as Communication Design-Graphic Design majors.

Details regarding the Candidacy and Entry Portfolio Review requirements and timing are updated annually and are available at the CVAD website (cvad.unt.edu/design/graphicdesign-major).

Transfer Credit

Students must submit official transcripts of all prior collegiate-level coursework as part of the UNT admissions process. Transfer information is reviewed with the student at Orientation. All students, regardless of academic status, must be admitted to the Communication Design Program through the Communication Design Portfolio Reviews.

Time to Degree Completion

Due to the highly sequenced curriculum, and skill-building nature of coursework, ADES courses cannot be taken concurrently unless otherwise listed as such. This means that, regardless of the required total remaining credit hours, students should anticipate four years (8 fall/spring semesters) to complete the BFA in Communication Design. ADES courses are not offered in summer semesters.

Students that do not successfully complete reviews may, upon approval of department, re-review. However, this will delay the anticipated time to completion, typically by one year. Likewise, students that fail to successfully complete courses in sequence should anticipate a one-year delay in time to completion.

Please visit the [CVAD website](http://cvad.unt.edu) (cvad.unt.edu) for up-to-date information. Additionally, many common questions are answered on the [CVAD Advising FAQ](#) page.