Graphic Design Track

The Communication Design Program at the University of North Texas has two tracks for students: Graphic Design and User-Experience Design. This document describes the application process for students interested in the Graphic Design track.

APPLICATION PROCESS OVERVIEW //
The UNT Communication Design Candidacy Review is a two-stage review. The first stage is a digital review of each applicant’s portfolio. Selected applicants will then participate in the second stage: an in-person review.

DIGITAL APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS //
Six to 10 examples of your best work*
Sketchbook slide presentation*
Completed Graphic-Centered Design worksheets*

IN-PERSON APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS //
Personal sketchbook of process work
Drawing utensils and drawing pad, approximately 9 x 12 inches
Transcripts — unofficial is preferred

Selected students will be assigned a time to participate in an in-person interview on Friday, Dec. 9, 2022.

*Allowed media types: images up to 5MB each, video up to 250MB each, PDFs up to 10MB each, other types such as websites up to 10MB each, and external media from YouTube and Vimeo.
DIGITAL PORTFOLIO REVIEW
Due Monday, November 21 (by 11:59 pm CST)

REQUIRED MATERIALS
SIX TO TEN EXAMPLES OF WORK
SKETCHBOOK SLIDE PRESENTATION
GRAPHIC-CENTERED WORKSHEETS

EXAMPLES OF WORK //
Applicants must upload six to 10 examples of work that best represent their skill set and potential as a Communication Design student. The work can be produced in any medium of your choice — traditional or digital. Physical projects should be photographed or scanned. Please provide active links to online projects, such as websites, videos, etc. All projects must be submitted through SlideRoom. The application costs $10. Students are encouraged to present work that shows a broad range of interests and abilities. Work should exhibit your abilities to draw, create, and conceptualize compelling designs or images using design principles and color theory effectively. Work may come from your art foundation core classes, high school coursework, or work done outside of the classroom. More than 180 students typically apply for this program, so consider how your work might stand out. Also, be aware that reviewers will not know the criteria or parameters that you were attempting to satisfy in certain examples of the work you submit. With this in mind, evaluate the likelihood of these examples being effectively understood by the reviewers and make decisions to include or not include specific examples accordingly.

DESIGN-CENTERED WORKSHEETS //
A series of supplied worksheets guide applicants through the research and design process for a hypothetical client. Worksheets can be requested from Communication Design Program Coordinator Whitney Holden, Whitney.Holden@unt.edu.

These worksheets must be completed and uploaded with your complete Entry-Portfolio submission through SlideRoom.

SKETCHBOOK / /
A personal sketchbook of your process work and daily reflections is required for the in-person review. The sketchbook should or may include process work for drawing and design courses, personal sketches, and process work for projects outside of courses. You will need to photograph the front cover of the sketchbook and have a minimum of 20 spreads to a maximum of 30 spreads. Arrange these spreads in a slide presentation using Adobe PDF, MS PowerPoint, Word, or some other program. Save the final version as a PDF to upload with your submission packet. The sketchbook should capture your process and convey your commitment to the discipline of design through deep exploration and refinement of ideas. The sketches need not be polished sketches but should effectively capture your thinking and exploration. This must be completed and uploaded with your complete entry portfolio submission through SlideRoom.

NOTIFICATION //
Applicants will be notified via email; the email will arrive at your current UNT student account by Dec. 1, 2022. Those selected will be invited to participate in face-to-face interviews on Dec. 9.
IN-PERSON REVIEW
Friday, December 9

REQUIRED MATERIALS
DRAWING UTENSILS AND DRAWING PAD — APPROXIMATELY 9 X 12 INCHES

GROUP 1: A, B, AND C
8:30 AM
IGNITION ASSIGNMENT AND INTERVIEWS
8:30-11 AM

GROUP 2: D AND E
2 PM
IGNITION ASSIGNMENT AND INTERVIEWS
2-4 PM

PREREQUISITES //
You are required to have completed, with a grade of ‘C’ or better, or be currently enrolled in at least two of the courses that comprise the CVAD art core program – ART 1600, ART 1700, Art 1800 and Art 1900, or their accepted equivalents from other institutions of higher education.

The balance of the art core for Communication Design consists of the remaining art foundations core courses. Any student accepted into the Communication Design program through the Candidacy Review who has not yet completed the art core courses must complete them with a grade of ‘C’ or better before the beginning of the Fall 2023 semester.

IGNITION ASSIGNMENT //
The ignition assignment is given at the beginning of each review session. Participants will be given a design challenge to work on individually. Using the required writing utensils — one fine-point and one medium-point marker are recommended and a drawing pad that is 9 x 12 inches — tracing or marker paper is recommended, each student will sketch solutions to the challenge. After 30 minutes, participants will gather in small groups with design faculty to present and discuss the concepts and solutions they developed. This discussion will last approximately 90 minutes, and participants should come prepared to discuss their design approach and background.

NOTIFICATION //
Applicants will be notified with final results via email (at their official UNT email) by Monday, December 12th.
**NOTIFICATION DELIVERY //**

All notifications will come via email. The notification will be delivered to the email you use when you create your Slideroom account, or if you are a current UNT student it may arrive via your official UNT email account.

**ACADEMIC ADVISING //**

On Dec. 13, 2022, students who are not selected should schedule a meeting with Academic Advising to develop an alternative degree plan and a schedule for the next semester.

**REENTRY //**

Students may reapply for the program the following year, but they should develop a secondary degree plan to pursue in the meantime. It is also important to note that the Communication Design curriculum cannot be expedited, so reapplying to the program will delay graduation by a year.

**FOUNDATIONS FOR COMMUNICATION DESIGN //**

All students who are accepted into the Communication Design: Graphic Design program are required to take ADES 1540: Foundations for Communication Design in the Spring 2022 semester. At the end of ADES 1540 in the spring semester of 2023 there will be the Entry-Portfolio Review by which students gain final admittance to major status in the Communication Design Graphic Design Track. Those selected to become majors will continue their Fall 2023 Communication Design coursework with ADES 1510: Typography 1, and ADES 2515: Image-Making & Color Theory. If you cannot take ADES 1540 in the spring of 2023, you are advised to wait until the next Entry-Portfolio Review. More information on ADES 1540 can be found in the UNT Registrar’s Office schedule of classes and the UNT Course Catalog.

**TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS //**

All students accepted will be required to have a laptop and the appropriate software by the beginning week of the Spring 2023 semester. Please refer to the Technology Requirements in this document for the specifications.
UNT COMMUNICATION DESIGN

Advising & ADES 1540 Enrollment

Planning your Spring 2023 schedule can be made difficult in relationship to the Entry-Portfolio Review and the lack of knowledge about who will be selected for admission to the graphic design track in Communication Design. Here are steps you should take to make this easier.

ACADEMIC ADVISING CONSIDERATIONS //

• Spring registration opens in October before the candidacy review, so students are encouraged to meet with their CVAD academic advisor to discuss scheduling and alternative degree plan options in advance of review. ADES 1540 sections will be viewable for planning purposes.

• Students should enroll in spring classes before the review process with the exception of ADES 1540: Foundations for Communication Design.

• All students who are accepted into the Communication Design: Graphic Design program are required to take ADES 1540: Foundations for Communication Design in the Spring 2023 semester.

• Accepted students should plan to self-enroll in ADES 1540 through myUNT once notified on Monday, Dec. 12, 2022. Students are not guaranteed enrollment in a specific section of ADES 1540. Students who enroll in ADES 1540 without acceptance into the Graphics Design Track will be administratively dropped from the course.

• ADES 1540 is a prerequisite for the Fall 2023 Communication Design coursework — ADES 1510: Typography 1, and ADES 2515: Image-Making & Color Theory. If you cannot take ADES 1540 in Spring 2023, you are advised to wait until the next candidacy review.

• More information on ADES 1540 can be found through the UNT Registrar’s Office schedule of classes and the UNT Course Catalog.
UNT COMMUNICATION DESIGN

Technology Requirements

While the purchase of an Apple Mac is not required, all Communication Design majors at the UNT College of Visual Arts and Design must purchase or have hardware and software that meets the following specifications.

HARDWARE //

The following Apple Macintosh computer* configuration is recommended for purchase for Communication Design majors enrolled in UNT College of Visual Arts and Design.

Laptop: 14-inch MacBook Pro with Retina display
- If a 16-inch MacBook Pro is affordable for you, then you are encouraged to purchase that size.

Processor: Apple M2 Chip**
Memory: 16GB** — minimum
Storage: 512GB SSD storage — minimum**
Extended Warranty: AppleCare Protection Plan***

* The Apple Macintosh is the computer most often used in the graphic design and advertising professions. It’s possible, though not recommended, to use a similarly configured PC.

** If you can afford to add a larger hard drive, more memory, or a larger processor, it may be advantageous.

*** AppleCare extends the warranty and may be able to cover your computer for most of your time at UNT.

SOFTWARE //

Stated prices are based on the included URL links. Lower prices may be available. The following software** should be configured to run on any computer regularly used by Communication Design majors enrolled in UNT College of Visual Arts and Design.

Adobe Creative Cloud Membership: $55.55
Visit the Adobe Creative Cloud UNT-Student Discount information page on the CVAD News and Views website for more information. With the one-year UNT-student discount, students receive a one-year membership to all Adobe Creative Cloud software applications.

Microsoft 365 for Mac
Free for currently enrolled UNT students through the UNT DSI-AITS Desktop Software web page.

Suitcase Fusion 8: $59.95
Journey Ed Tech Store

** Student discounts also are available directly through the following websites.

» adobe.com
» microsoft.com/mac
» extensis.com