

ASSOCIATE OF ARTS IN GRAPHIC DESIGN

This online program will begin enrolling students in spring 2026.

About the degree

Earning an Associate of Arts (A.A.) degree in Graphic Design online can be a game-changer for your career and personal growth. Imagine cutting-edge industry-standard software like Adobe Photoshop, Illustrator, and InDesign and diving deep into the world of design principles—color theory, typography, layout, and composition. You will sharpen your technical skills and unleash your creative potential, learning to think visually and solve problems innovatively. Plus, you'll build a stunning portfolio that showcases your best work, making you stand out to potential employers.

With this associate degree, exciting career opportunities open up. You could become a graphic designer, crafting eye-catching visuals for advertising, marketing, or publishing. If you love drawing, you might thrive as an illustrator, bringing stories to life in books and magazines. And if you prefer flexibility, freelancing allows you to offer your design services on your terms.

But the journey doesn't have to stop there. Many graduates transfer their credits to Youngstown State University's four-year program, pursuing a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Graphic Design. Start working in your chosen design field while you complete your 4-year degree to unlock career advancement.

Contact information

To learn more about our degree programs, scholarships, professional development and careers, exhibitions, faculty, and students, visit Department of Art (<https://academics.yzu.edu/art/>) or contact us at 330.941.3627.

To schedule a personalized campus visit, contact the Cliffe College of Creative Arts (<https://academics.yzu.edu/cliffe-college-of-creative-arts/>) Program Coordinator of Admissions and Recruitment at 330.941.2346 or sawaltman@yzu.edu.

COURSE	TITLE	S.H.
First Year Requirement		
YSU 1500	Success Seminar	1-2
or YSU 1500S	Youngstown State University Success Seminar	
or HONR 1500	Intro to Honors	
General Education Requirements		
ENGL 1550	Writing 1	3-4
or ENGL 1549	Writing 1 with Support	
ENGL 1551	Writing 2	3
Any Gen Ed Math (Recommended MATH 2623)		3
Arts and Humanities (2 Courses) ^{*One course included in major}		3
Any A&H Gen Ed Course (3 s.h.)		
ART 1541 ^{*Included in major}		
Natural Sciences (2 courses, 1 with lab)		7
Social Science (2 courses)		6
General Education Electives (3 courses) ^{*One course included in major}		6
CMST 1545 (3 s.h.)		
Any Gen Ed Course (3 s.h.)		

ART 1544 Survey of Art History: Body, Gender, and Self ^{*Included in major}

Major Requirements		
Art History (6 s.h.)		
ART 1541	Survey of Art History 1	3
ART 1544	Survey of Art History: Body, Gender, and Self	3
Concentration Requirements (24 s.h.)		
DSGN 1529	Design + 2D	3
DSGN 1531	Design + Drawing as Thinking	3
DSGN 1532	Design + Raster Images	3
DSGN 1533	Design + Color	3
DSGN 1534	Design + Painting	3
DSGN 2660	Design + Applications	3
DSGN 2661	Design + Print 1	3
DSGN 2662	Design + Typography 1	3
Total Semester Hours		62-64
Year 1		
Fall		S.H.
YSU 1500	Success Seminar	1-2
or YSU 1500S	or Youngstown State University Success Seminar	
or HONR 1500	or Intro to Honors	
DSGN 1529	Design + 2D	3
DSGN 1531	Design + Drawing as Thinking	3
ENGL 1550	Writing 1	3-4
or ENGL 1549	or Writing 1 with Support	
CMST 1545	Communication Foundations	3
Any Gen Ed Math		3
Semester Hours		16-18
Spring		
DSGN 1533	Design + Color	3
DSGN 1534	Design + Painting	3
ART 1541	Survey of Art History 1	3
ENGL 1551	Writing 2	3
General Education Elective - Natural Science + lab		4
Semester Hours		16
Year 2		
Fall		
DSGN 1532	Design + Raster Images	3
DSGN 2660	Design + Applications	3
ART 1544	Survey of Art History: Body, Gender, and Self	3
General Education Elective - Art & Humanities		3
General Education Elective - Social Science		3
Semester Hours		15
Spring		
DSGN 2661	Design + Print 1	3
DSGN 2662	Design + Typography 1	3
General Education Elective - Natural Science		3
General Education Elective - Social Science		3
General Education Elective - Any Gen Ed Course		3
Semester Hours		15
Total Semester Hours		62-64

Learning Outcomes

1) Students will be able to demonstrate their proficiency of art vocabulary.

2) Students will be able to demonstrate technical expertise appropriate to their progression in the program relevant to their chosen artistic medium.

3) Students will be able to demonstrate a high level of content expression appropriate to their progression in the program relevant to their chosen artistic medium.

Faculty

Amy Copeland (<https://academics.ysu.edu/art/amy-copeland/>), M.F.A.

Assistant Professor

Bliss Hall 4089

330.941.1866

adcopeland01@ysu.edu

Sebastian Giraldo (<https://academics.ysu.edu/art/sebastian-giraldo/>), M.F.A.

Assistant Professor

Bliss Hall 4085

330.941.3301

sgiraldo@ysu.edu

Michelle Nelson (<https://academics.ysu.edu/art/michelle-nelson/>), M.F.A.

Professor

Bliss Hall 4073

330.941.1858

mnelson@ysu.edu