

Frequently Asked Questions!

Freshmen/New Transfer Student Orientation School of Art and Design SUMMER 2021

1. *Where can I find the outline of what classes to take for my major?*

<https://www.wcu.edu/learn/departments-schools-colleges/fpa/artdesign/> Then click on one of the 5 field of study options to locate course checklists or 8 semester plans.

2. *What are the undergraduate degrees offered in ART and Design at WCU?*

BFA in ART with emphasis in Art Education
BFA in ART with emphasis in Graphic Design
BFA in ART with emphasis in Studio Art
BS in Interior Design

3. *Why do I have 2 advisers at WCU? When do I need to decide my major? Are there internal program requirements like a Portfolio?*

WCU gives each student an academic adviser (in their major) and a university advisor from the Onestop that helps with General Education Courses. If you want to graduate in 8 semesters, the general rule is that you should be decided about your major by the end of your sophomore year, EXCEPT for graphic design. The BFA in Graphic Design requires interested students to submit an entrance portfolio prior to enrolling in class at WCU, or prior to the second semester on the sophomore year. All 300 and 400 level graphic design studio classes are reserved for majors. TRANSFER students must submit an entrance portfolio prior to enrolling in graphic design classes at WCU. Directions for the BFA portfolio related to Graphic Design may be found here: <https://www.wcu.edu/WebFiles/SOAD-GD-BFA-PortfolioPoster-2021-F21.pdf>

Our BFA studio art degree also involves a portfolio submission around the 60 course hour credit mark. Directions may be found here: <https://www.wcu.edu/WebFiles/SOADportfolioSTUDIOARTSspring2021.pdf>

4. *What if all the classes I need in Art and Design are full?*

If you are really stuck, please contact Director Erin Tapley: etapley@wcu.edu or Program Administrator Beth Moore: bethmoore@email.wcu.edu

5. *Should I get all of my liberal studies or core courses out of the way before I take my art courses?*

No, take a variety of classes each semester so that you don't end up taking 5 concurrent art classes in your last 4 semesters- this would be harsh on your physical stamina and wallet.

6. *Do I have to take courses in the exact sequence as prescribed by the 8 semester plan in my concentration area?*

For the BFA with emphasis in Art Education and Studio, there is flexibility with regard to the order in which you take General Ed and Liberal Studies courses. However, most 200+ level **art** courses require 100 level art courses first and some art courses are offered only in Fall/Spring semesters so please know that when planning out all of your semesters prior to graduation. For the BFA with emphasis in Graphic Design YES, all graphic design studio classes **MUST BE TAKEN IN SEQUENCE** during the semester it is offered. For the BS in Interior Design YES, the IDES class must be taken in sequence. This implies that if you do not pass a course you may be set back an entire year. It is import to review the major requirements as indicated in the SOAD website.

7. *Can I take more/less courses per semester than the curriculum suggests?*

The average undergraduate course load is 5 per semester (15 credit hours) and you must be registered for at least 4 to be a full-time student and receive financial aid. If you wish to take more than 6 courses (18 credit hours), you must get written permission via a Course Overload form signed by your academic advisor. *note that some programs such as IDES and Graphic Design move students in cohorts and so graduating in less than the requisite semesters may not be possible.

8. *I have AP or Community College Credits to transfer in - how does this happen?*

You may transfer many credits from another institution (including most community colleges) and WCU has articulated agreements with most NC community colleges--most 100/200 level courses of similar title and credit unit will be transferable. A 4+ on an AP exam gets you credit for the equivalent WCU course. Graphic Design requires all transfer students to submit an entrance portfolio prior to admission into the degree program. Transfer students wanting to transfer credits for a similar course offered in Graphic Design at WCU must submit a portfolio and project descriptions of the work completed in the particular course.

9. What is the difference between the BA and the BFA degree?

The professional degree (BFA) focuses on intensive work in the visual arts supported by a program of general studies," whereas "the liberal arts degree (BA) focuses on art and design in the context of a broad program of general studies. At WCU the BFA degree requires portfolio review, whereas the BA degree requires 2 language classes and a minor.

10. How does one DOUBLE major/minor? What is the Arts and Entrepreneurship certificate?

A certificate = 5 courses. Currently WCU offers a desirable certificate program: Arts and Entrepreneurship with many weekend-based intensive classes. More information is available here: https://www.wcu.edu/learn/departments-schools-colleges/fpa/a_e.aspx. A minor at WCU involves 7 classes specific to that area. Some degrees have specific courses required for the minor whereas others have more electives. A major requires 14 classes specific to that area, however students may not double major or minor in the same degree area. (e.g. You cannot get both a BFA in Studio Art and a BFA in Art Education from WCU; however, you could get a BS Interior Design and a BFA Art Education). It is also important to note that state schools will not supplement endless degrees per student. There are surcharges for excessive course credits, thus not changing your major frequently and planning your semester ahead is paramount.

11. Where can I find out about scholarships?

See a list of WCU’s general scholarships at: <https://www.wcu.edu/apply/scholarships>
Some scholarships specific to ART and DESIGN require submission of artwork. All art students will be emailed each October about this, and will receive many reminders. All WCU scholarships have one due date: FEB 1!!! The general scholarship application will filter you to ALL SCHOLARSHIPS which you qualify for; however, you may need to submit artwork for some.

12. How much are art materials including required computer programs?

The average spent on a 100 level art classes is \$25 per person, \$50 for 200 level etc. Students choice of materials is increased in upper-level courses and some basic supplies/equipment are covered by your major fee which is currently \$125 per semester per student. The BFA with emphasis in Graphic Design requires an ADOBE Creative Cloud license and a laptop that meets the system requires for the ADOBE Creative Cloud suite of software; additionally, printing costs may apply.
*please note that Financial Aid may be used for art supplies bought from bookstore.

13. Who are WCU area-specific program coordinators and how can I contact them?

Program	Coordinator	Email/Phone
Interior Design BS	Erin Adams	eadams@wcu.edu 828 227-2487
Art Education BFA	Erin Tapley	etapley@wcu.edu 828 227-3598
Graphic Design BFA	Mary Anna LaFratta	malafatta@wcu.edu 828 227-2463
Photography BFA	Richard Tichich	rtichich@wcu.edu 828 227-2464
Printmaking/Book Arts BFA	Matt Liddle	mliddle@wcu.edu 828 227-3594
Painting/Drawing BFA	Ron Laboray	Relaboray@wcu.edu 828 227-3881
Ceramics BFA	Heather Erickson	hmerickson@wcu.edu 828 227-3595
Sculpture BFA	Morgan Kennedy	jmkennedy@wcu.edu 828 227-3595
Art BA	Seth McCormick	sjmccormick@wcu.edu 828 227-3601

17. What are some things I can do to artistically thrive at WCU and then after graduation?

- *Read FAQ’s per program for more degree-specific questions and suggestions!
- *Get involved with LEADERSHIP ROLES in clubs related to the Arts at WCU
- *Get involved with professional organizations in your field (e.g. North Carolina Art Education Association, Graphic Design Student Association, Southeastern Ceramics Association, National Kitchen/Bath Association)
- *Work/Intern/Volunteer in your area of ART interest. SOAD student worker jobs are available and posted on jobcat.wcu.edu
- *Gain technological proficiency in design computer programs, including documentation of your work
- *Recognize your creative work as SCHOLARSHIP and apply for WCU’s many related scholarships and grants
- *Visit WCU’s Career planning for tips on interviews, resume building and so on.
- *Read our Monday Messages to students about WCU field trips, visiting artist critiques, juried shows and many other opportunities! The Monday Messages, titled “SOAD This Week” will come from bethmoore@wcu.edu.