



GRAPHIC DESIGN

BGSU COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

The Graphic Design program educates and mentors students to become independent and collaborative innovators and leaders in careers as graphic designers, creative directors and communications specialists in a wide variety of related fields. The award-winning program is dynamic, enterprising and responsive and leads to the professional degree of a Bachelor of Fine Arts (BFA) in Graphic Design.

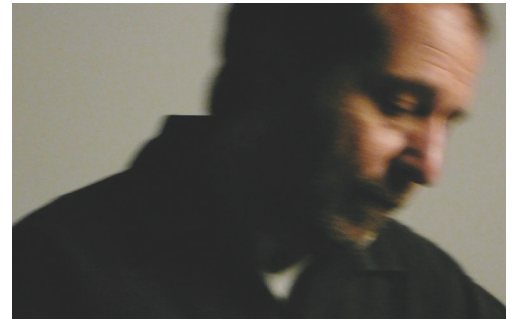
College of Arts and Sciences – Graphic Design

Points of Pride

- A multi-faceted curricula merges design ideologies and research with appropriate aesthetic and communication methods in typography, design history and theory, information graphics, interactive design, systems-based design, emerging media, community engagement, design thinking and creative placemaking
- Program emphasizes a design for social impact focus and entrepreneurial spirit
- Faculty to student ratio is 14:1; providing close faculty attention in progressive digital lab facilities, making spaces and galleries.
- Students experience the exclusivity of a private art academy, yet enjoy the affordability of a state university
- Students gain real world experience from area design studios and firms through the required internship program.
- Diverse study abroad opportunities in Florence, Italy at SACI and other national and international opportunities
- Accredited by the National Association of Schools of Art and Design (NASAD)

Our Students Find Jobs

We prepare our students for the workforce including a senior portfolio preparation course along with instruction on professional practices. Our alumni work for nationally recognized creative firms and major corporations across the country and provide a valuable network for our recent graduates' entry into the profession.



Alumni Success

Rick Valicenti '73 is a celebrated graphic designer who leads an award-winning design firm in Chicago and is recognized by the White House for his lifetime contributions to the industry. But none of that matters much during the alumnus's visits to BGSU, because his focus is building the confidence of students.

Through his generosity and vision comes the *Rick Valicenti Collaborative Teaching Initiative*, a one-of-a-kind art-focused teaching structure to provide collaborative learning experiences for students and faculty from across the BGSU campus. The initiative gives the BGSU art faculty opportunity to propose and implement a collaborative course that embraces team-teaching experiences for unique learning content and hybrids with intimate course enrollment sizes.

For more information

Graphic Design

419-372-2786

bgsu.edu/graphicdesign

MAJOR MAP

GRAPHIC DESIGN – Bachelor of Fine Arts in Graphic Design

Many optional minors possible related to career interests and passions, such as Marketing, Entrepreneurship, Advertising

CLASS OPTIONS	<p>Freshman Begin your BGSU studies with BG Perspectives courses along with foundation art and graphic design courses, such as <i>Principles of Graphic Design</i> and <i>Typography</i>.</p>	<p>Sophomore Expand your creative core through courses on <i>Typographic Systems</i>, <i>Interactive Graphic Design</i>, <i>3D Design</i> plus <i>Histories and Theories of Design for Social Impact</i>.</p>	<p>Junior Continue BG Perspectives studies and studio art plus explore <i>Graphic Design Theory</i>, <i>Systems-Based Graphic Design</i> and begin the journey of a <i>Graphic Design Thesis</i>.</p>	<p>Senior Round out your final year while completing your <i>Thesis</i>, <i>Time-Based Design</i>, <i>Collaborative and Community Engagement Practicum</i> plus a <i>Senior Design Seminar</i> course designed specifically for portfolio prep.</p>
GOOD ADVICE	<p>Ask questions and get help to prepare for your BFA portfolio review at the end of your Freshman year for acceptance into the BFA program. The BFA is the professional degree for the field. Get involved with the AIGA BGSU Student Chapter.</p>	<p>Complete your final foundation art course, plus take a <i>Digital Imaging</i> course. Continue to attend AIGA BGSU Student Chapter meetings. Discuss with your faculty mentor any plans for adding a minor to your degree path.</p>	<p>Meet with the Internship Coordinator to arrange placement and complete paperwork. Begin research on <i>Thesis</i> topic, continue curiosity and development over the summer.</p>	<p>Apply for graduation in the Spring term. Submit <i>Thesis</i> Project to the BFA Thesis Show for jurying. Complete your digital and physical portfolio, create resumé, business cards and communication materials.</p>
RELEVANT EXPERIENCE	<p>Hear first hand from today's leading design professionals, innovators and strategists through our visiting lectures and workshops. Activities are held every term to connect students with leaders in the creative field.</p>		<p>Participate in the Spring AIGA BGSU Student Group Portfolio Review Day. Spend an afternoon sharing your portfolio with industry professionals for feedback about your work and practice your interviewing skills. This often leads to jobs.</p>	<p>Along with the Portfolio Review Day, participate in the Senior Design Show the night before graduation. Showcase your hard work to friends, family and invited creative professionals who are eager to check out the new graduating talent!</p>
USEFUL CONNECTIONS	<p>Through the AIGA BGSU Student Group students experience mentorship, camaraderie, collaboration opportunities, plus trips to studios in Chicago, Toronto, Nashville and New York City.</p>	<p>Participate in a variety of creative opportunities, such as the Black Swamp Arts Festival, ArtsX, area workshops, design conferences, and community engagement projects.</p>		<p>The <i>Collaborative and Community Engagement Practicum</i> connects students with each other and to mission based design projects. Course empowers you to create connective and meaningful work in your own community.</p>
GLOBAL VIEWS	<p>Consider study abroad at SACI in Florence, Italy. (Summer, semester and full year sessions are available.) Or explore a variety of other international study programs available through BGSU.</p>	<p>Attend international exhibitions held at the Toledo Museum of Art and other museums in Detroit, Cleveland, Columbus, Cincinnati and even Chicago is just four hours away.</p>	<p>Through <i>The Medici Circle of Friends</i>, apply for a student grant to bring in an international designer you are curious about and want to share with your peers.</p>	<p>As a design program with roots beginning in 1956, get connected with our many alums who are working with global companies and in cities throughout the world.</p>
CAREER PREP	<p>Begin your career path by learning about the vast career opportunities available to creative individuals who bring ideas into form and communicate the world's visual messages.</p>	<p>Expand your portfolio in preparation for required Internship. Get involved in campus activities, take on leadership roles in clubs to build your networking skills.</p>	<p>Complete your Internship over the summer before your senior year, and if you want, you can do a second internship for additional course credit. It is a great way to continue with a company that values you.</p>	<p>Through our <i>Senior Seminar</i>, complete a digital and physical portfolio. Learn about job listings along with cost of living evaluations for jobs, plus fixed and variable expenses in tandem to income offers and benefits to negotiate that first job.</p>