

Design, BFA

Design is the practice-based discipline that poses important questions about—and provides significant answers to—how we live. Designers are needed when we don't know what is needed as well as when we think we do. Designers propose alternative futures and create new choices using principles and processes to create, compose, and construct meaning in diverse knowledge fields. Designers seek a broad understanding of principles and systems of perception, communication, and action. Concentrations in design practices are graphic and information design, interaction design, and experience design.

Graphic designers make messages and meaning using visual form and the integration of text and image. Their work often has a persuasive intent and uses rules of visual composition, form, and pattern to enable storytelling or to create attention and an ambiance for consideration. Information designers visualize concepts and data to enhance human understanding of complex and vital knowledge. Their work has an enlightening or instructive intent and is based on factual content.

Interaction designers focus on the creation of navigable interfaces and systems that allow audiences to take an active role to achieve meaningful goals. Their work connects people to people and people to information and environments.

Experience designers take a holistic and integrative approach that focuses on the quality of the human experience in concrete situations. They employ research, analysis, creativity, and technology as tools to understand human goals, needs, and desires. Their work examines and improves contexts, systems, services, or events.

The Bachelor of Fine Arts in Design is offered with the following concentration options: graphic and information design, interaction design, or experience design.

The major offers optional study abroad with University of the Arts London (<https://www.arts.ac.uk/>), based in the heart of one of the world's creative capitals, London. Students from this program will have the opportunity to spend their second spring semester in London studying fine art at Central Saint Martins (<https://www.arts.ac.uk/subjects/fine-art/undergraduate/ba-hons-fine-art-csm/>).

Program Requirements

Complete all courses listed below unless otherwise indicated. Also complete any corequisite labs, recitations, clinicals, or tools courses where specified and complete any additional courses needed beyond specific college and major requirements to satisfy graduation credit requirements.

Universitywide Requirements

All undergraduate students are required to complete the Universitywide Requirements (<http://catalog.northeastern.edu/undergraduate/university-academics/university-wide-requirements/>).

NUpath Requirements

All undergraduate students are required to complete the NUpath Requirements (<http://catalog.northeastern.edu/undergraduate/university-academics/nupath/>).

NUpath requirements Creative Expression/Innovation (EI), Interpreting Culture (IC), and Societies and Institutions (SI) are met through the major course requirements. All other NUpath requirements must be met through electives.

Students interested in design PlusOne programs should consult with faculty coordinator and advisor during sophomore year to register for 5000-level courses in junior and senior years.

Art and Design Core

Code	Title	Hours
Introduction to College		
ARTF 1000	Art and Design at Northeastern	1
Art and Design Fundamentals		
ARTF 1122	Color and Composition (with optional ARTF 1123)	4
ARTF 1124 and ARTF 1125	Form and Structure and Form and Structure Tools	5
ARTF 2220 and ARTF 2221	Movement and Time and Movement and Time Tools	5
ARTF 2223 and ARTF 2224	Experience and Interaction and Experience and Interaction Tools	5
Art and Design History		
ARTH 1001 and ARTH 1002	Visual Intelligence and Seminar in Visual Intelligence	4
ARTH 3000	Topics in Visual Studies	4

ARTH 4000	Topics in Visual Studies	4
Complete one additional ARTH course.		4

Design Requirements

Code	Title	Hours
Design Course		
ARTG 1001 and ARTG 1002	Design Perspectives: An Introduction to Design in the World and Seminar for Design Perspectives	4
Degree Project		
ARTG 1270 and ARTG 1271	Design: Process + Practices and Studio for Design: Process + Practices	4
ARTG 1290 and ARTG 1291	Typographic Systems and Studio for Typographic Systems	4
ARTG 2262 and ARTG 2263	Prototyping with Code and Lab for ARTG 2262	4
ARTG 4550	Design Degree Project	4

Design Electives

Code	Title	Hours
Art and Design Elective		
Complete one ARTD, ARTE, ARTF, ARTS, or GAME course not already required and as long as prerequisites have been met. If ARTG 5000 (or any other topics course in the subjects listed) is completed more than once, the additional completions may be applied toward the electives.		4
Media Arts Elective		
Complete one of the following:		4-5
ARTD 2360 and ARTD 2361	Introduction to Photography and Photo Tools	
ARTD 2370 and ARTD 2371	Animation Basics and Animation Tools	
ARTD 2380 and ARTD 2381	Video Basics and Video Tools	
ARTD 3000	Topics in Media Arts	

Design Electives

Complete three ARTG courses as long as prerequisites have been met. If ARTG 5000 (or any other topics course in the subject listed) is completed more than once, the additional completions may be allowed toward the electives.	12
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Design Concentration Options

Complete one of the options listed below:

- Design Major (No Concentration) (p. 2)
- Design Major with Concentration in Experience Design (p. 3)
- Design Major with Concentration in Graphic Design (p. 3)
- Design Major with Concentration in Information Design (p. 3)
- Design Major with Concentration in Interaction Design (p. 3)

Program Requirements

129 total semester hours required

Design Major (No Concentration)

Code	Title	Hours
ARTG 5000	Topics in Design	4
Complete three courses across any of the design concentration core classes below. At least one course needs to be at the 3000 level.		12

Design Management Electives at University of the Arts London

Optional London study abroad for sound management at Central Saint Martins, University of the Arts London. Specific courses at University of the Arts London are preapproved for transfer to a student's Northeastern University record to apply toward requirements. Students can consult with a CAMD academic advisor for approval prior to registration.

DESIGN MAJOR WITH CONCENTRATION IN EXPERIENCE DESIGN

Code	Title	Hours
Required Courses		
ARTG 3462	Experience Design Principles	4
ARTG 3463	Experience Design 2	4
ARTG 5000	Topics in Design	4
Elective		
Complete one of the following:		4
ARTG 3100	Physical and Digital Fabrication	
ARTG 5640	Prototyping for Experience Design	

DESIGN MAJOR WITH CONCENTRATION IN GRAPHIC DESIGN

Code	Title	Hours
Required Courses		
ARTG 2252	Graphic Design Principles	4
ARTG 3450	Graphic Design 2	4
ARTG 5000	Topics in Design	4
Elective		
Complete one of the following:		4
ARTG 3350	Typography 2	
ARTG 4554	Typography 3	

DESIGN MAJOR WITH CONCENTRATION IN INFORMATION DESIGN

Code	Title	Hours
Required Courses		
ARTG 2242	Information Design Principles	4
ARTG 3444	Topics in Information Design Inquiry	4
ARTG 5000	Topics in Design	4
Complete one of the following:		4
ARTG 5150 and ARTG 5151	Information Visualization Principles and Practices and Information Design Critique Seminar	
ARTG 5320	Statistics for Design	

DESIGN MAJOR WITH CONCENTRATION IN INTERACTION DESIGN

Code	Title	Hours
Required Courses		
ARTG 2400	Interaction Design Principles (with optional ARTG 2401)	4
ARTG 3700	Interaction Design 2: Mobile	4
ARTG 5000	Topics in Design	4
Elective		
Complete one of the following:		4
ARTG 3250	Physical Computing	
ARTG 5640	Prototyping for Experience Design	

Plan of Study

Sample Four Years, One Co-op in Spring/Summer1

Year 1							
Fall	Hours	Spring	Hours	Summer 1	Hours	Summer 2	Hours
ARTF 1000		1 ARTG 1270 and ARTG 1271		4 A+D elective		4 Vacation	
ARTF 1122 (with optional ARTF 1123)		4 ARTG 1290 and ARTG 1291		4 Elective		4	

4 Design, BFA

ARTG 1001 and ARTG 1002	4 A+D fundamentals	4					
ARTH 1001 and ARTH 1002	4 Elective	4					
Elective (writing NUpath)	4						

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Year 2

Fall	Hours	Spring	Hours	Summer 1	Hours	Summer 2	Hours
ARTG 2262 and ARTG 2263		4 Design elective 2		4 A+D elective		4 Vacation	
A+D history elective		4 Media arts elective		4 Elective		4	
Design concentration principles		4 Topics In Design concentration inquiry		4			
Design elective 1		4 Elective		4			

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Year 3

Fall	Hours	Spring	Hours	Summer 1	Hours	Summer 2	Hours
EEAM 2000		1 Co-op		0 Co-op		0 Vacation	
ENGW 3314		4					
A+D history 3000 level		4					
Design concentration course 3		4					
Design elective		4					

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Year 4

Fall	Hours	Spring	Hours
A+D history 4000 level		4 ARTG 4550	4
Design concentration course 4		4 Design elective 4	4
Elective		4 Elective	4
Elective		4 Elective	4

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Total Hours: 130

Sample Four Years, One Co-op in Summer 2/Fall

Year 1

Fall	Hours	Spring	Hours	Summer 1	Hours	Summer 2	Hours
ARTF 1000		1 ARTG 1270 and ARTG 1271		4 A+D fundamentals or ARTG 2260 Programming Basics		4 Vacation	
ARTF 1122 (with optional ARTF 1123)		4 ARTG 1290 and ARTG 1291		4 Elective		4	
ARTG 1001 and ARTG 1002		4 A+D fundamentals		4			
ARTH 1001 and ARTH 1002		4 Elective		4			
Elective (writing NUpath)		4					

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Year 2

Fall	Hours	Spring	Hours	Summer 1	Hours	Summer 2	Hours
ARTG 2262 and ARTG 2263		4 EEAM 2000		1 A+D elective		4 Co-op	0
A+D history elective		4 Design elective 2		4 Elective		4	
Design concentration principles		4 Media arts elective		4			

Design elective 1	4	Topics In Design concentration inquiry	4				
		Elective	4				
	16		17		8		0
Year 3							
Fall	Hours	Spring	Hours	Summer 1	Hours	Summer 2	Hours
Co-op	0	ENGW 3314 or 3315	4	Vacation		Vacation	
		A+D history 3000 level	4				
		Design concentration course 3	4				
		Design elective 3	4				
	0		16		0		0
Year 4							
Fall	Hours	Spring	Hours				
A+D history 4000 level	4	ARTG 4550	4				
Design concentration course 4	4	Design elective 4	4				
Elective	4	Elective	4				
Elective	4	Elective	4				
	16		16				

Total Hours: 130

Notes:

Online elective courses are optional while on co-op.

Optional study abroad with University of the Arts London (https://www.arts.ac.uk/?utm_source=qs&utm_medium=profile&utm_campaign=referralsites), based in the heart of one of the world's creative capitals, London. Students from this program will have the opportunity to spend their second year spring semester in London studying design management at London College of Communication (<https://www.arts.ac.uk/subjects/business-and-management-and-science/undergraduate/ba-hons-design-management-lcc/>).