NKU | SOTA VISUAL ARTS Bachelor of Fine Arts • **Visual Communication Design**

Name:	Student ID:
Phone:	NKU email:
Semester entered NKU:	Catalog Year: 2018 - 19

These are the required courses to certify your Visual Communication Design BFA major.

Area	Course Selection	Course	Term	Grade
Freshman Year – First Semester				
Creating Visual Form (3hrs)	ART 130			
Creating Visual Order (3hrs)	ART 135			
History of Art: Renaissance through Modernism (3hrs)	ARTH100			
Freshman Year – Second Semester				
Building Meaning in Visual Art (3hrs)	ART 140			
Intro to Computer Graphics for Design (3hrs)	ARTV201			
Drawing I (3hrs)	ARTD210			
Required Studio Courses				
Studio Elective (3hrs) Choose One:	ARTP230, ARTR272, ARTR375			
2D Studio Elective (3hrs) Choose One:	Any ART Course chosen from : ART, ARTD, ARTO, ARTP			
3D Studio Elective (3hrs) Choose One:	Any ART Course chosen from: ARTC, ARTM, ARTS			
Studio Elective (3hrs)	Any 300/400 level course chosen from: ART, ARTC, ARTD, ARTO, ARTM, ARTP, or ARTS			
Photography I (3hrs)	ARTO210			
Drawing II (3hrs)	ARTD310			
Painting I or Printmaking	Choose one from: ARTP 230, ARTR 272 or ARTR375			
Art History and Writing Courses				
History of VCD (3hrs)	ARTH321			
Advanced Writing for the Artist (3hrs)	ART 291W			
Required Courses for Area				
VCD Admittance Review	ARTV283			
Portfolio Review (0hrs)	ARTV 297 *Taken 1st or 2nd semester of junior year*			
Visual Communication Design (3hrs)	ARTV215			
Visual Communication Design II (3hrs)	ARTV315			
Visual Communication Design III (3hrs)	ARTV415			
Typography I (3hrs)	ARTV217			
Typography II (3hrs)	ARTV317			
Typography III (3hrs)	ARTV417			
Techniques in VCD (3hrs)	ARTV325			
Interaction Design for VCD I (3hrs)	ARTV330			
Interaction Design for VCD II (3hrs)	ARTV430			
Information Design (3hrs)	ARTV425			
Motion Design (3hrs)	ARTV427			
VCD Internship or Co-op: (3hrs)	ARTV496, CEP 300			
Professional Portfolio for Designers (1hr)	ARTV390 *Not required, but recommended to achieve the 120-credit minimum required for graduation*			
VCD Capstone (3hrs)	ARTV428			
Senior Exhibition (1hr)	ART 497			

Total Credits Earned: 83	*2.5 GPA required for the BFA in Visual Arts*

Graduation Requirements continued on next page.

Name: _____   Student ID: _____

This two page checklist serves as the program certification for the given track. Please complete, meet with your advisor for verification and submit to the program head in the Visual Arts Office FA 312.   Students also need to apply for graduation on myNKU along with submitting this checklist before the published submission deadline for graduation (semester before graduation). This form will be scanned and submitted to the Office of the Registrar and the original copy will be kept in your student file.

General Education Requirements (37 hours)
☐ Completed General Education Requirements (please see General Education checklist)

Upper Level credit hours (45 hours)   *IP = currently in progress*   *TBT = to be taken*

Course	Credits	Term	Course	Credits	Term	Course	Credits	Term

☐ Completed 45 hours of Upper Level Courses (any 300 or 400 level course)

Total Earned credit hours required for graduation (120 hours)	
Student Earned Credit Hours upon applying for graduation:	*Still Needed:*
Student GPA upon applying for graduation:	*2.5 GPA required for BFA in Visual Arts*
☐ Total Credit Hour Requirements	

_____   _____
Academic Advisor Signature & Date   *Program Head Signature & Date*

_____
Student Signature & Date

visual communication design | *bfa track*

	freshman	sophomore	junior	senior	bfa capstone
fall	❍ Art 130: Creating Visual Form (3) ❍ Art 135 : Creating Visual Order (3) ❍ ArtH 100: Ren. through Mod. (3) ❍ General studies (3) ❍ General studies (3) **[15 credits]**	❍ ArtV 215: Visual Communication Design (VCD) I (3) ❍ ArtV 217: Typography I (3) ❍ ArtV 283: VCD Admit. Review (0) ❍ General studies: Art 291W (3) ❍ General studies (3) **[12 credits]**	❍ ArtV 315: VCD II (3) ❍ ArtH 321: History of VCD (3) ❍ ArtP 230: Painting I *or* Printmaking (*ArtR 272 or ArtR 375*) (3) ❍ General studies (Sci w/ lab) (4) ❍ ArtV297: Portfolio Review* (0 cr) **[13 credits]**	❍ ArtV 417: Typography III (3) ❍ ArtV 425: Information Design (3) ❍ ArtV 430: Interaction Design for Visual Communication II (3) ❍ General studies (3) **[12 credits]**	❍ ArtV 428: VCD Capstone (3) ❍ Art 497: Sr Exhibition (1) ❍ Studio Elective (*300+ level*) (3) ❍ Upper-division elective (3) ❍ General studies (3) **[13 credits]**
spring	Art 140: Building Meaning in Visual Art (3) ❍ ArtD 210 Drawing I (3) ❍ ArtV 201: Introduction to Computer Graphics for Design (3) ❍ General studies (3) ❍ General studies (3) **[15 credits]**	❍ ArtV 317: Typography II (3) ❍ ArtD 310: Drawing II (3) ❍ ArtO 210 Photography I (3) ❍ General studies (3) **[12 credits]**	❍ ArtV 325: Techniques in Visual Communication Design (3) ❍ ArtV 330: Interaction Design for Visual Communication I (3) ❍ Studio Elective (*2-D*) (3) ❍ General studies (3) ❍ ArtV297: Portfolio Review* (0 cr) **[12 credits]**	❍ ArtV 415: VCD III (3) ❍ ArtV 427: Motion Design (3) ❍ Studio Elective (*3-D*) (3) ❍ ArtV 390: Prof. Portfolio Preparation for Designers (1) ‡ ❍ General studies (3) **[13 credits]**	
sum				❍ ArtV 496: Experiential Component** or CEP 300 Cooperative Education (3) **[3 credits]**	**Total degree credits = 120** *83cr Visual Arts (incl. 3cr gen ed & 1cr optional p'folio class); 34cr gen ed; 3cr add'l upper-div course*

important notes

Undergraduate Catalog: Students are responsible for understanding all degree requirements as outlined in their catalog. | **ArtV courses:** ArtV courses are offered in either fall or spring as shown (except ArtV 496). | **Upper-Division Requirement:** 45 credits of courses numbering 300-level or above are required of all NKU bachelor's degrees. These credits can collectively come from major, minor, focus, Foundation of Knowledge (FoK) gen eds, and/or elective courses; many are accounted for in the BFA VCD major requirements. Note that some FoK and/or elective choices may defray the number of 'upper-division electives' shown above. | ***ArtV297 Portfolio Review*** *: Students apply for BFA candidacy by registering for Art 299 in fall **or** spring of the VCD junior year.* | ****Experiential Component:** *The internship can be taken before or after the summer shown.* | *‡ **ArtV 390:** Not currently required; recommended to achieve the 120-credit minimum required for graduation.*

What is the difference between a BA/BFA in visual communication design?

A BFA degree is a professional degree offering the opportunity to develop depth and specialization in a creative art practice. Conversely, a BA degree is a general studies degree offering breadth of understanding through exposure to an area of artistic activity; a minor or focus* outside the major is required for a BA to help achieve this. A minor or focus is *not* required for the BFA degree. The degrees vary slightly in total number of credits required (BA: 121 credits; BFA: 122 credits); the main difference is in the make-up of the requirements.

The BFA degree is preferred by the profession, the AIGA (the American Institute for Graphic Arts — the largest professional association of visual communication designers), and the accrediting agency NASAD (the National Association of Schools of Art and Design). The Visual Communication Design BFA degree at Northern Kentucky University offers a deep, comprehensive scope of study and a competitive advantage in portfolio development. The degree carries a level of distinction, and as such, has requirements for eligibility and elevated standards for completion. A student interested in obtaining the BFA must have a cumulative, overall GPA of 2.5 to be eligible. Students must maintain these GPA minimums until graduation to obtain a BFA. Students apply the BFA program in the junior year of design studies by registering for ART 299 Portfolio Review.

What is the most appropriate minor for a design major?

There is no minor in particular that is expected by the profession. When choosing a minor, a student should choose a subject that could align them with a specific design niche they wish to pursue, and/or that they personally feel is interesting and stimulating. Some suggested minors for a Visual Communication Designer major: Anthropology, English, Entrepreneurship, Geography (or other sciences), Marketing, Media Informatics, Philosophy, Popular Culture Studies, and Women and Gender Studies.

What is the "Experiential Component" (ArtV 496)?

This is language the university uses to describe both internship and co-op opportunities. The term "internship" refers to a part-time position (i.e., 20 hours of work per week for a semester) equivalent to 3 credit hours. "Co-op" refers to a full-time position (i.e., 40 of work per week for a semester) equivalent to 6 credit hours.

What paperwork do I need to complete in order to graduate?

When a student anticipates graduation, they must file an "Application for Degree Candidacy" form and a "Program Certification" form through the Registrar *approximately half-way through the semester **before** they intend to graduate* (refer to the Registrar for specific deadlines). Your major advisor must review and sign the Program Certification form *prior to* the Registrar's graduation application deadline. Consult your catalog and the Office of the Registrar for additional details.

What about a career in illustration?

Sometimes students who want to work in the design industry discover that they prefer to accelarate in drawing or painting compared to design. These students should consider a career in illustration. Illustration is closely associated with the design industry because illustrators, like some photographers, are commissioned to create artwork for commercial projects coordinated by visual communication designers. Drawing, painting, intermedia, printmaking and new media art, among others, are good areas of study for this field of practice.

Where can I learn more about the field of visual communication design?

Visit www.aiga.org for additional, reliable, in-depth information about the profession of graphic design, including how to know if it is right for you.

*focus: *Formerly called an area of concentration. A focus is 4 courses (12 credits) with the same prefix chosen by the student at the 300+ level outside of the major; for example, four 300+ courses in GEO (GEO 301, GEO 306, GEO 314, GEO 415).*