Columbia
COLLEGE CHICAGO

FOUR-YEAR STUDENT DEGREE PLAN
2025-2026 ACADEMIC YEAR

Degree:	Bachelor of Arts	Credits required for degree:	120
Major:	Graphic Design	Credits required in major:	48
Concentration:		Estimated semesters to complete this degree plan:	8

1st Semester Courses (Typically the Fall Semester)	Credit Hours	2nd Semester Courses (Typically the Spring Semester)	Credit Hours
Total Semester Credit Hours	15	Total Semester Credit Hours	15
ARTS 105 3D: Objects + Space	3	ARTH 105 or 105H Introduction to Visual Culture (or Honors)	3
ARTS 110 Drawing	3	DSGN 110 Design Thinking	3
GRDE 136 Design Lab	3	GRDE 231 Graphic Design I: Form and Structure	3
ENGL 111 Foundations of 21st-Century Writing (Core)	3	Columbia Core Requirement	3
Columbia Core Requirement (CCCX)	3	College-Wide Elective	3

3rd Semester Courses (Typically the Fall Semester)	Credit Hours	4th Semester Courses (Typically the Spring Semester)	Credit Hours
Total Semester Credit Hours	15	Total Semester Credit Hours	15
ARTH 225 History of Communication Design	3	GRDE 232 Graphic Design II: Semiotics and Form	3
GRDE 238 Typography I	3	Graphic Design BA Elective (ANIM 270) OR College-Wide Elective	3
GRDE 240 Digital Design I	3	Columbia Core Requirement	3
Columbia Core Requirement	3	Columbia Core Requirement	3
College-Wide Elective	3	College-Wide Elective	3

5th Semester Courses (Typically the Fall Semester)	Credit Hours	6th Semester Courses (Typically the Spring Semester)	Credit Hours
Total Semester Credit Hours	15	Total Semester Credit Hours	15
GRDE 331 Graphic Design III: Visual Identity and Narrative	3	GRDE 305 Publication Design	3
GRDE 348 Typography II	3	Graphic Design BA Elective (GRDE 325, GRDE 332, or ANIM 270) OR College-Wide Elective	3
Graphic Design BA Elective (DSGN 280) OR College-Wide Elective	3	Columbia Core Requirement	3
Columbia Core Requirement	3	College-Wide Elective	3
College-Wide Elective	3	College-Wide Elective	3

7th Semester Courses (Typically the Fall Semester)	Credit Hours	8th Semester Courses (Typically the Spring Semester)	Credit Hours
Total Semester Credit Hours	15	Total Semester Credit Hours	15
GRDE 340 Digital Design II	3	GRDE 485 Portfolio	3
Graphic Design Elective (DSGN 280 or GRDE438)	3	Columbia Core Requirement	3
Columbia Core Requirement	3	College-Wide Elective	3
College-Wide Elective	3	College-Wide Elective	3
College-Wide Elective	3	College-Wide Elective	3

Notes on the Four-Year Student Degree Plan:

This degree plan is a suggested sequence only. Students should consult with their Academic Advisors and Academic Departments to develop their unique individual plans.

Columbia Core Requirements include Communication, Aesthetics and Creative Expression, Quantitative Reasoning, Historical and Cultural Understanding, Scientific Discovery, and Columbia Experience classes. Students should review their individual Degree Audits for their specific requirements.

Major Electives include courses required to be completed to finish a major, and students will choose from a list of Major Electives in the course catalog.

College-Wide Electives include all courses and credits not specifically applied towards the Columbia Core or Major Requirements.

All degree-seeking undergraduate students are required to complete 6 credits of **Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI)** coursework.

Students are encouraged to consider declaring a Minor to complete their required College-Wide Elective credits.

Full-time status at Columbia College Chicago is a minimum of 12 attempted credits per semester, but the cost of tuition is the same for 12-18 attempted credits. Students are encouraged to attempt 15 credits each semester for financial reasons and to complete their degree (120 minimum credits) in a timely fashion.

Degree:	Bachelor of Arts	Credits required for degree:	120
Major:	Graphic Design	Credits required in major:	48
Concentration:		Estimated semesters to complete this degree plan:	5

1st Semester Courses (Typically the Fall Semester)	Credit Hours	2nd Semester Courses (Typically the Spring Semester)	Credit Hours
Total Semester Credit Hours	15	Total Semester Credit Hours	15
ARTS 105 3D: Objects + Space	3	ARTH 105 or 105H Introduction to Visual Culture (or Honors)	3
ARTS 110 Drawing	3	GRDE 231 Graphic Design I: Form and Structure	3
GRDE 136 Design Lab	3	DSGN 110 Design Thinking	3
College-Wide Elective	3	GRDE 240 Digital Design I	3
College-Wide Elective	3	Columbia Core Requirement (CCCX)	3

3rd Semester Courses (Typically the Fall Semester)	Credit Hours	4th Semester Courses (Typically the Spring Semester)	Credit Hours
Total Semester Credit Hours	15	Total Semester Credit Hours	15
ARTH 225 History of Communication Design	3	GRDE 305 Publication Design	3
GRDE 232 Graphic Design II: Semiotics and Form	3	GRDE 331 Graphic Design III: Visual Identity and Narrative	3
GRDE 238 Typography I	3	GRDE 348 Typography II	3
GRDE 340 Digital Design II	3	Graphic Design BA Elective (GRDE 332 or ANIM 270) OR College-Wide Elective	3
Graphic Design BA Elective (DSGN 280 or ANIM 270) OR College-Wide Elective	3	College-Wide Elective	3

5th Semester Courses (Typically the Fall Semester)	Credit Hours		Credit Hours
Total Semester Credit Hours	15	Total Semester Credit Hours	
GRDE 485 Portfolio	3		
College-Wide Elective	3		
College-Wide Elective	3		
College-Wide Elective	3		
College-Wide Elective	3		

Notes on the Transfer Student Degree Plan:

This degree plan assumes a student is starting at Columbia with a **minimum of 60 credits in transfer** and the completion of the Essential LAS Core
Columbia Core Requirements include Communication, Aesthetics and Creative Expression, Quantitative Reasoning, Historical and Cultural
Major Electives include courses required to be completed to finish a major, and students will choose from a list of Major Electives in the course catalog.
College-Wide Electives include all courses and credits not specifically applied towards the Columbia Core or Major Requirements.
All degree-seeking undergraduate students are required to complete 6 credits of **Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI)** coursework.
Students are encouraged to consider declaring a Minor to complete their required College-Wide Elective credits.
Full-time status at Columbia College Chicago is a minimum of 12 attempted credits per semester, but the cost of tuition is the same for 12-18 attempted