Columbia
COLLEGE CHICAGO

FOUR-YEAR STUDENT DEGREE PLAN
2025-2026 ACADEMIC YEAR

Degree:	Bachelor of Fine Arts	Credits required for degree:	120
Major:	Graphic Design	Credits required in major:	72
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	BUSE 130 Business of Design	3
Columbia Core Requirement (CCCX)	3	Columbia Core Requirement	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	ANIM 270 Motion Graphics I	3
GRDE 238 Typography I	3	GRDE 232 Graphic Design II: Semiotics and Form	3
GRDE 240 Digital Design I	3	Columbia Core Requirement	3
INMD 130 Immersive Environments I	3	Columbia Core Requirement	3
Columbia Core Requirement	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	GRDE 332 Graphic Design IV: Narrative and Research Studio	3
Graphic Design BFA Elective (DSGN280) OR College-Wide Elective	3	Graphic Design BFA Elective (ANIM 370 or INMD 235) OR College-Wide Elective	3
Columbia Core Requirement	3	Columbia Core Requirement	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 350 Digital Design III	3
GRDE 438 Typography III	3	GRDE 432 Design Methodologies	3
Graphic Design BFA Elective (DSGN280) OR College-Wide Elective	3	GRDE 485 Portfolio	3
Columbia Core Requirement	3	Columbia Core Requirement	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 Fine Arts	**Credits required for degree:** 120
Major:	Graphic Design	**Credits required in major:** 72
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	BUSE 130 Business of Design	3
GRDE 136 Design Lab	3	DSGN 110 Design Thinking	3
INMD130 Immersive Environments I	3	GRDE 231 Graphic Design I: Form and Structure	3
Columbia Core Requirement (CCCX)	3	GRDE 240 Digital Design I	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**
ANIM 270 Motion Graphics I	3	GRDE 331 Graphic Design III: Visual Identity and Narrative	3
ARTH 225 History of Communication Design	3	GRDE 305 Publication Design	3
GRDE 232 Graphic Design II: Semiotics and Form	3	GRDE 348 Typography II	3
GRDE 238 Typography I	3	Graphic Design BFA Elective (ANIM 370 or INMD 235)	3
GRDE 340 Digital Design II	3	Graphic Design BFA Elective (ANIM 370 or INMD 235)	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**	**0**
GRDE 485 Portfolio	3		
GRDE 332 Graphic Design IV: Narrative and Research Studio	3		
GRDE 432 Design Methodologies	3		
GRDE 438 Typography III	3		
GRDE 350 Digital Design III	0-3		
Graphic Design BFA Elective (DSGN 280), if needed	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 Requirements. **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

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