

PROCEDURE: 500.18.02

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PROGRAMS:

The Alberta College of Art + Design offers four-year undergraduate programs leading to Bachelor of Fine Arts and Bachelor of Design degrees. First Year Studies is a common first year experience for both degrees. The Bachelor of Fine Arts and Bachelor of Design programs emphasize studio practice placed in social and cultural contexts through an integrated studio and critical and creative studies curriculum.

GENERAL DEGREE REQUIREMENTS:

Bachelor of Fine Arts (BFA)

The Bachelor of Fine Arts Degree (BFA) is offered with majors in Ceramics, Drawing, Fibre, Glass, Jewellery + Metals, Media Arts, Multidisciplinary Studies¹, Painting, Photographic Arts¹, Print Media, and Sculpture. Admission to Bachelor of Fine Arts majors is open. Students who intend to major in one of the Bachelor of Fine Arts majors may declare once they have successfully completed 30 credit hours of First Year Studies. Students must declare a major upon their completion of 60 credit hours. Students must also meet any specific requirements for admission to the major. Students must be in clear academic standing when they declare a major.

¹ Effective January 1, 2004, admission to the BFA in Multidisciplinary Studies and Photographic Arts is suspended indefinitely. Photography programming is available as a major in the Bachelor of Design program.

Registration priority in 200 and 300-level studio course may be given to students who have declared and are admitted to their chosen major. In consultation with an academic advisor, a student may change their declared major. Students are cautioned that changes in majors between programs or Schools may require additional courses to be completed to meet graduation requirements.

Bachelor of Design Degree

The Bachelor of Design Degree (BDes) is offered with majors in Photography and Visual Communications Design. Study streams that focus learner interest are available in Advertising, Character Design, Graphic Design, and Illustration. Both Bachelor of Design majors are restricted admission majors. Students are eligible to apply to these majors after successfully completing First Year Studies.

Registration priority in 200 and 300-level studio course may be given to students who are have declared and are admitted to their chosen major. In consultation with an academic advisor, a student may change their declared major. Students are cautioned that changes in majors between programs or Schools may require additional courses to be completed to meet graduation requirements.

Prior Learning Assessment and Recognition

ACAD is committed to the recognition of prior learning acquired through work, significant life experience, formal and non-formal learning activities. ACAD is currently in the process of developing formal procedures for Prior Learning Assessment and Recognition (PLAR). Applicants and/or students who are interested in exploring PLAR opportunities should contact the Academic Advisor for information on current PLAR procedures.

Residency Requirements

In order to receive a degree from the Alberta College of Art + Design, students must complete at least 50% of the total number of credits required for their program, including their final 30 credits, in attendance at ACAD. For this reason, Advanced Standing applicants will normally receive a maximum of two years transfer credit for equivalent study at another institution. In exceptional cases this requirement may be waived at the discretion of the Chair of the School. Exceptions to this final 30-credit residency requirement will be made for students completing Liberal Studies courses at another post-secondary institution in order to satisfy ACAD BFA and BDes program requirements.

Registration Responsibilities and Limitations

The course timetable and detailed major requirements will be posted on the website at least one week in advance of registration. ACAD reserves the right to make adjustments to the course timetable up to the end of the second week of classes, if necessary. Adjustments may include but are not limited to the addition, cancellation, and/or combination of course sections, as well as changes to the day, time, instructor and/or capacity of the course sections. In the case where course sections are combined, students will not be entitled to a reduction in tuition fees.

Registration in courses is subject to course and space availability and meeting prerequisites at the time of registration. ACAD cannot guarantee that space will be available in all desired courses.

Space in major courses may be reserved for students who have declared the major, however, a student's declaration of major does not guarantee registration in all required courses. Where space is a limiting factor and the number of students in a major exceeds the number of spaces in a major course, the student's registration priority may determine his/her access to the course.



Registration priority is determined according to accumulation of credit by level and cumulative grade point average (CGPA).

Students are responsible for ensuring the accuracy and completeness of their own registration and change of registration. Students are advised to contact the Registrar's Office in advance of registration for assistance in course selection and academic advising. If further advising is needed regarding the required Critical and creative studies component of any major, students are advised to contact the Chair of Critical and Creative Studies.

Second Degrees:

Students with a bachelor's degree from ACAD or another recognized institution may be admitted to a second bachelor's degree if they meet the admission requirements, and the following conditions:

- Residency requirements are met, and
- Students must complete a minimum of 30 unique credits, in addition to the credits utilized for the first degree, and
- Students must meet all program and graduation requirements for the second degree beyond those required for the first degree.

FIRST YEAR STUDIES

First Year Studies is a common first year program of studies for all majors.

BACHELOR OF FINE ARTS DEGREE

The Bachelor of Fine Arts (BFA) degree is offered in the following majors: Ceramics, Drawing, Fibre, Glass, Jewellery + Metals, Media Arts, Painting, Print Media, and Sculpture. Effective January 1, 2004, BFA degrees in Multidisciplinary Studies and Photographic Arts are currently suspended indefinitely. Students interested in pursuing photography are encouraged to consider the Photography major in the Bachelor of Design Program.

	Area of Study	Credit Hours	Program %
Studio	Required Studio	48	40
	Elective Studio	27-30	22.5-25
Critical and creative studies	Art History	12-18	10-15
	General Studies	24-30	20-25

Within these general requirements, BFA Majors require the following minimum studio and Critical and creative studies credits. The specific BFA Major requirements are outlined separately in the next section of this document:

73.5 Studio Credits

- 18 credits in 100-level studio courses
- 15-18 credits in 200-level studio courses within which no more than 18 credits in one studio area
- 18 credits in 300-level studio courses
- 18 credits in 300/400-level studio courses

43.5 Critical and creative studies (Art History & General Studies) Credits



- 12 credits in 100-level Critical and creative studies courses
- 12-15 credits in 200-level Critical and creative studies courses
- 18 credits in 300/400-level Critical and creative studies courses

3 Non-designated Study Credits

- 3 credits in a 200-level or higher Studio course or 3 credits in a 200-level or higher Critical and creative studies Course

Admission to Bachelor of Fine Arts Majors

(S.C.E.M. Programs: Ceramics, Fibre, Glass, Jewellery+Metals, Media Arts) and (S.V.A. Programs: Drawing, Painting, Print Media, and Sculpture)

Students may declare an intended major in BFA programs offered by the School of Craft +Emerging Media (SCEM) or the School of Visual Arts (SVA) once they have successfully completed 30 credit hours of First Year Studies. Students must declare a major upon their completion of 60 credit hours. In order to declare a major, a student must be in clear academic standing. Registration priority in 200 and 300-level studio course may be given to students who have declared and are admitted to their chosen major.

In consultation with an academic advisor, a student may change their declared major. Students are cautioned that changes in majors between programs or Schools may require additional courses to be completed to meet graduation requirements.

BFA CERAMICS MAJOR (S.C.E.M.)

Ceramics is a Program within the School of Creative and Emerging Media (SCEM).

Admission to the Ceramics Major:

Student may declare a major in Ceramics once they have successfully completed 30 credit hours in First Year Studies. Student must declare a major upon completion of 60 credit hours. Access to registering in 200-level courses requires that a student complete 24 credit hours of First Year Studies, of which 12 credit hours must be represented by studio courses.

BFA DRAWING MAJOR (S.V.A.)

Drawing is a Program within the School of Visual Arts (SVA).

Admission to the Drawing Major:

Student may declare a major in Drawing once they have successfully completed 30 credit hours in First Year Studies. Student must declare a major upon completion of 60 credit hours. Access to registering in 200-level courses requires that a student complete 24 credit hours of First Year Studies, of which 12 credit hours must be represented by studio courses.

BFA FIBRE MAJOR (S.C.E.M.)

Drawing is a Program within the School of Craft and Emerging Media (SCEM).

Admission to the Fibre Major:

Student may declare a major in Fibre once they have successfully completed 30 credit hours in First Year Studies. Student must declare a major upon completion of 60 credit hours. Access to registering in 200-level courses requires that a student complete 24 credit hours of First Year Studies, of which 12 credit hours must be represented by studio courses.



BFA GLASS MAJOR (S.C.E.M.)

Glass is a Program within the School of Creative and Emerging Media (SCEM).

Admission to the Glass Major:

Student may declare a major in Glass once they have successfully completed 30 credit hours in First Year Studies. Student must declare a major upon completion of 60 credit hours.

Access to registering in 200-level courses requires that a student complete 24 credit hours of First Year Studies, of which 12 credit hours must be represented by studio courses.

BFA JEWELLERY + METALS MAJOR (S.C.E.M.)

Jewellery + Metals is a Program within the School of Creative and Emerging Media (SCEM).

Admission to the Jewellery + Metals Major:

Student may declare a major in Jewellery + Metals once they have successfully completed 30 credit hours in First Year Studies. Student must declare a major upon completion of 60 credit hours.

Access to registering in 200-level courses requires that a student complete 24 credit hours of First Year Studies, of which 12 credit hours must be represented by studio courses.

BFA MEDIA ARTS MAJOR (S.C.E.M.)

Media Arts is a Program within the School of Creative and Emerging Media (SCEM).

Admission to the Media Arts Major:

Student may declare a major in Media Arts once they have successfully completed 30 credit hours in First Year Studies. Student must declare a major upon completion of 60 credit hours.

Access to registering in 200-level courses requires that a student complete 24 credit hours of First Year Studies, of which 12 credit hours must be represented by studio courses.

BFA PAINTING MAJOR (S.V.A.)

Painting is a Program within the School of Visual Arts (SVA).

Admission to the Painting Major:

Student may declare a major in Painting once they have successfully completed 30 credit hours in First Year Studies. Student must declare a major upon completion of 60 credit hours.

Access to registering in 200-level courses requires that a student complete 24 credit hours of First Year Studies, of which 12 credit hours must be represented by studio courses.

BFA PRINT MEDIA MAJOR (S.V.A.)

Print Media is a Program within the School of Visual Arts (SVA).

Admission to the Print Media Major:

Student may declare a major in Print Media once they have successfully completed 30 credit hours in First Year Studies. Student must declare a major upon completion of 60 credit hours.

Access to registering in 200-level courses requires that a student complete 24 credit hours of First Year Studies, of which 12 credit hours must be represented by studio courses.

BFA SCULPTURE MAJOR (S.V.A.)

Sculpture is a Program within the School of Visual Arts (SVA).



Admission to the Sculpture Major:

Student may declare a major in Sculpture once they have successfully completed 30 credit hours in First Year Studies. Student must declare a major upon completion of 60 credit hours.

Access to registering in 200-level courses requires that a student complete 24 credit hours of First Year Studies, of which 12 credit hours must be represented by studio courses.

BACHELOR OF DESIGN DEGREE

The Bachelor of Design (BDes) degree is offered through the School of Visual Communications Design with majors in Visual Communications Design and Photography.

	Area of Study	Credit Hours	Program %
Studio	Required Studio	51	42.5
	Elective Studio	33	27.5
Critical and creative studies	Art History	12	10
	General Studies	24	19

Within these general requirements, BDes Majors require the following minimum studio and Critical and creative studies credits. The specific BDes Major requirements are outlined separately in the next section of this document:

84 Studio Credits

- 18 credits in 100-level studio courses must include 6 credits of 100-level Drawing
- 21 credits in 200-level studio courses
- 21 credits in 300-level studio courses
- 24 credits in 400-level studio courses

36 Critical and creative studies (Art History & General Studies) Credits

- 12 credits in 100-level Critical and creative studies courses
- 12 credits in 200-level Critical and creative studies courses
- 12 credits in 300/400-level Critical and creative studies courses

The BDes in Photography may be awarded upon successful completion of 120 credits including a minimum of 36 credits in Critical and creative studies courses. The BDes in Visual Communications Design may be awarded upon successful completion of 120 credits including a minimum of 30 credits in Critical and creative studies courses.

Both Bachelor of Design Majors are designed to offer students a progressive learning experience. The combination of courses allows students to develop their knowledge, skills, and competencies relevant to their major area of study through a combination of studio and Critical and creative studies courses.

Specific course requirements for the Bachelor of Design majors are outlined below and appear the current [academic calendar](#) on the ACAD website.

ACAD graduates who were previously awarded the Bachelor of Fine Arts Degree in Visual Communications Design may apply to change their credential from the BFA to the BDes. In order to receive the BDes credential, Visual Communications Design BFA graduates must surrender their BFA parchment and submit the applicable credential replacement fee.



Admission to a Bachelor of Design Major

Admission to the Bachelor of Design majors is competitive and is based on a combination of GPA and portfolio assessment in conjunction with the successful completion of First Year Studies (FYS). Students completing FYS deficiencies during the Spring/Summer may be given provisional consideration. Students must be in clear academic standing when they apply to a Design major.

It is strongly recommended that applicants to the Bachelor of Design program majors be able to express themselves through writing, and through drawing of their ideas and designs. All program candidates are expected to possess basic computer skills and be prepared to engage in independent research.

Advancement to Third and Fourth Year

Students must successfully complete all of their required major courses in order to advance to their next year of study. Students may carry deficiencies in Critical and creative studies courses only.

Attendance Requirements

Attendance in Photography and Visual Communications Design courses is mandatory. Students are required to attend a minimum of 85% of their classes in order to receive credit for a course. Except where absences are for certified medical reasons, students are not permitted to miss more than two and a half classes in any course.

Program Progression

Bachelor of Design students must obtain a minimum grade of "C-" in all required major courses in order to progress in clear standing. Students who receive an "F" grade in a required major course will be withdrawn from their major (status for students who withdraw from a major course will be determined by the appropriate School Chair). Students who receive a passing grade of less than "C-" in a required major course will be placed on program probation for the next semester. Such students will be expected to obtain a minimum of "C-" in all major courses during their probationary semester and will receive feedback from their instructor(s) at midterm concerning their progress in their major courses(s). Program probationary students are also advised to meet with the Chair to discuss their program status. Program probationary students who fail to achieve a minimum grade of "C-" in a required major course or courses at the end of the probationary semester will be withdrawn from the major.

Students who are withdrawn from a Bachelor of Design major will be enrolled as BFA students until such time as they are readmitted to the School.

BDes ADVERTISING STREAM (S.C.D.)

Advertising is a Stream within the School of Communications + Design's Visual Communications Program (SCD).

Admission to the Advertising Stream:

Student may declare a major in Visual Communications Design with a study focus in the Advertising Stream once they have successfully completed 30 credit hours in First Year Studies and have been granted admission into School of Visual Communications Design.

BDes CHARACTER DESIGN STREAM (S.C.D.)

Character Design is a Stream within the School of Communications + Design's Visual Communications Program (SCD).

Admission to the Character Design Stream:



Student may declare a major in Visual Communications Design with a study focus in the Character Design Stream once they have successfully completed 30 credit hours in First Year Studies and have been granted admission into School of Visual Communications Design.

BDes GRAPHIC DESIGN STREAM (S.C.D.)

Graphic Design is a Stream within the School of Communications + Design's Visual Communications Program (SCD).

Admission to the Graphic Design Stream:

Student may declare a major in Visual Communications Design with a study focus in the Graphic Design Stream once they have successfully completed 30 credit hours in First Year Studies and have been granted admission into School of Visual Communications Design.

BDes ILLUSTRATION STREAM (S.C.D.)

Illustration is a Stream within the School of Communications + Design's Visual Communications Program (SCD).

Admission to the Illustration Stream:

Student may declare a major in Visual Communications Design with a study focus in the Illustration Stream once they have successfully completed 30 credit hours in First Year Studies and have been granted admission into School of Visual Communications Design.

BDes PHOTOGRAPHY MAJOR (S.V.A.)

Photography is a Bachelor of Design Degree Program administered within the School of Visual Arts (SVA).

Admission to the Photography Major:

Student may declare a major in Photography once they have successfully completed 30 credit hours in First Year Studies and have been granted admission into School of Visual Arts.