



DEPARTMENT OF ART

Creative Education, Creative Careers



ABOUT US The Department of Art is a vibrant, diverse community where creativity is our passion. Whether you are interested in being a professional artist, designer, educator, or historian, you will learn the skills you need to pursue a career that feeds your curiosity. Classes in our department focus on innovation and experimentation in both traditional and new media with faculty focused on student success.



STUDENT OPPORTUNITIES Engage, exhibit, and work at the Center for Visual Art, our off-campus gallery that exhibits international and nationally-recognized artists as well as our own students and faculty. You can intern at a variety of local museums, galleries, and design firms. Join a club like the Dirtburners or the Art Guild, or go on a study abroad trip organized by our faculty in places like Barcelona or Berlin.



WHAT MAKES US SPECIAL Our faculty are deeply embedded in the Denver creative scene and bring real-world knowledge to their classrooms. They often connect students with opportunities in the community and bring guest artists and designers to campus. Art History faculty bring history to life by bringing objects from the materials collection to class and working with students in collections such as the Denver Museum of Nature and Science or taking them on field trips to the Museum of Contemporary Art, the Museo de las Americas, and the Denver Art Museum.



MAJOR/MINOR We offer a B.A. or a B.F.A. in Art, a B.F.A. in Communication Design, a B.F.A. in Art Education, or a B.A. in Art History, Theory, and Criticism. You can also do a minor in Studio Art, Art History, Theory, and Criticism, or Digital Media.

STUDENT QUOTE

"MSU Denver strives to make its education relevant, and the Art Department realizes that vision and produces artists who can step from their academic practice right into a professional one."

—Heather Doyle-Maier



CONTACT US

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COMMUNICATION | Bachelor of Fine Arts

DESIGN

Experiential Major Map



MSU
DENVER

COLLEGE OF LETTERS,
ARTS AND SCIENCES

First Year

- Take your Foundations classes in ART/ARTH
- Meet with your Faculty advisor
- Attend open studio hours

Cultivate
Learning &
Academic Excellence

Middle Years

- Enroll in 2000 and 3000-level Communication Design courses
- Apply to the B.F.A. in Communication Design by submitting a portfolio
- Meet with your Faculty Advisor

Engage
Globally and Locally

- Join FLoD (Future Leaders of Design) student organization to get connected to AIGA Colorado
- Speak with your professor about community opportunities and events

Last Year

- Enroll in 3000 and 4000-level upper division Communication Design course electives
- Develop a research topic and ideation for the Senior Experience Thesis Exhibition

- Meet with industry professionals in your field of interest
- Lead design and networking events through FLoD
- Establish your portfolio and network online

Prepare
for Postgraduation
Success

- Attend a Communication Design BFA Portfolio Workshop
- Start documenting your art and design work to begin building a portfolio

- Research Design internships that align with your career goals
- Take advantage of Communication Design course electives to build diversity in your portfolio

- Enroll in Professional Practices, Portfolio Development and Senior Thesis courses
- Complete your Communication Design Internship

Academic Success Checklist

- Discover library resources
- Book an appointment with your academic advisor
- Visit the writing and tutoring center
- Complete FASFA and academic scholarship applications

Employment in Art is projected to grow by 6.2 percent from 2024 to 2026.

Career Development Checklist

- Update your resume early & often
- Drop into the C2 Hub's Career Lab
- Secure an internship or career aligned part time job to develop essential skills for graduation

Career Information

What skills do employers want?

- Effective Communication
- Professionalism & Credibility
- Accountability
- Research, Ideation & Problem Solving
- Empathetic & Positive Attitude

This major gives me the skills to:

- Discover how to design for people and contexts that require communication
- Create meaning, foster function and mediate messaging through process-based problem solving
- Design for a diverse range of consumer-oriented physical and digital products

What careers can I pursue?

- Creative Director
- Art Director
- Motion Designer
- Graphic Designer
- Production Designer & Manager
- Environmental Graphic Designer
- Visual Designer
- UX/UI Designer



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