

DESIGN, BA

The Fine Arts department is committed to cultivating global thought leaders in the fields of Art and Design. The Major in Design addresses a need for innovative pedagogy exploring the expansive nature of contemporary design and its relationship to the humanities, the sciences, and emerging technologies. The curriculum emphasizes an integrated understanding of design that brings together different disciplinary approaches that respond to complex social, cultural, and environmental challenges. Students will acquire contemporary representation, prototyping, and fabrication skills and engage with theoretical frameworks yielding advanced research and knowledge production.

Students begin the Design Major with two required core studios that introduce fundamental design methodologies, computational literacy, technological fabrication, and the study of contemporary digital culture. Majors then select from a series of theoretical and historical seminars that contextualize and expand their understanding of design practices including data-driven, speculative, and inquiry-based design. Majors also have the freedom to select from an expansive list of art and design electives that further their interdisciplinary expertise. The Design Major culminates in a year-long design project, researched design brief, public exhibition, and panel review with leading experts in the field.

A goal for students entering the major is to develop the ability to critically and resourcefully synthesize the expansive potentialities of design. These skill sets are gained through exposure to diverse approaches to design methodologies, histories, and theories. Learning outcomes are evident in the individual and collaborative conceptual, technological, and speculative projects that emerge from the core and integrative studios. Design electives and seminars enrich, complicate, and expand disciplinary modalities, while engaging in deeper explorations of positionality within a global climate. Ultimately, the Design Major seeks to guide students through a process of learning to independently question, interpret, and analyze integrative design.

For information about the General Education requirements, please visit the College of Arts & Sciences Curriculum (<https://www.college.upenn.edu/curriculum/>) page.

Code	Title	Course Units
College General Education Requirements and Free Electives		
Foundational Approaches + Sectors ¹ + Free Electives		20
Major Requirements		
<i>Core Studio Requirements</i> ²		2
Students are encouraged to take these classes their freshman and sophomore years.		
DSGN 264	Art, Design and Digital Culture	
DSGN 306	Design 21: Design After the Digital	
<i>Integrative Design Studio Requirements</i>		4
Select 4 courses:		
DSGN 266	Graphic Design with Creative Technologies	
DSGN 268	Biological Design	
DSGN 317	Cultures of Making	
DSGN 328	Functions for Form and Material	
DSGN 337	Information Design and Visualization	

DSGN 378 Interfacing Cultures: Designing for Mobile, Web and Public Media

<i>Art History and Theory Requirements</i>		4
Art History- select one of the following:		
ARTH 101	World Art and Civilization Before 1400	
ARTH 102	World Art: 1400 to Now	
ARTH 106	Architect and History	
ARTH 300	Undergraduate Methods Seminar	
Theory- select three of the following:		
ARCH 411	Theory I: Geometry in Architecture	
DSGN 300	Contemporary Theories of Design	
DSGN 343	Language of Design	
URBS 205	People and Design	
VLST 101	Eye, Mind, and Image	
<i>Design Seminar Requirements</i> ³		2
DSGN 488	Senior Seminar Project (Fall) (Fall)	
DSGN 489	Senior Seminar Project (Spring) (Spring)	
<i>Art and Design Electives</i> ⁴		4
Select any combination of four FNAR and DSGN courses to fulfill this requirement ⁵		
Total Course Units		36

¹ You may count no more than one course toward both a Major and a Sector requirement. For Exceptions, check the Policy Statement (<http://www.college.upenn.edu/sectors-policy/>).

² Core studio requirements may be taken as early as freshman year and in any order as long as prerequisites are met.

³ Majors must take the Senior Seminar Project in consecutive semesters of their senior year.

⁴ Art and Design Electives can be taken in any order as long as prerequisites are met.

⁵ Fine Arts and Design courses can be found on the department website (<https://www.design.upenn.edu/fine-arts/undergraduate/courses/>).

The degree and major requirements displayed are intended as a guide for students entering in the Fall of 2020 and later. Students should consult with their academic program regarding final certifications and requirements for graduation.