

B.F.A. in Communication Design: User-Experience Design

College of Visual Arts & Design Suggested 4-Year Curriculum Guide

2026-2027 Academic Year, curriculum expires August 2034

First Year Fall Semester (15 credits)
ART 1600: Foundations - Perception & Translation
ART 1700: Foundations - Space
ART 2350: Art History Survey 1 (core)
ADES 1500: Introduction to Communication Design
ENGL 1310: First-Year Writing 1 (or 1311: Honors, core)
Candidacy Review at end of semester (see Page 2 for requirements)

First Year Spring Semester (15 credits)
ART 1800: Foundations - Narrative & Representation
ART 1900: Foundations - Systems & Transformations
ART 2360: Art History Survey 2 (core)
ADES 1543: Foundations of User-Centered Design
College Math core option (MATH 1580 recommended)
Entry Review and Degree Plan (see Page 2 for requirements)

Second Year Fall Semester (15 credits)
ADES 1513: Contextual Research Methods
ADES 2513: Typographic Systems
ART 2370: Art History Survey 3 (core)
Life & Physical Sciences core option
ENGL 1320: First-Year Writing 2 (or 1321: Honors, core)

Second Year Spring Semester (15 credits)
ADES 2518: Prototyping & User Testing
ADES 2523: Digital Patterns & Systems
Menu 1 course option
Life & Physical Sciences core option
Social & Behavioral Sciences core option

Third Year Fall Semester (15 credits)
ADES 3503: Planning & Developing Interactive Systems
ADES 3513: Data Visualization & the Design of Information
Advanced Art History (ARTH)
HIST 2610: United States History to 1865 (or 2675: Honors, core)
Elective

Third Year Spring Semester (15 credits)
ADES 3548: Topics in User-Experience Design
Advanced Elective (any subject, 3000+)
ARTH 4842: History of Communication Design
HIST 2620: United States History since 1865 (or 2685: Honors, core)
Menu 2 course option

Fourth Year Fall Semester (15 credits)
ADES 4518: Cause-Based User-Experience Design
ADES 4523: Advanced Product Design in UX Design
Advanced Art History (ARTH)
Advanced Elective (any subject, 3000+)
PSCI 2305: Political Behavior & Policy (or 2315: Honors, core)

Fourth Year Spring Semester (15 credits)
ADES 4528: UX Final Portfolio
Menu 2 course option
Component Area Option core course (See Academic Advisor)
Advanced Elective (any subject, 3000+)
PSCI 2306: Constitutions & Institutions (or 2316: Honors, core)
Total required credit hours: 120

Menu 1: 3 hours from ASTU 2101, 2102, 2201, 2401, 2402, 2501, 2601, 2602, 2701, 2702, 2801, or 2802.

Menu 2: 6 hours selected from ADES 3548 (second completion with different topic), ADES 3700; ART 4120, 4570, 4900, or 4910; ANTH 4110; INDS 4000; JOUR 3250; MKTG 3660; and/or TECM 2700. (TECM 2700 may require completion of additional advanced elective to meet minimum advanced hours for degree.)

Important Notes:

- ADES 1500: Introduction to Communication Design and candidacy portfolio review occurs during fall semester only. **Please refer to the statement regarding “Time to Degree Completion” on Page 2.**
- Graduation Requirements:** Grades of “C” or better are required for all CVAD requirements. Additional graduation requirements include: 42 hours must be advanced; 24 of the 42 advanced hours must be completed at UNT. Must have a 2.0 GPA (UNT & overall) and a 2.5 GPA within the major. Students are encouraged to run their [online degree audit](#) regularly to track the completion of all requirements for this degree.
- Please visit the [CVAD website](#) for up-to-date information. Additionally, many common questions are answered on the [CVAD Advising Frequently Asked Questions page](#).

Candidacy & Entry Portfolio Reviews

Students interested in pursuing a major in Communication Design begin as pre-majors. Admission to the Communication Design major is a two-step process, for which students must meet minimum eligibility requirements to be considered, as follows:

Candidacy Review Eligibility (end of first-year fall semester)

- Completion of ADES 1500 Introduction to Communication Design, with grade of “C” or better;
- Completion of at least 2 art foundations courses (ART 1600, 1700, and/or 1800), with grades of “C” or better;
- GPA of 2.75 or better on the required CVAD courses (ADES 1500 and 2 foundations) and a 2.25 or better on all UNT courses completed; and
- Submission of all candidacy review application materials to [UNT SlideRoom](#) by the deadline, as posted on the [UX design entry review website](#). Students are required to select either the Graphic Design or User-Experience Design concentration. This decision is considered final.

Admission to candidacy is not guaranteed, as spots are limited and more students apply each year than can be accommodated. Those who are admitted to candidacy may then enroll in ADES 1543 (or 1540, if admitted for graphic design) for the spring semester.

User-Experience Design Entry Review Eligibility (end of first-year spring semester)

- Completion of ADES 1543 Foundations for User-Centered Design, with grade of “C” or better;
- Completion of all four art foundations courses (ART 1600, 1700, 1800, and 1900), with grades of “C” or better;
- GPA of 2.75 or better on the required CVAD courses (ADES 1500 & 1543, and all 4 foundations) and a 2.25 or better on all UNT courses completed;
- Completion of at least 30 credit hours of college courses; and
- Submission of all entry portfolio review materials by the deadline, as posted on the [UX entry review website](#).

Approximately 20 students will be selected from eligible entry review applicants for full admission into the Communication Design-User Experience Design major. All subsequent ADES coursework is restricted to those admitted as Communication Design-User Experience Design majors.

Transfer Credit

Students must submit official transcripts of all prior collegiate-level coursework as part of the UNT admissions process. Transfer information is reviewed with the student at Orientation. **Little to no transfer coursework is typically approved to transfer towards the required ADES coursework.** All students, regardless of academic status, must be admitted to the Communication Design Program through the Communication Design Portfolio Reviews.

Time to Degree Completion

Due to the highly sequenced curriculum and skill-building nature of coursework, ADES courses cannot be taken concurrently unless otherwise listed as such. This means that, regardless of the required total remaining credit hours, students should anticipate four years (8 fall/spring semesters) to complete the B.F.A. in Communication Design, starting from the first ADES course completed (ADES 1500, fall semesters). ADES courses are not offered in summer semesters.

Students that do not successfully complete reviews may, upon approval of department, re-review. However, this will delay the anticipated time to completion, typically by one year. Likewise, students that fail to successfully complete courses in sequence should anticipate a one-year delay in time to completion.

KEY to terms & abbreviations found within this document:

ADES = design courses
ANTH = anthropology courses
ART = general art courses
ARTE = art education courses
ARTH = advanced art history courses
ASTU = studio art courses
B.F.A. = Bachelor of Fine Arts
CVAD = College of Visual Arts & Design
core = university core curriculum requirement
CDES-UX = communication design-user experience track
elective = course that student chooses

ENGL = English courses
GPA = grade point average
HIST = history courses
INDS = industrial distribution courses
JOUR = journalism courses
MATH = mathematics courses
MKTG = marketing courses
PSCI = political science & government courses
TECM = technical communication courses
UNT = University of North Texas
UX = user experience