

GRAPHIC DESIGN AFA, STATEWIDE PROGRAM

Total Credits: 60

Catalog Edition: 2025-2026

Program Description

The Graphic Design Associate of Fine Arts degree (AFA) is a studio intensive program that prepares students for transfer to a four-year BFA program. Two-thirds of the total credit hours are in studio art and graphic design courses and one-third are in General Education courses. The curriculum includes studio art foundations courses as well as specialized study in graphic design and typography. Courses focus on the fundamentals of visual arts and design and parallel the course work in the first two-years of a BFA degree at a four-year institution.

The Graphic Design AFA is a designated statewide program. The Maryland Higher Education Commission designates some community college programs as statewide programs. A student may enroll in any of these programs at the same rates as in-county residents if the program is not offered by their local community college or if the student cannot enroll due to an enrollment limit. For more information on statewide programs, please see Curricula Information.

All students should meet with an advisor to plan their program of study, as well as their transfer and career goals. Students interested in seeking employment after completion of an associate's degree instead of transferring to a 4-year institution should consider the General Graphic Design Area of Concentration, Graphic Design AAS: 304B career and technical education program. Montgomery College is an accredited institutional member of the National Association of Schools of Art and Design (NASAD).

Program Outcomes

Upon completion of this program, a student will be able to:

- Demonstrate visual problem solving capability.
- Utilize foundational skills and demonstrate competency in a range of art media and techniques.
- Apply relevant art historical skills, contexts, and theories to the creative process.

Program Advisors

Takoma Park/Silver Spring

- Dr. Norberto Gomez, 240-567-5502,
Norberto.Gomez@montgomerycollege.edu

For more information, please visit <https://www.montgomerycollege.edu/academics/programs/graphic-design/graphic-design-afa-degree.html>

2025-2026

Program Advising Guide

An Academic Reference Tool for Students

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Suggested Course Sequence

A suggested course sequence for full-time students follows. All students should review this advising guide and consult an advisor.

First Semester

ENGL 101 - Introduction to College Writing *3 semester hours* *

Mathematics Foundation *3 semester hours (MATF)*

ARTT 100 - Introduction to Drawing *3 semester hours (ARTD)*

ARTT 102 - Introduction to 2D Design *3 semester hours (GEEL)*

GDES 116 - Digital Tools for the Visual Arts *4 semester hours*

Third Semester

GDES 210 - Graphic Design I *3 semester hours* †

GDES 220 - Typography I *3 semester hours* †

ARTT 152 - Photographic Expression I *3 semester hours*

OR

Printmaking Elective *3 semester hours* ‡‡

Craft Elective *3 semester hours* ‡

ARTT 263 - Professional Practice for the Visual Artist *1 semester hour*

Humanities Distribution *3 semester hours (HUMD)*

Total Credit Hours: 60

* ENGL 101/ENGL 101A, if needed for ENGL 102, or elective.

‡ Select one of the following craft electives: ARTT 120, ARTT 123, ARTT 245, or ARTT 247.

‡‡ Select one of the following printmaking electives: ARTT 152, ARTT 225, ARTT 226, ARTT 227, ARTT 228, ARTT 230, ARTT 233.

† Only offered in fall.

†† Only offered in spring.

Second Semester

ENGL 102 - Critical Reading, Writing, and Research *3 semester hours (ENGF)*

ARTT 205 - Figure Drawing I *3 semester hours*

OR

ARTT 204 - Intermediate Drawing *3 semester hours*

ARTT 200 - Art History: Ancient to 1400 *3 semester hours*

ARTT 103 - Introduction to 3D Design *3 semester hours*

ARTT 201 - Art History: 1400 to Present *3 semester hours*

Fourth Semester

GDES 211 - Graphic Design II *3 semester hours* ††

Behavioral and Social Sciences Distribution *3 semester hours (BSSD)*

GDES 221 - Typography II *3 semester hours* ††

Natural Sciences Distribution with Lab *4 semester hours (NSLD)*

Transfer Opportunities

Montgomery College has partnerships with multiple four-year institutions and the tools to help you transfer. To learn more, please visit <https://www.montgomerycollege.edu/transfer> or <http://artsys.usmd.edu>.

Get Involved at MC!

Employers and Transfer Institutions are looking for experience outside the classroom.

MC Student Clubs and Organizations: <https://www.montgomerycollege.edu/life-at-mc/student-life/>

Related Careers

Some require a Bachelor's degree.

Graphic Designer, Web Designer, Art Director, Multimedia Artist and Animator, Commercial and Industrial Designer.

Career Services

Montgomery College offers a range of services to students and alumni to support the career planning process. To learn more, please visit <https://www.montgomerycollege.edu/career>

Career Coach

A valuable online search tool that will give you the opportunity to explore hundreds of potential careers or job possibilities in Maryland and the Washington D.C. metropolitan area. Get started today on your road to a new future and give it a try. For more information, please visit <https://montgomerycollege.emsicc.com>

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