

BFA in Visual Communication - Concentration in Art Direction

The concentration in Art Direction prepares students for professional positions as creative team leaders who target specific market audiences, and produce client branding, single ads or campaigns in printed, broadcast and interactive media. Courses in art direction and advertising emphasize the development of concepts from infancy through the finished product. The Art Direction student gains proficiency in creating headlines, copy, layout and storyboarding, partnering with copywriting students, as well as in directing the work of designers, photographers, illustrators and other contributions.

The BFA in Visual Communication is an intensive baccalaureate degree that prepares students for professional opportunities in the fields of advertising and design. Students pursuing the degree will choose from the following concentrations, each of which has a specified sequence of courses: Art Direction, Design, or New Media. Each concentration requires the student to complete the 42-semester hour University Studies curriculum and a common core of freshman and sophomore-level art courses. These courses may be taken at A&M-Commerce or any accredited two or four-year institution. The BFA in Visual Communication does not require a minor area of emphasis.

All courses in Visual Communication above the sophomore level are taught at El Centro College in a state-of-the-art facility in downtown Dallas where students are introduced to the dynamic design community of one of the nation's most vibrant cities. Shuttle service between the Commerce campus and El Centro College allows students to reside in Commerce while attending classes in Dallas.

Entry into the junior year of the Visual Communication program is by portfolio review. Prior to the review, students must have completed all University Studies and core art courses as outlined in the Undergraduate Catalog. At the time of the portfolio review, students must have an overall grade point average of at least 2.5 and an average of at least 3.0 in the core art classes. For the specific requirements of the portfolio and annual deadlines for submission, please visit this web site: www.tamuc.edu/viscom (<http://www.tamuc.edu/viscom/>)

The Visual Communication program has an assessment schedule that evaluates the progress of students as they advance in the BFA degree. Students will undergo a basic assessment of their work in the third or fourth year and an assessment of their specialized work as they near graduation. The purpose of the assessments is to correct deficiencies and to encourage consistent growth in a student's portfolio, thus improving his or her opportunities for rewarding employment after graduation. If a student's progress is unsatisfactory, they may be advised by the faculty to repeat courses to strengthen and further develop their skills. After the first year of the program, students will be required to enter competitive shows for the purpose of building professional experience and gaining a critical perspective of their work. In the final year of the BFA, students must pass an exit review in order to graduate. As with all degree programs at A&M-Commerce, students must earn a C or higher in their major courses for them to count towards graduation.

Provided they are part of the common course numbering system recognized across the State of Texas, courses from other accredited institutions may be transferred to A&M-Commerce. Courses that fall outside the numbering system may still be transferable, but they will be subject to a portfolio review.

Portfolio reviews for transfer students will generally occur late in the spring semester for students wishing to enter the Visual Communication program in the fall semester and in the late fall semester for entry in the spring semester.

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Core Curriculum courses

See the Core Curriculum Requirements (<http://coursecatalog.tamuc.edu/undergrad/core-curriculum-requirements/>) 42

Required courses in the major

Core Studio

Art Core/Sophomore Studio

ART 1316	Drawing I	3
ART 1311	Two-Dimensional Design and Color Theory	3
ART 2313	Visual Communication I	3
ART 2323	Figure Drawing	3
PHO 209	Introduction to Video	3
PHO 2357	Basic Photography	3

Visual Communication Core

ART 300	Typography	3
ART 311	Introduction to User Experience	3
ART 310	Electronic Media and Methods	3
ART 360	Creative Thinking	3
ART 365	Design Communications I	3
ART 463	Advanced Typography	3
ART 458	Visual Communication Professional Practice	4

ART 475	Visual Communication Senior Studio	4
Required/Concentration Studio		
ART 466	Design Communications II	3
ART 402	Storyboarding	3
ART 413	Copywriting	3
ART 412	Video in Visual Communication	4
ART 472	Art Direction	3
ART 473	Advertising Concepts	4
ART 474	Campaign Concepts	4
Advanced electives: Choose 8 semester hours from below		8
ART 414	Motion Graphics	4
ART 418	Cross Cultural Design	4
ART 462	Visual Communication Branding	4
ART 464	Screen Printing for Visual Communication	4
ART 465	Letterpress	4
ART 467	Design Communications III	4
ART 468	Design Communications IV	4
ART 473	Advertising Concepts	4
ART 474	Campaign Concepts	4
ART 495	Internship	1-4
ART 497	Special Topics	1-4
Required Support Courses		
Art/Design History		
ART 1303	GLB/History of Art I *	
ART 1304	GLB/History of Art II (Will also satisfy University Studies) *	
ART 407	GLB/History of Graphic Design	3
ART 409	History of New Media	3
Total Hours		120

*
This course will satisfy the Core Curriculum requirement for Creative Arts or Degree Pathway.

A grade of "C" or higher must be earned in all courses in this Major.