



Academic & Career **PATHWAYS**

Associate **of** Applied Science (A.A.S)

Graphic Design – Advising Guide

This program leads to the Associate of Applied Science degree and prepares students for jobs as graphic designers or transfer to four-year degree programs. The curriculum supports a variety of visual communication topics like typography, color theory, printmaking, package design, branding, layout design, and web design, so that students can build competency in a range of design techniques.

Students must successfully complete *GDES 110-Digital Design Applications* and *GDES 115 – Introduction to Graphic Arts* to enter the Graphic Design program and to enroll in any subsequent GDES courses.

****NOTE:** Several GDES courses are offered on the Penn Valley Campus only.

Semester 1			
Course	Credits	Action Steps	
ART 103 (Program Requirement)	3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meet with Academic Advisor to build degree plan in Starfish 	
GDES 110 (Program Requirement)	3		
ART 110 (General Education Requirement)	3		
GDES 115 (Program Requirement)	3		
^ENGL 101 (General Education Requirement)	3		
Total Credits	15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contact the program coordinator to arrange to take the technical skills assessment for admission to program 	
Semester 2			
^GDES 150 (Program Requirement)	3		
^ART 123 (Program Requirement)	3		
^GDES 160 (Program Requirement)	3		
ART 157 (General Education Requirement)	3		
^COMM 100, ^COMM 102, ^COMM 112, or ^COMM 223 (General Education Requirement)	3		
Total Credits	15		



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Semester 3		
^ART 247 or ^GDES 280 (Program Requirement)	3	• Apply for admission at transfer institution
^GDES 210 (Program Requirement)	3	
^GDES 245 (Program Requirement)	3	
^GDES 280, ^GDES 290, ^ART 111, ART 139, ART 170, ^ART 220, ^ART 247, ^ART 270, or ^ART 280 (Program Elective)	3	• Apply for scholarships at transfer institution
ANTH 110, PHYS 140, or SOCI 160 (General Education Requirement)	3	
Total Credits	15	
Semester 4		
^GDES 250 (Program Requirement)	3	• Apply for Graduation
^GDES 255 (Program Requirement)	3	
^ART 250 or ^ART 254 (Program Requirement)	3	• Begin job search prep in GDES 264
^GDES 220 (Program Requirement)	3	
^GDES 264 (Program Requirement)	3	• Portfolio reviews occur in GDES 264
HIST 120, HIST 121, or POLS 136 (General Education Requirement/Civics)	3	
Total Credits	18	
Credits Required	63*	• Complete Civics Exam with 70% or higher

**The A.A.S. degree has a minimum of 63 credit hours to graduate. When selecting a course from multiple options, please consider the number of credits for each course to ensure meeting the minimum requirements for graduation.*

This Pathway Map is an advising tool designed for full-time students on this A.A.S. degree and identifies the course taking recommendation for timely degree completion. Degree requirements and prerequisite information can be found here: <https://www.mcckc.edu/programs/graphic-design/> All students are encouraged to meet with their academic advisor to develop an individualized completion plan that best meets their goals, interests, and objectives.

^Course requires a prerequisite or appropriate placement, see catalog for additional information.