UW Bachelor of Design Major Requirements (2025–2026)

updated 03.12.25

YEAR 1

W

166 5cr
Design Foundations
200 students

DESIGN MAJOR APPLICATION
(due May 31, 2026)

TRANSFER STUDENTS

Students apply and are accepted into a specific major (ID, IxD, or VCD) by program faculty.
Each major takes 20–22 students.

Once accepted, if a student wishes to change majors within the Design program they must reapply the following year.

University of Washington BDes credit requirements

79–83 Studio (major dependent) +
92–94 General Education +
10 Art History
= 180 credits

Design students complete 10 credits of Art History as part of their General Education requirements in VLPA or I&S.

Required for all Design majors

Open to program majors only

Open to all majors

IxD majors complete 10 credits of studio electives. These can be taken in Design (in designated electives or in ID and VCD with permission of faculty). They can also be taken in related fields such as DXARTS, INFO, CSE, HCDE, ME or another program that supports their studies in IxD.

YEAR 2

F

207 5cr
Design Drawing

209 5cr
Intro to Typography

W

206 5cr
Design Methods

211 5cr
Intro to ID

214 5cr
Marks + Symbols
VCD majors only

S

208 5cr
Design History

213 5cr
Prototyping for ID
ID majors only

319 5cr
Advanced Drawing
ID majors only

215 5cr
Visual Storytelling
Required for IxD open to ID/VCD

YEAR 3

Industrial Design

F

316 5cr
Intermediate ID Studio I

322 5cr
Presentation for ID (Rhino)

W

317 5cr
Intermediate ID Studio II

324 3cr
Materials + Manufacturing

320 5cr
ID Special Projects*

S

318 5cr
Intermediate ID Studio III

326 5cr
Digital Fabrication

*Open to ID juniors and seniors

Interaction Design

F

383 5cr
Foundations in IxD

325 5cr
Physical Computing

W

371 5cr
Interface Design I

384 5cr
Data Visualization

S

372 5cr
Interface Design II

10 credits of electives (see BDes Credit Requirements)

Visual Communication Design

F

376 5cr
Advanced Typography

370 5cr
Introduction to Motion Design

W

368 5cr
Corporate Identity

371 5cr
Interface Design I

S

369 5cr
Visual Systems

372 5cr
Interface Design II

YEAR 4

Industrial Design

F

445 5cr
Advanced ID I

W

446 5cr
Advanced ID II

S

485 5cr
Design Capstone

486 1–3cr
Design Exhibition

Interaction Design

F

481 5cr
Design Field Studies

W

483 5cr
Advanced Interaction Design

S

485 5cr
Design Capstone

486 1–3cr
Design Exhibition

Visual Communication Design

F

467 5cr
Exhibition Design

478 5cr
Information Design

W

466 5cr
Publication Design

S

485 5cr
Design Capstone

486 1–3cr
Design Exhibition

Electives

W

301 2c/n
Current Issues in Design

ALL QUARTERS

495 1–5cr
Design Internship†

496 2cr
Directed Research Groups

499 1–5cr
Independent Study

†See requirements online

*Application only Enrollment all quarters required