

UW Bachelor of Design Major Requirements (2026-2027)

updated 04.28.26

YEAR 1

166 5cr
Design Foundations
200 students

DESIGN MAJOR APPLICATION
(due May 31, 2027)

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	W	S
207 5cr Design Drawing	206 5cr Design Methods	208 5cr Design History
210 5cr Color + Composition	209 5cr Intro to Typography	215 5cr Visual Storytelling
	211 5cr Intro to ID	213 5cr Prototyping for ID
		319 5cr Advanced Drawing

Required for IxD and VCD; open to ID

ID majors only

YEAR 3

F	W	S
316 5cr Intermediate ID Studio I	317 5cr Intermediate ID Studio II	318 5cr Intermediate ID Studio III
322 5cr Presentation for ID (Rhino)	324 3cr Materials + Manufacturing	326 5cr Digital Fabrication
	320 5cr ID Special Projects*	

*Open to ID juniors and seniors

383 5cr Foundations in IxD	371 5cr Interface Design I	372 5cr Interface Design II
	384 5cr Data Visualization	325 5cr Physical Computing

Industrial Design

Interaction Design

Visual Communication Design

Electives

214 5cr Marks + Symbols	368 5cr Corporate Identity	369 5cr Visual Systems
370 5cr Introduction to Motion Design	371 5cr Interface Design I	372 5cr Interface Design II

W	ALL QUARTERS	
301 2c/n Current Issues in Design	495 1-5cr Design Internship*	499 1-5cr Independent Study

*See requirements online

YEAR 4

F	W	S
445 5cr Advanced ID I	446 5cr Advanced ID II	485 5cr Design Capstone

		486 1-3cr Design Exhibition
--	--	---------------------------------------

481 5cr Design Field Studies	483 5cr Advanced Interaction Design	485 5cr Design Capstone
--	---	-----------------------------------

10 credits of electives (see BDes Credit Requirements)

		486 1-3cr Design Exhibition
--	--	---------------------------------------

467 5cr Exhibition Design	466 5cr Publication Design	485 5cr Design Capstone
-------------------------------------	--------------------------------------	-----------------------------------

478 5cr Information Design		486 1-3cr Design Exhibition
--------------------------------------	--	---------------------------------------