

Illustration and Emerging Media BFA

Overview

The **Bachelor of Fine Arts in Illustration and Emerging Media (IEM)**, offered by the Department of Design and Illustration at Tyler School of Art and Architecture, represents the fusion of timeless illustration practices with today's digital and multimedia environments. This program is meticulously designed to nurture the inherent synergy between traditional illustration methods and the ever-evolving landscape of digital technology. By emphasizing both foundational drawing skills and the exploration of new media, the curriculum is structured to prepare students for the diverse demands of contemporary visual storytelling, ensuring their proficiency in crafting engaging narratives that resonate across a spectrum of digital platforms.

In this program, students embark on a journey that honors the core principles of illustration such as composition and visual narrative, while simultaneously delving into the innovative realms of digital illustration, animation, interactive media, and Augmented and Virtual reality. The curriculum is crafted to offer a comprehensive education that bridges the gap between traditional artistic skills and the technological proficiencies required to navigate the current and future states of media and communication.

Students at Tyler get the best of both worlds: an intimate community with small classes and personal mentorship; and access to the facilities, academic experts and resources of Temple, a leading public research university based in Philadelphia, with its dynamic arts and culture scene and opportunities for professional advancement. Upon completing the BFA in Illustration and Emerging Media, graduates emerge as versatile, innovative image makers ready to make significant contributions to the field of illustration.

Campus Location: Main

Program Code: TA-IEM-BFA

Admissions

Admission to Tyler's Studio Art (Bachelor of Fine Arts) programs is based on a review of academic credentials and portfolio review. For detailed information on how to apply, please visit Tyler's Studio Art admissions page.

Because of the demand for a limited number of spaces in the Illustration and Emerging Media major, all BFA students who are not yet declared majors in Illustration and Emerging Media will have to apply for the Sophomore Portfolio Review in DES in order to get into the major, regardless of when that student started at Tyler or when they took Introduction to Visual Communication (DES 2001), Introduction to Digital Tools (DES 2002), and Introduction to Typography (DES 2003).

The review process is required for any Tyler student seeking to enter the major. Because the IEM program follows a strict fall/spring sequence, students may only begin as IEM majors in the fall semester. Students must complete the program in sequence as the capstone courses are offered only in the spring. Admitted students must begin taking required courses in the major at the junior (3xxx) level in the academic year immediately following official admission to the major or their admission to the major will be forfeited.

It is strongly recommended that potential applicants for admission to the IEM major attend one of the official sophomore advising meetings with the IEM Program Head where the application process will be explained.

Laptop Requirements for IEM Majors

The Department of Design and Illustration is committed to excellence in design and the full integration of technologies within our discipline to best educate and prepare our students to become leaders in this field. A thorough understanding of the changing nature of design and the integral role that technology plays in it is essential for all our students to be active participants in this ever-changing environment.

For full device and software requirements and recommendations, please see the Design and Illustration Laptop Requirements.

Study Abroad

Students who plan to study abroad should arrange to meet with their academic advisor and the Education Abroad and Overseas Campuses office as early as possible, preferably during the freshman year, in order to explore options and plan the sequence of courses that would be most appropriate.

Accreditation

Temple University is a non-profit accredited member of the National Association of Schools of Art and Design (NASAD). NASAD establishes national standards for undergraduate and graduate degrees and other credentials for art and design and art/design-related disciplines, and provides assistance to institutions and individuals engaged in artistic, scholarly, educational and other art/design-related endeavors.

Contact Information

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These requirements are for students who matriculated in academic year 2024-2025. Students who matriculated prior to fall 2024 should refer to the Archives to view the requirements for their Bulletin year.

Summary of Requirements

The Bachelor of Fine Arts degree in Illustration and Emerging Media may be conferred upon a student by recommendation of the faculty and upon the satisfactory completion of a minimum of 126 semester hours of credit with a minimum cumulative GPA of 2.00. All Illustration and Emerging Media majors must complete the BFA curriculum and General Education requirements.

- Minimum grades of C- or better in DES 2001, DES 2002, and DES 2003 along with an approved portfolio review are required to enter the Illustration and Emerging Media major. The purpose of the mandatory feedback session is to assist students in their planning and set them up for success in selecting and completing their chosen discipline.
- The required Illustration and Emerging Media courses must be completed with a C- or better to fulfill major requirements.

Major Requirements for BFA in Illustration and Emerging Media

Sophomore Requirements

Code	Title	Credit Hours
DES 2001	Introduction to Design and Illustration	3
DES 2002	Introduction to Digital Tools	3
DES 2003	Introduction to Typography	3
Total Credit Hours		9

Note:

Illustration and Emerging Media majors who plan to study abroad should do so in the second semester of their sophomore year if they plan to graduate in four years. These students should see the Program Head for advising prior to leaving.

Protocol for Portfolio Feedback

There will be two portfolio feedback cycles in the Design and Illustration (DES) department each academic year: the end of the Fall semester (December) and the end of the Spring semester (May). The portfolio reviews will take place in the week after final studio course reviews. Specific dates for the reviews will be announced at the beginning of each semester in the DES 2001 classes. They will also be posted on the Design and Illustration Canvas group. All full-time DES faculty will serve on the Portfolio Feedback Committee.

Applicants must have completed all Tyler Foundations courses (or had approved transfer courses as noted by the Tyler Admissions Office) and the three (3) prerequisites for the major: DES 2001, DES 2002, and DES 2003 with a C-minus or better.

Application and Feedback

Application forms for students who wish to major in Illustration and Emerging Media will be available for eligible students in the department's Design and Illustration Canvas group.

Students who have completed or who are currently enrolled in the three prerequisites for the Illustration and Emerging Media major (DES 2001, DES 2002, and DES 2003) and intend to submit an application for the mandatory portfolio feedback session will be able to obtain an application form, template, and detailed application instructions on Canvas by mid-semester.

Incomplete or late portfolio feedback applications will not be reviewed, but students may re-apply for the next review cycle.

Following the Portfolio Feedback session, students will receive their feedback and acceptance to their chosen major. All students must confirm their intent to major by the deadline or they will forfeit their admission and will need to re-apply in the next portfolio feedback cycle.

Junior Requirements

Code	Title	Credit Hours
DES 3001	Design and Illustration	3
DES 3002	Digital Tools	3
DES 3301	Illustration 1	3
DES 3302	Illustration 2	3
Select one DES Studio Elective from the list below		3
One additional Studio Elective is required and is strongly recommended to be taken from the DES or additional Studio Electives listed below		3
Illustration History Requirement		
Select one of the following:		4
DES 3403	History of Illustration	
ARTH 2676		
Total Credit Hours		22

Note:

In the junior year, Illustration 1 and 2 must be taken in sequence (DES 3301 in Fall and DES 3302 in Spring).

Senior Requirements

Code	Title	Credit Hours
DES 3303	Illustration 3	3
Select two DES Studio Electives from the list below		6
One additional Studio Elective is required and is strongly recommended to be taken from the DES or additional Studio Electives listed below		3
Capstone Requirements		
DES 4096	Capstone: Thesis	3
DES 4301	Capstone: Illustration Portfolio	3
Total Credit Hours		18

Note:

- Additional 3000-level DES courses may be taken as studio electives.
- The Capstone DES 4096 Thesis and DES 4301 Illustration Portfolio are offered in spring semesters only. These two courses must be taken in addition to the required DES courses listed above.
- DES 4096 is one of the two required writing intensive courses. The other writing intensive course must be DES 3596 or an Art History course.

DES Studio Electives

Code	Title	Credit Hours
DES 3531		3
DES 3532		3
DES 3533		3
DES 3541		3
DES 3542		3
DES 3543		3
DES 3544		3
DES 3545		3
DES 3546		3
DES 3547		3
DES 3548		3
DES 3549		3
DES 3551		3
DES 3552		3
DES 3553		3

DES 3554	3
DES 3555	3
DES 3556	3
DES 3557	3
DES 3558	3
DES 3559	3
DES 3561	3
DES 3562	3
DES 3563	3
DES 3564	3
DES 3565	3
DES 3566	3
DES 3567	3
DES 3568	3
DES 3569 or ART 3041	3
DES 3571	3
DES 3572	3
DES 3573	3
DES 3585	3
DES 3596	3
DES 3651	3
DES 3841	3
DES 3842	3
DES 3101	3
DES 3102	3
DES 3201	3
DES 3202	3

Additional Recommended Studio Electives

Code	Title	Credit Hours
ART 2701	Survey of Lithography and Serigraphy	3
ART 2702	Survey of Etching and Relief	3
ART 2704	Serigraphy	3
ART 2705	Etching	3
ART 2707	Lithography	3
ART 1702	Artist Books, Zines and Independent Publishing	3
ART 2205	Book Structures	3
ART 2501 or ART 2503	Painting	3
ART 2507 or ART 3517 or ART 3518	Intermediate Figure Drawing	3
ART 3503 or ART 4503	Landscape	3
ART 1010	Special Topics	1 to 3
ART 1504	Philadelphia Sketchbook	3
ART 1502	Introduction to Visual Language, Painting	3
ART 2502 or ART 2504	Intermediate Drawing	3
ART 2506	Painting Workshop	3

or ART 3509	Painting Workshop	
ART 3511	Digital Drawing	3
ART 3507	Painting on Paper	3
or ART 3508	Painting on Paper	
ART 3504	Figure Painting	3
or ART 4504	Figure Painting	
ART 2011	Socially Engaged Arts Practices in Communities	3
ART 3702	Relief and Monoprint Workshop	3
ART 3704	Advanced Serigraphy	3
ART 3705	Advanced Etching	3
ART 3706	Advanced Lithography	3
ART 2601	Photo I: Digital	3
ART 2602	Digital Imaging	3
ART 2061	Moving Image and Sound	3
ART 3603	Darkroom Photography	3
ART 3604	Photographic Lighting	3
ART 2611	Eco-Friendly Plant Based Photo Printing	3
ART 3612	Photo Process Workshop	3
ART 3613	Digital Photography	3
ART 3614	The Photo Book: Making and Understanding	3

Suggested Academic Plan

Please note that this is a **suggested** academic plan. Depending on your situation, your academic plan may look different.

Bachelor of Fine Arts in Illustration and Emerging Media

Suggested Plan for New Students Starting in the 2024-2025 Academic Year

Year 1		Credit Hours
Fall		
FDPR 1511	Foundation Drawing ¹	3
FDPR 1521	2D Foundation Principles	3
FDPR 1531	3D Foundation Principles/W	3
FDPR 1503	Woodshop Fundamentals	1
ARTH 1155	Arts of the World I: Prehistoric to 1300	3
or ARTH 1955	or Honors Arts of the World I: Prehistoric to 1300	
ENG 0802	Analytical Reading and Writing [GW]	4
or ENG 0812	or Analytical Reading and Writing: ESL [GW]	
or ENG 0902	or Honors Analytical Reading and Writing [GW]	
Credit Hours		17
Spring		
FDPR 1512	Foundation Drawing	3
FDPR 1522	2D Foundation Principles	3
FDPR 1532	3D Foundation Principles/C	3
FDPR 1502	Investigations of Art and Design	1
ARTH 1156	Arts of the World II: 1300 to the 21st Century ¹	3
or ARTH 1956	or Honors Arts of the World II: 1300 to the 21st Century	
IH 0851	Intellectual Heritage I: The Good Life [GY]	3
or IH 0951	or Honors Intellectual Heritage I: The Good Life [GY]	
Credit Hours		16
Year 2		
Fall		
DES 2001	Introduction to Design and Illustration	3
DES 2002	Introduction to Digital Tools	3
DES 2003	Introduction to Typography	3

IH 0852	Intellectual Heritage II: The Common Good [GZ]	3
or IH 0952	or Honors Intellectual Heritage II: The Common Good [GZ]	
GenEd Quantitative Literacy Course [GQ]		4
Credit Hours		16
Spring		
DES or ART 2000-2999 Sophomore Studio Elective		3
ART 2000-2999 Sophomore Studio Elective		3
ART 2000-2999 Sophomore Studio Elective		3
GenEd Breadth Course		3
GenEd Breadth Course		3
Credit Hours		15
Year 3		
Fall		
DES 3001	Design and Illustration	3
DES 3002	Digital Tools	3
DES 3301	Illustration 1 ²	3
Select one of the following:		4
ARTH 2676		
DES 3403	History of Illustration	
GenEd Breadth Course		3
Credit Hours		16
Spring		
DES 3302	Illustration 2 ³	3
DES Studio Elective		3
DES or ART Studio Elective		3
Art History Elective (WI) ^{4, 5}		4
GenEd Breadth Course		3
Credit Hours		16
Year 4		
Fall		
DES 3303	Illustration 3 ^{2, 6}	3
DES Studio Elective ⁶		3
DES Studio Elective ⁶		3
Non-Studio Elective		3
GenEd Breadth Course		3
Credit Hours		15
Spring		
DES 4096	Capstone: Thesis [WI] ³	3
DES 4301	Capstone: Illustration Portfolio ^{3, 6}	3
DES or ART Studio Elective		3
GenEd Breadth Course		3
Open Elective ⁴		3
Credit Hours		15
Total Credit Hours		126

¹ These 2 courses constitute the waiver for the GenEd Arts category if the courses are completed with a C- or better.

² Courses offered in Fall only.

³ Courses offered in Spring only.

⁴ Students completing a three-credit Art History 2000+ elective must select a four-credit open elective to reach the minimum 126 credits to earn the BFA degree.

⁵ DES 3596 may be taken to fulfill the second Writing Intensive course requirement. If so, a non-Writing Intensive Art History course will fulfill the Art History requirement.

⁶ DES 3301 or DES 3302 or DES 3303 and a minimum of two DES 3000-3999 studios must be successfully completed in the Fall to take DES 4101 or DES 4201 or DES 4301.