

## Graphic Design - Advising Guide

### *Things Graphic Design Majors and Minors Need To Know*

1. The Visual Arts Department has two separate programs and a minor in both Dahlonega and Gainesville: an Art Major with Graphic Design; a Visual Arts B.F.A. in Graphic design; and a Graphic Design minor. Majors will be assigned an advisor based on where they are in the program. The following Graphic Design faculty advisors are [Prof. Jon Mehlferber](#) in Dahlonega and [Prof. Tiffany Prater](#) in Gainesville.
2. Consistent and regular communication with your graphic design advisors is mandatory and necessary for successful progression through the B.A., B.F.A. and minor programs. Students planning to pursue the B.F.A. Graphic design program must first communicate with the graphic design faculty and contact the B.F.A. Coordinator.
3. Students must familiarize themselves with the all-program requirements located on our department website.
4. Required courses: Students planning to pursue either a B.A. or B.F.A. with a focus in Graphic design must pass the Foundations Portfolio Review first before registering for the 3000 and 4000 level studio and art history courses. Graphic Design minors are excluded from the Foundations Portfolio Review but must take the required courses.
5. All students must plan on acquiring a laptop – read below for laptop recommendations.
6. B.A. students are required to take ART 4850 Internship in Visual Arts to complete their plan of study. B.F.A. students are not required but may register for the internship course to expand their portfolio. This is not available to graphic design minors.
7. Students must be mindful that the classes are available on each campus through course rotation. Therefore, should students need one last class to graduate on time, which is only available on another campus, they may travel to the other campus, waitlist, or take the course next semester.
8. Both B.A. and B.F.A. students are expected to join and participate in the events organized by the [AIGA Atlanta chapter](#) and the [AIGA Student board](#). Joining this professional design organization is the best way to network and gain internship and job opportunities off-campus.

## Laptop Recommendations

A personal computer is and will continue to be an essential part of the educational experience. Students will need access to personal computer technologies as they move through their educational experience at the University of North Georgia. In some cases, the personal computer may not be used in class but will be required to complete class assignments; in other instances, the personal computer will be an integral part of the classroom experience. We recommend that all entering graphic design majors have an Apple laptop computer. **Please note that purchasing an iPad or a tablet will NOT replace a laptop, as you must learn how to use various tools in specific software.**

### Hardware requirements:

Students should budget **at least** \$1500 for a MacBook Pro. The hardware requirements are subject to change each year as Apple develops and markets new laptop models, so please consult one of the Graphic Design faculty before purchasing.

### Software requirements:

- Microsoft Office (student edition through [UNG IT Software portal](#))
- Adobe Creative Cloud Design Standard education version ([www.adobe.com](http://www.adobe.com) or [UNG IT](#)) - Adobe Creative Cloud Design Standard Collection is strongly recommended for students interested in the Graphic Design option.

- Students going into the B.A. and B.F.A. in Graphic Design programs would be expected to subscribe to the Adobe Creative Cloud (education version) at that time.

#### Purchasing a laptop and financial aid

If you require additional information on this subject, please call the [U.N.G. Financial Aid](#) or visit the Financial Aid office. In addition, before purchasing your computer and software for your college career, you should check the pricing available for computer and software bundles through the [U.N.G. Bookstore](#), [Best Buy](#), [Apple](#), and [SWAPPA](#).

#### Hardware and software support

- It is the student's responsibility to maintain their laptop in good working order for use in the classroom. Any damage and associated repairs, loss, or operating problems that may occur will be the student's sole responsibility. Students must have their laptops repaired as needed at their own expense or secure another unit meeting minimum hardware and software requirements on which they can work.
- Late work lost data, and other such problems due to any incident associated with a student's laptop will not be accepted by professors. Students are advised to back up their digital files in multiple formats so all data can easily be transferred to another computer if needed.
- Students are also advised to purchase laptops from reputable vendors with good warranty programs and proven quality service. Additionally, we recommend that students strongly consider purchasing extended warranty and service plans.
- The University of North Georgia does not offer any university-wide hardware repair service, and students must visit repair shops off-campus.

**Accessibility:** If you need this document in another format, please email Tiffany Prater, or call 678-696-2629.