

FOR TRANSFER STUDENTS

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Illustrators tell stories, express ideas and communicate through visual art. The profession spans a wide range of applications, encompassing graphic novels, scientific illustration, visual development for animation and games, children's books, interactive illustration and anything an illustrator can bring to life. The field includes editorial, advertising, and product illustration. Given the vast array of opportunities, today's illustrators must understand how to communicate effectively with a chosen medium and situate their work professionally within a particular market.

Students in the illustration emphasis receive instruction in conceptual illustration, digital illustration, rendering, perspective, painting, exhibition preparation, professional practices and the use of various artistic and illustration techniques. In preparation for a professional illustration career, the course work allows students to master numerous essential digital and traditional tools.

ACADEMIC ADVISING

Freshmen with fewer than 30 credits and/or CAM students who are Undeclared are assigned to the Center for Undergraduate Exploration and Advising (CUE&A). All other College of Arts & Media (CAM) students with more than 30 credits who have declared CAM majors are assigned to the CAM Office of Advising and Student Services.

Students can connect with the internal CAM admissions team to learn more about the program, additional admission requirements, spaces, equipment and technology.

Students with a declared CAM major that have more than 30 credits are encouraged to meet with a CAM advisor every semester prior to registration.

Freshmen with fewer than 30 credits and/or CAM students that are Undeclared students are assigned to the Center for Undergraduate Exploration and Advising. These students are required to meet with an advisor every semester prior to registration.

CAM Recruitment and Enrollment

CAMinfo@ucdenver.edu

Visit the CAM website [here](#)

Arts Building, Suite 177
303-315-7400 (option 1)

CAM Office of Advising and Student Services

CAMadvising@ucdenver.edu

Visit the CAM website [here](#)

Arts Building, Suite 177
303-315-7400 (option 1)

Center for Undergraduate Exploration and Advising (CUE&A)

CUEA@ucdenver.edu

Visit the CUEA website [here](#)

Student Commons 1113
303-315-1940

GENERAL GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS & POLICIES

All CU Denver CAM students are required to complete the following minimum general graduation requirements to be eligible to apply for graduation:

1. Complete a minimum of 120 semester hours
2. Achieve a minimum 2.0 CU cumulative grade point average (GPA)
3. Complete a minimum of 45 upper-division (3000- to 4000-level) semester hours
4. Complete all CU Denver Core, CLAS, and major requirements
5. Complete a minimum of 30 hours at CU Denver

*The following are **maximum** semester hours that can apply toward the minimum 120 hours required for graduation:*

- 16 semester hours Pass/Fail
- 12 semester hours of Independent Study
- 12 semester hours of internship credit

PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS & POLICIES

The following program requirements are based on degree requirements for the current Catalog year at CU Denver and are subject to change. Students are responsible for completing degree requirements based on the Catalog year for which they are admitted.

Students are responsible for meeting with the major/faculty advisor in the department to confirm major requirements. In addition to completing all CU Denver Core and CAM requirements, students completing the BFA Fine Arts, Illustration Emphasis Degree are required to complete the following minimum program requirements:

1. Students must complete a minimum of 27 FINE credit hours.
2. Students must complete a minimum of 21 upper division (3000-level and above) FINE credit hours. Most upper division courses have lower division pre-requisites.
3. Students must achieve a minimum GPA of 2.0 for all courses applied to major requirements.
4. Students must complete all major courses taken at CU Denver with a minimum grade of C (2.0) and all transfer courses applying to major requirements with a minimum grade of C- (1.7). Students cannot complete major course requirements as pass/fail.
5. Students must complete a minimum of 21 FINE credit hours with CU Denver faculty.

ILLUSTRATION

Bachelor of Fine Arts (B.F.A.) – Catalog Year 2026-2027

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COURESWORK THAT CAN BE COMPLETED AT PREVIOUS INSTITUTION

The following is a “bucket” of requirements students can complete prior to transferring to CU Denver, including equivalent Colorado Community College System (CCCS) courses. To determine the equivalencies of courses to be completed at non-CU Denver institutions, students can visit www.transferology.com. It is critical students connect with a CU Denver academic advisor to ensure planned courses will transfer *and* apply to CU Denver degree requirements. All non-CU Denver coursework must be completed with a C- or better to be eligible for transfer.

Students interested in completing an Associate (A.A. or A.S.) Degree or a [Colorado Statewide Transfer Articulation Agreement or Degree with Designation \(DWD\)](#) must work with their community/junior college academic advisor to create an academic plan that accounts for all degree or transfer articulation agreement requirements. Colorado Community College Students may also explore the option to complete [Reverse Transfer](#) at CU Denver.

CU Denver Requirements	CU Denver Credits	CCCS Equivalent Courses & Notes	CCCS Credits
CU Denver Core Curriculum Requirements	34 - 40		
ENGL 1020 – Core Composition I	3	ENG 1021	3
ENGL 2030 – Core Composition II	3	ENG 1022	3
Mathematics	3 - 4	GT-MA1 (<i>MAT 1240 recommended</i>)	3 - 4
Arts	3	GT-AH (<i>ART 1111 recommended</i>)	3
Humanities	3	GT-AH or GT-HI (<i>ART 1112 recommended</i>)	3
Behavioral Sciences	3 - 4	GT-SS	3 - 4
Social Sciences	3 - 4	GT-SS or GT-HI*	3 - 4
Natural/Physical Science with lab	4 - 5	GT-SC1	4 - 5
Natural/Physical Science without lab or Math	3 - 5	GT-SC2 or GT-MA1 (<i>except the course used for Core Math</i>) or GT-SC1	3 - 5
International Perspectives	3	Additional GT-AH, HI, SS* (<i>see note below</i>)	3
Cultural Diversity	3	<i>To be completed at CU Denver. This requirement must be completed with an upper-division course and CCCS courses will not apply.</i>	
Non-Major Arts (Music, Theatre, Film, or Dance)	3		3
Illustration Transfer Credits	27 - 42		
FINE 2600 Art History Survey I	3	ART 1111	3
FINE 2610 Art History Survey II	3	ART 1112	3
FINE 1100 Drawing I	3	ART 1201	3
FINE 2100 Drawing for Story	3	ART 1002	3
FINE 1500 3-Dimensional Design	3	ART 1003	3
FINE 1150 or 2155 Darkroom or Digital Photography	3	ART 1401 or 1402	3
FINE 2020 Life Drawing II: Anatomy and Portraiture	3	ART 1202	3
FINE 2030 Life Drawing	3	ART 1203	3
FINE 3050 Figure Drawing and Painting	3	Please consult a CAM Advisor for options.	3
FINE 2200 Painting I	3	ART 1301	3
Visual Arts Electives	0-12	Please consult a CAM Advisor for options.	
Pre-20 th C. Art History Elective	0-3	Please consult a CAM Advisor for options.	0-3

Total	61 - 82		
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*The applicability of Guaranteed Transfer (GT Pathways) courses to specific CU Denver Core Curriculum requirements requires completion of a block of five courses: two GT-AH course; one GT-HI course; one GT-SS course; and one additional GT-AH, GT-HI, or GT-SS course.

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SAMPLE PLAN – COURESWORK TO BE COMPLETED AT CU DENVER

Based on successful completion of 60 applicable transfer credits and the complete “bucket” of requirements outlined above, students would have the following remaining to complete at CU Denver. At CU Denver, students must tailor this plan based on the evaluation of previously completed college coursework (e.g., AP, IB, CLEP, dual/concurrent enrollment, and transfer credit), course availability, individual preferences related to course load, summer term courses, part-time or full-time student status, or add-on programs such as minors or double-majors.

YEAR ONE

Fall	CRS
FINE 2405 Software Applications for Digital Design or 2406	3
FINE 2415 Typography Studio (<i>Fall only</i>)	3
FINE 3010 Illustration 1: Image Making (<i>Fall only</i>)	3
Total Credit Hours	9

Spring	CRS
FINE 3450 Digital Painting	3
Cultural Diversity	3
Upper Division Elective	3
Total Credit Hours	9

YEAR TWO

Fall	CRS
FINE 3410 Illustration II: Digital Media (<i>Fall only</i>)	3
FINE 3030 Media in Drawing	3
Upper Division Elective	3
Total Credit Hours	9

Spring	CRS
FINE 4001 Illustration III: Investigative Methods (<i>Spring only</i>)	3
FINE 3014 Graphic Novel Workshop	3
FINE 4990 Contemporary Art	3
Total Credit Hours	9

YEAR THREE

Fall	CRS
FINE 4002 Illustration IV: Professional Practice (<i>Fall only</i>)	3
FINE 4000 The Business of Art	3
Upper Division Elective	3
Total Credit Hours	9

Spring	CRS
FINE 4003 Illustration BFA Thesis (<i>Spring only</i>)	3
Upper Division Elective	3
Total Credit Hours	6