Thank for your interest in the Graphic Design Major.

The following examples are to demonstrate a variety of possible works to include, descriptions, and reflective statements. This does not represent a complete portfolio, or how it will look in Slideroom.

Including works from studio Art can help demonstrate your readiness for Foundations Studio classes, while including Graphic Design specific works can help demonstrate your potential for future success in the Major. (For more information, please see the FAQ section of the Entrance Portfolio Guidelines)

Please note that the included works were created by college-level students, so you should view them as aspirational examples.

The work in your portfolio will not be compared to these for entry into the program.

Email any questions to: aahadmissions@uncc.edu
Including Graphic Design specific works like this can help demonstrate your potential for future success in the Major.

I created these in my Graphic Design 1 class during my freshman year. The assignment was to create two signs that represent a place that has meaning for me. I chose to represent Arcelia, a small town in Mexico where my grandmother lives. The first one is an icon of a scorpion, which I remember seeing in the dry desert when I visited. The drawing style was influenced by patterns found in woven Mexican blankets. The second is an abstract symbol that represents the way I felt while visiting my family there, happy but hot. I combined shapes that were based on an agave plant, a heart, and rays of the sun. Both signs were first drawn by hand in pencil, and then inked with micron pens. I then scanned and traced them in Adobe Illustrator. For reference, I used photos from Wiki-commons for the scorpion and some others that my parents took on our trip.
In the Fall of 2022, I created these letterform compositions for my Typography I class. The goal was to learn about different typeface designs as well as how to identify them by name. After studying the specific parts of letterforms, we then focused on the 7 different characteristics that all typeface designs have, which are serif or sans serif, width, weight, x-height, ascenders/descenders, thick/thin contrast, and stress.

Next, we used InDesign to create 7 black and white compositions using only letterforms, and each needed to communicate one characteristic. For the first one, I used a calligraphic capital F from Fette Fraktur, a Bodoni lowercase o, and a Futura lowercase o to show the differences in thick/thin contrast. The second composition contrasts the large serifs of a Baskerville H with the sans serif Univers i, and the third shows the different x-heights of 2 different serif typefaces, Baskerville and Rockwell.
During the spring semester of 2020, we had to move all of our classes online because of COVID-19. In response, our Graphic Design 1 class was given an assignment to create a series of pop-up display ads in one week to get a message out quickly.

We had to design several compositions that used the actual dimensions of ads placed in Google. One challenge was that they had to work equally well in both a horizontal and vertical format.

I was feeling frustrated that some college students were not taking the pandemic seriously. I wanted to create an ad that they could relate to, so I took photos of my roommate who sleeps a lot. My goal was to make something that was simple and funny, but also showed the reality of the pandemic. In the first photo, he looks like he might be sleeping or he might be dead. In the second, his eyes pop open in a comical way. I had him wear a black shirt so I could contrast the red and white type on top, and wrote the text to make a visual pun.
I created these pieces for an assignment in my 2D Design class. The project was to create two compositions that showed the difference between symmetrical and asymmetrical balance using only black and white and positive/negative space. The theme of the assignment was to explore the environment and be inspired by objects in nature.

I found the trees for the symmetrical composition in the woods behind my house where I walk all the time. It was fall, so I could lay on the leaf covered ground and look up to take the photo. I took the photo of the asymmetrical flowers in the greenhouse on campus during my first visit there.

We used our photos for reference as we made 10 thumbnail sketches for each composition in our sketchbook. After a critique, we picked the best ones and drew them more carefully on bristol board. We then used micron pens and gouache to fill in the flat shapes. I enjoyed making the flowers more than the trees, because filling the spaces between the branches was difficult.
I have always loved to draw, especially people. I created this self-portrait in my figure drawing class last year, which was a challenge. The assignment was to draw while looking in the mirror, and we could not use a photograph. This was hard for me because I am not used to staring at myself for that long, and my cheeks hurt from smiling. We could use any media we wanted, and I chose charcoal and conté pencils so I could draw details.

I wanted to show myself looking happy and confident. So, I emphasized my raised dark eyebrows and dimples, and drew my eyes staring straight at the viewer. I don't like to smudge and blend charcoal because it can be too messy. So, I used contour lines to create the soft and round shapes in my face with bright white highlights to show volume. Since my hair is very dark brown and almost black, I drew it as a flat shape first, then added light brown lines to create depth. Drawing the reflections in my eyeglasses was a challenge, but I am happy with the result.
I created this sculpture for an assignment in my 3D Design class. The project was to choose an object and recreate it as a large contour structural interpretation that showed my understanding of scale, form, rhythm, balance and repetition. We were asked to choose an object that had significance or personal meaning to us and I chose my alarm clock that was given to me by my grandfather before he passed.

After choosing the object, we had to create an orthographic drawing showing all major and minor measurements and then use that drawing as a guide for our sculpture. We also had to complete a series of sample cold connections to practice using the wire and various shop tools. We had multiple in-progress critiques to get feedback as we were working. I am proud of how this turned out and how I was able to overcome lots of challenges along the way.