

Change of Major: Declaring Art or Graphic Design Major FAQs

1. **How do I change my major/declare an art or graphic design major?** The department accepts new students into the art or graphic design majors for Fall semesters only (i.e. students cannot declare an art or graphic design major in Spring semesters). Currently enrolled students at UNC Charlotte must have a cumulative GPA of 2.0 and submit a digital portfolio by the posted yearly deadlines to be considered for admission into the art or graphic design majors. Upon acceptance, students will fill out a change of major form to declare the art or graphic design major and make an advising appointment prior to registering for courses.
2. **How do I find out about the portfolio requirements and submission deadlines?** Portfolio guidelines and information about submission deadlines are available on the Department of Art & Art History's website at: <https://coaa.charlotte.edu/art-art-history/admissions/>
3. **How often are portfolios reviewed for admission into the major?** Portfolios are reviewed once per year in Spring for entrance into the art or graphic design major for the subsequent academic year (Fall and Spring semesters). If a student is not admitted, he or she will need to wait until the next spring for the opportunity to submit a portfolio to be considered for admission into the majors.
4. **Can I take studio art or graphic design courses before submitting a portfolio?** No, students must be officially declared art or graphic design majors (see above re: declaring an art or graphic design major) before taking ANY studio art or graphic design courses offered by the department.
5. **What if I don't have a cumulative GPA of 2.0?** Students should have a 2.0 cumulative GPA at the time of the portfolio review (i.e. final grades for the spring in which you submit your entrance portfolio application will not be included in a GPA calculation as the portfolio review will take place before the end of the semester) to be fully competitive in the portfolio review. Students may still submit a portfolio if they do not meet the minimum GPA requirement, but should know that admission to the major could be denied because of the GPA requirement.
6. **What courses can I consider taking while I am waiting to submit a portfolio for consideration?**
 - Students can take ARTH 1211 Art History Survey I and ARTH 1212 Art History Survey II without being an art major. Both courses are requirements for all programs in the department. These courses do not have pre-requisites and can be taken in any order, but it is not suggested that they be taken in the same semester.
 - The Department of Art and Art History also has a foreign language proficiency requirement through the 1102 or 1202 level for BA in Art and through the 1101 or 1201 level for BFA in Art or Graphic Design. To check on the exemption, go to your My UNC Charlotte account, click on Banner Self Service, then go to Student Services, then Student Records, and finally to Advising Transcript. On your advising transcript, look at the upper left of the page. It will say 'Foreign Language Exempt' or 'Foreign Language Not Exempt'. If you are not exempt, you will need to either take a placement test and score through the required level in a foreign language for your degree program (1202 for BA or 1201 for BFA) or take the

course(s) at UNC Charlotte. If students have transferred in a foreign language, it must be at the appropriate level based on degree program. Contact Megan Garner (MeganGarner@charlotte.edu) if you have questions regarding the foreign language requirement.

- Students should also work on completing general education requirements while waiting to submit a portfolio.
- Students are strongly encouraged to pursue another major while waiting to submit a portfolio for consideration into the art or graphic design major. If the student is accepted into the art or graphic design major later, then the student can decide to complete requirements for both majors or turn the initial major into a minor if offered.

7. How long will it take for me to graduate once accepted into the major? Graduation will depend on the degree a student chooses to pursue. The BA in Art major requirements can be completed in about 4 semesters while BFA in Art and BFA in Graphic Design take a minimum of 6-8 semesters to complete. However, students should choose their degree program based on their future career goals as each program prepares students for different career paths.

8. What is the difference in the BA in Art and the BFA in Art (with concentration areas)? All undergraduate college degrees, the BFA included, must have a general studies (liberal arts) component. The difference between a BFA and a BA in Art is in the ratio between art/design and general studies courses. In the BA in Art degree approximately 2/3 of the course work is in general studies, with the remainder in visual arts. In a BFA approximately 2/3 of the course work is in the "creation and study of the visual arts," with the remainder in general studies. The BFA is the appropriate degree for serious, motivated students seeking to become professional artists, designers, or those who plan to pursue graduate studies in studio art. The BA degree is recommended primarily for students seeking a double major or seeking a career in a field other than studio art.

9. Can I submit again if I did not get accepted the first time I submitted a portfolio? Students can apply to become an Art or Graphic Design major only twice. If you are a current UNC Charlotte student, and you have been denied admittance to the Department of Art & Art History after two yearly admission cycles, you will need to pursue another course of study.

10. Who should I contact with questions about the department, majors, portfolio, etc.?

- If you have questions regarding the portfolio requirements, portfolio deadlines, etc. please contact aahadmissions@charlotte.edu
- If you have questions regarding academic advising, transfer equivalencies, time to graduation, etc. for the **Art Major**, please contact Megan Garner, at: MeganGarner@charlotte.edu
- If you have questions regarding academic advising, transfer equivalencies, time to graduation, etc. for the **Graphic Design Major**, please contact COAA-Advising@charlotte.edu