

MFA in Illustration & Visual Culture

Website: <https://samfoxschool.wustl.edu/academics/college-of-art/mfa-in-illustration-and-visual-culture>

Degree Requirements

MFA in Illustration & Visual Culture

The Graduate School of Art subscribes to the standards for the MFA degree as set forth by the College Art Association of America (CAA) and the National Association of Schools of Art and Design (NASAD).

The residence requirement for the MFA degree is at least two academic years of full-time study (minimum of 15 units each semester).

The MFA in Illustration & Visual Culture program combines studio work in illustration and cartooning with the academic study of visual and material culture, and it places an emphasis on popular print and hands-on curatorial training in partnership with the Olin Library Special Collections staff. Individual programs of study are arranged with faculty advisors according to the student's area of interest.

Students are expected to proceed at a pace that enables them to finish their degree within the appropriate time limit; this is usually four semesters. Students have a maximum of three calendar years from the date of their first registration to complete the degree. Delays in a two-year completion must be approved by the program chair.

Students will complete a major creative project and a significant writing exercise to position and defend their work.

Students in the class of 2027 and beyond must fulfill the following degree requirements. For class of 2026 academic requirements, consult the 2024-25 Bulletin.

Required	Units
Illustration Studio	30
Visual Culture History & Theory	12
Hands-On Archival Work	6
Electives	12
Total	60

The two-year program can be organized as follows:

Code	Title	Units
Year 1: Fall		
DESIGN 5010	Illustration Studio 1: Drawing and Voice	6
DESIGN 5160	Reading Pictures: Illustration History	3
DESIGN 5120	Special Collections: Practice & Purpose	3
Elective		3
Year 1: Spring		

DESIGN 5020	Illustration Studio II: Artist, Author, Audience	6
DESIGN 5401	Literatures of Drawing	3
DESIGN 5140	Special Collections: Exhibition & Engagement	3
DESIGN 5130	Comics and Cartooning: A Critical Survey	3
Year 2: Fall		
DESIGN 6010	Illustration & Visual Culture Thesis Studio I	9
DESIGN 6150	Readings in Visual and Material Culture	3
Elective		3
Year 2: Spring		
DESIGN 6020	Illustration & Visual Culture Thesis Studio II	9
Electives		6
Total Units		60

- Art and design electives introduce students to the intellectual and conceptual issues and production methods of a broad array of practices that complement and expand the student's studio practice. MFA students must take College of Art electives at the 5000 level.
- Courses taken outside the College of Art by MFA students must be at the 3000 level or above to count as graduate-level credit and require prior approval by the student's academic advisor (program chair) in advance of registration.
- Students may not register for courses in the School of Continuing & Professional Studies.