

# Art and Design

Would you consider yourself a creatively-oriented person? Do you create works of art as a means of emotional expression? Would you like to earn a living with your artwork? If so, an Art and Design degree can provide you the educational background requisite for a career as a professional artist.

NMU's School of Art and Design prepares students for many occupations: artists, designers, educators, etc. Graduates of the program are employed throughout the country in careers ranging from art directors and teachers to entrepreneurs of varied enterprises. In recent years, the school has expanded its offerings to provide additional career opportunities in areas such as blacksmithing, computer art, video production and commercial photography. NMU's Art and Design curriculum prepares students for careers requiring both a formal background in art history and hands-on studio instruction.

## Skills and Competencies

As in most other fields, strong interpersonal communication and organizational skills are a must for any professional. Some other valuable skills and competencies specific to a profession involving Art and Design include being a self starter, entrepreneurial-minded, highly motivated, possessing superior problem solving aptitude and being amenable to an irregular work schedule.

## Course Work

This degree includes the following courses as part of the program requirements, and specific major requirements along with general education courses and graduation requirements.

### Art Core

**AD101 Process & Design (4 cr.)**

**Art History Elective (4cr.) Selected from:  
AD110, AD230, AD240, or AD260**

**2D Studio (4 cr.) Selected from:  
AD117, AD119, or AD120**

**3D Studio (4 cr.) Selected from:  
AD111, AD116, AD122, AD 123, or  
AD124**

**Digital Studio (4 cr.) Selected from:  
AD112, AD118, or AD134**

**AD270 Social Structures and Concepts (4 cr.)**

**Art and Design Electives (8 cr.)  
100 and 200 level courses**

## Career Development

You should begin the resume-building process as soon as you can. The Academic and Career Advisement Center can assist you with career planning, while Career Services will help you fine tune your resume and look for jobs related to your field. In the meantime, the more hands-on experience you have, the better the chances are that you will find a job. Becoming involved in a professional related internship is a way to develop your professional skills and gain experience. Your academic course work is important as well, so be sure to maintain a high grade point average.

## Additional Considerations

This two-year art curriculum leads to an associate of applied arts degree in one of the following area majors: computer art (publishing, modeling), drawing/painting, illustration, printmaking, ceramics, sculpture, metalworking, woodworking, furniture design, graphic communication, photography, digital cinema, or human centered design.

Some of the occupation listed will require more schooling than the associate degree provides.

## Job Outlook

Despite heavy competition, the Art field is expected to expand by 13% in the coming years, making it a faster than average career growth. Salary potential for artists is varied among location and type of profession. Generally speaking, an introductory job will net about \$35,000, while the highest paid managers or top artists will make six-digit figures.

# Potential Careers

NMU's Art and Design Program prepares students for employment in the following careers:

- Animator
- Architect
- Art Historian
- Artist's Agent
- Blacksmith
- Ceramic Artist
- College Professor
- Elementary or Secondary Teacher
- Graphic Designer
- Illustrator
- Interior Designer
- Jewelry Designer
- Marketing Consultant
- Museum Curator
- Photographer
- Product Designer
- Set Designer
- Video Maker
- Web Administrator
- Web Designer
- Woodworker

# Additional Resources and Information

For Career Planning and Opportunities:  
Academic & Career Advisement Center  
3302.1 C.B. Hedgcock  
906-227-2971  
[www.nmu.edu/acac](http://www.nmu.edu/acac)

School of Art and Design  
159 Art and Design  
906-227-2852  
[www.nmu.edu/art](http://www.nmu.edu/art)

For Job Search, Resume and Career Information:  
Career Services  
3302.3 C.B. Hedgcock  
906-227-2800  
[www.nmu.edu/careers](http://www.nmu.edu/careers)

For Information about NMU Student Organizations Associated with this Major Contact:  
Center for Student Enrichment  
1206 University Center  
906-227-2439  
[www.nmu.edu/cse](http://www.nmu.edu/cse)

American Institute of Graphic Arts  
[www.nmuaiga.org](http://www.nmuaiga.org)  
Art Students League  
Industrial Designers Society of America  
Student Illustrator Syndicate

Internet Resource Links:  
[www.careers.org](http://www.careers.org)  
[www.bls.gov](http://www.bls.gov)

For Career Information with National Organizations:  
[www.collegeart.org](http://www.collegeart.org) -The College Art Association  
[www.naea-reston.org](http://www.naea-reston.org) -National Art Education Association



**NORTHERN MICHIGAN  
UNIVERSITY**

The Academic & Career Advisement Center  
2021



What to do with  
a major in...

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Associate's Degree

