Students in the Graphic Design Associate in Science, Liberal Studies degree program will gain the knowledge and skills to design and produce professional-level projects that will prepare them to enter the graphic-design workplace and/or transfer to a college or university. These techniques are taught on state-of-the-art Macintosh equipment and software packages. This major program of study prepares students for transfer to a 4-year degree program in Graphic Design. Some students enroll in this major to take foundation courses like drawing, 2-D design, 3-D design and art appreciation at MCC and then transfer to 4-year BA and BFA programs. Others use the MCC program to help them create a portfolio of work — a requirement for most design programs — and apply to design programs as freshman. Students also enroll in this major to test the waters and see if they like design before committing to a 4-year program.

It is important to know that graphic designers require specialized training and most attend an undergraduate program for 4 years — some also complete a masters program for 2 to 3 additional years — before embarking on a career. Some graphic designers do not complete degrees and go on to have successful careers anyway, but this is rare. The field is very competitive and graphic designers are expected to demonstrate a high level of skill and creativity to be successful.

EXPLORE YOUR OPTIONS WITH ACADEMIC ADVISING

Throughout each semester, meet with your advisor so that he/she can guide you through a self-exploration process that will help you identify your academic and career interests.

Beginning of Semester:
___ Schedule an appointment to meet with your academic advisor during the first few weeks to discuss future plans and how a Graphic Design Associate in Science degree can help you achieve your goals.
___ Explore your personal interests by completing Focus2, an online career assessment tool: https://www.middlesex.mass.edu/careerservices/focus2.aspx

Mid-Semester:
___ Schedule an appointment with academic advisor review your academic progress, Focus2 results and create an academic plan in Degree Works.

Before Semester Ends:
___ Schedule an appointment to discuss and register for the classes you will take the following semester. (early November for spring, early April for fall and summer).
___ Visit the Academic Career & Transfer Center or call 1-800-818-3434 to schedule an appointment.

GRAPHIC DESIGN ASSOCIATE PROGRAM OUTCOMES

Graduates of the program are prepared to:
- Use the creative process to plan and execute graphic design work;
- Demonstrate knowledge of the formal and expressive aspects of art;
- Create effective visual communications that are responsive to the needs of clients and their targeted audience;
- Articulate the concepts and theoretical ideas in graphic design and use those ideas to evaluate your own work and the work of others;
- Use a variety of art media and graphic design software;
- Present a portfolio suitable for transfer or job application.
IS THE GRAPHIC DESIGN ASSOCIATE IN SCIENCE, LIBERAL STUDIES THE RIGHT FIT FOR ME?

How do I know if I have what it takes to be a graphic designer?
Take this quiz. Give yourself 1 point for every yes.

1. Do you enjoy making things with your hands?
2. Is it important to you to get just the right color or the right size when you are picking out a new phone, coffee mug or notebook?
3. Do you remember how to get places by remembering what the route looks like?
4. Do you work at things for a really long time because it is important to get them right?
5. Do you enjoy looking at art and design and seek it out by visiting museums, galleries, websites, and reading articles and reviews about art?
6. Do people tell you that you have a unique way of looking at things?
7. Would you rather work on a collage/sketch/computer illustration etc. than watch television?
8. Does it energize you to incorporate other people’s ideas into your own work?
9. Can you listen to criticism of your work without it bothering you too much?
10. Can you spend hours working on your computer and enjoy every minute of it (well, mostly)?

If you scored a 6 or more, you would probably like this program. It is almost impossible to tell if you have what it takes to be a graphic designer at this point, but you can try our degree program for a year and see how it goes.
THE CAREER & TRANSFER PATH

What do graphic designers do? Graphic designers create a wide range of products from brochures and magazines to packaging to web sites to signage. They choose colors and type, create inventive shapes and textures, and communicate ideas with creative and beautiful graphics. Some designers work independently as freelancers or heads of their own companies while others work in art departments as part of a team for a corporation or design firm. Design requires good communication skills, the ability to work well with others, a firm grasp of correct English grammar and usage, and skill with math and computers. Graphic designers often work in high-pressure situations with tight deadlines. They need to be able to pull all-nighters and to keep their cool when clients make last minute changes to their orders.

Career Planning Activities:
___ Work with career advisor to create resume, cover letter and help improve your interview skills
___ Identify internship and volunteer opportunities in your desired field
___ Attend career workshops and job fairs

Transfer Planning Activities:
___ Work with an advisor to discuss MassTransfer, Articulations and transfer agreements.
___ Visit your selected campuses in person. Every college looks good online or in a glossy photo, but you can get a better feel when you visit.
___ Meet with a transfer counselor to identify transfer scholarships.
___ Research admissions requirements and deadlines at four-year colleges and universities.

MCC ADVISING RESOURCES

Career Services:
https://www.middlesex.mass.edu/careerservices

Transfer Services:
https://www.middlesex.mass.edu/transfer

MassTransfer:
www.mass.edu/masstransfer/

Financial Aid:
https://www.middlesex.mass.edu/financialaid

Foundation Scholarships:
http://www.middlesex.mass.edu/foundation/scholarships/

College Board Match Maker:
http://collegesearch.collegeboard.com/search/adv_typeofschool.jsp

You can find more information about careers and salaries at: www.bls.gov.