

Department of Design Faculty and Staff

Digital Design & Fabrication

Aaron Nelson

Associate Professor and Program Director

Chad Bridgewater

Assistant Professor

Graphic Design

Chris Andreola

Lecturer

Anne Galperin

Associate Professor and Graphic Design
Program Director

Joshua Korenblat

Associate Professor (on sabbatical 2023-24)

Amy Papaelias

Associate Professor

Etsuko Rosenblum

Lecturer

Staff Members

Anne Galperin

Chair, Department of Design, OLB201

Alanna Dukes

Administrative Assistant, Design Department
Office, SAB108

Peter Demuth

Instructional Support Technician, OLB

Keith Ferris

Instructional Support Technician, OLB

Resources

The College offers all kinds of resources to students. Don't hesitate to use them.

Athletic and Wellness Center <https://nphawks.com/sports/wellness-recreation>

Campus Food Pantry <https://www.newpaltzcas.com/FoodPantry/index.php>

Center for Student Success (845) 257-3580 Old Main, B106 <https://www.newpaltz.edu/studentsuccess/>

Counseling Center HHC 201 (845) 257-2920 <https://www.newpaltz.edu/counseling/>
For emergencies follow the guidance on the 3rd link in the menu at left: "crisis intervention."

Disability Resource Center HAB205 (845) 257-3020 <https://www.newpaltz.edu/drc/>
If you received accommodations in high school or at a previous institution, consult with the DRC to make appropriate arrangements for your time here

Financial Aid <https://www.newpaltz.edu/financialaid/>

Health Center HHC 104 (845) 257-3400 <https://www.newpaltz.edu/healthcenter/>

Plans of study

Regardless of your major, minor or degree type, your Progress Report includes all of the courses required to earn your degree, and tracks whether they're complete, in-progress, or still need to be taken.

Digital Design and Fabrication minor

The sequence of courses for the DDF minor is at <https://www.newpaltz.edu/ugc/interdisciplinary-digital-design--fabrication/minor.html>

Course descriptions are at <https://www.newpaltz.edu/ugc/interdisciplinary-digital-design--fabrication/coursedescriptions.php>

Digital Design and Fabrication MA

A description of the program and required courses is at <https://catalog.newpaltz.edu/graduate/ma-digital-design-fabrication/>

Graphic Design BFA

A downloadable pdf of required major courses is at <https://gd.newpaltz.edu/formsforyou/>

The 8-semester degree plan for Graphic Design is at https://www.newpaltz.edu/ugc/fpa/art/eight_semester_plan.php?major_code=279

*Note that ARS407 Graphic Design Thesis 1 counts as a writing intensive course, so don't take another.

Scholarships

The College posts a variety of scholarship opportunities for every academic year at <https://newpaltz.academicworks.com/opportunities>. Some are major specific, some are general. Each has its own deadlines, so check the site frequently.

The Matt Preziose Creative Scholarship, an opportunity not organized by the university, uses a different application process. Matt was a 2019 graduate of the BFA Graphic Design program at SUNY New Paltz who passed away in March 2022. His coworkers organized a scholarship in Matt's honor for students pursuing arts-related majors at SUNY New Paltz. For more information or to apply for the 2023-2024 school year go to: <https://bold.org/scholarships/matt-preziose-creative-scholarship/>

DEPARTMENT OF DESIGN

STUDENT HANDBOOK

2023-2024

Welcome to the 2023-24 school year!

This Fall, the Digital Design and Fabrication program (DDF), and the Graphic Design program became partners in a new Department of Design. So, it's a good time for us to share some information about the Department and its programs. There's something here for everyone, whether you're a new student or returning after break.

Our Degrees

Digital Design and Fabrication

- Six-course/18 credit Minor in Digital Design and Fabrication, open to all undergraduates
- Master of Arts in Digital Design and Fabrication (a two-year, 36 credit program)

Graphic Design

- Bachelor of Fine Arts in Graphic Design (a four-year, 120 credit program)

Digital Design and Fabrication Program

With an undergraduate minor as well as a Master of Arts program, the Digital Design and Fabrication program's curricula encourages research and communication across fields. Students learn design theory, aesthetics, and 3D modeling skills, along with the study of material properties and constraints and the application of analytical approaches to problem solving. The interdisciplinary curriculum encourages research and communication across fields to provide students with a foundation in design thinking for a modern world.

If you're a Graphic Design major interested in DDF, consider taking the introductory course, DDF205 Computer Aided Design 1. You might want to consider taking more DDF classes (which can be applied to required Graphic Design and/or Art Studio electives) or enrolling in the minor.

The DDF minor Computer-aided design classes are augmented with specialized courses covering computer programming and the use of open-source microprocessor boards, providing students with an understanding of the application and the technological aspects of emerging processes and materials. The minor culminates with a design course focused on the application of human-centered design for the manufacture of functional products that address real-world problems.

The MA in Digital Design and Fabrication If you've begun to take DDF courses as an undergraduate and think you might be interested in DDF's MA program, the University offers a combined Bachelor's/Master's program to enable New Paltz students with a minor in Digital Design and Fabrication to begin taking graduate courses during their senior year, earning up to 12 graduate credits by the time they complete their bachelor's degree. They are then able to complete the graduate degree requirements by enrolling in 18 credits during the subsequent fall and spring terms.

To express interest in and learn more about the DDF minor and MA programs contact Professor Aaron Nelson.

Graphic Design Undergraduate Program

Students who enter the BFA Graphic Design program as first-year or internal transfer students are accepted into a specific cohort. This means you are expected to begin Thesis I in a specific, designated Fall semester and Thesis II the following Spring. Cohort placement for students transferring in from other two or four-year colleges takes place during their first year in our program in consultation with Graphic Design faculty.

Freshmen, take note: while the University encourages students to complete their GEs in the first two years, this is not good advice for Graphic Design majors. Spread out your GEs over your four years here: if you choose well, the GEs can really complement your design work and develop your personal interests and balance out those 6-hour-per-week studios.

Transfer students, take note: depending on the number and kind of previously completed credits and your progress here, you may graduate a semester or two later than you expected. You may have been accepted into our program having completed all your GEs with only Design studios ahead of them. We generally advise students to not take more than 3 studios each semester. Cramming your remaining courses into two years is not to your advantage. Since you were accepted into our program, make the most of it and give yourself the time to develop and practice higher-level skills.

All BFAs: consult your Progress Report regularly and learn how to read it. Although each student has a BFA faculty advisor—and we expect you to meet with us every semester—the College's University's perspective is that because the Report exists, you are responsible for understanding it and tracking your own progress.

Maintain a minimum overall GPA of 3.0

Student progress is evaluated by the program director every semester. If you fall below these requirements, the program director will reach out to meet with you for consultation and to establish a plan. Sometimes this is a signal that a different major would be a better fit.

Sometimes a probationary semester is offered as an opportunity for the student to get on track and improve their work. If there's no improvement in work and/or community relationships and/or grades students may need to select another major.

Actively participate in Graphic Design events and lectures.

The community is YOU. Bring your energy and your passions to the events sponsored to Design Society (meetings are announced on the landing page of our program blog: gd.newpaltz.edu) and the Graphic Design program. Become a leader in the program. Everyone's got something to offer.

Develop amicable and productive relations with faculty, peers and staff.

Working on your projects in the lab is a great way to get to know other people. Maybe you know a technique someone else is trying to figure out? Maybe you want some feedback?

Teaching and learning are a two-way street.

Both you and your faculty have responsibilities here. Work hard. Ask questions. Initiate contact with your advisor. Having challenges? Go to office hours and get sorted out ... don't wait for things to improve on their own. We're pretty approachable and we expect that you'll reach out to us.

Check your newpaltz.edu email daily.

Completely read emails from the program. If you're having challenges in class, make time to talk with your professor about them. If you'd like to seek additional consultation talk with your advisor and/or the 2022-2023 Program Director (Anne Galperin, OLB201, galperia@newpaltz.edu).

Do I need a computer? What kind of computer should I get?

Classes in art and design that require the use of a computer in order to complete projects are held in a computer lab. Students have access during the class itself and also 7 days a week when classes are not held there. Lab schedules are posted outside the lab doors. In the Old Library, for example, where most of the Graphic Design courses are taught, the two teaching labs have open hours and OLB103F is exclusively for student use.

The Graphic Design labs have desktop large-screen Macs, printers, and access to all the software used in our courses, including the Adobe Creative Suite. We encourage students to work in the labs: the computers are top of the line, with large monitors. The software is up to date. It's also a social space and a great way to meet people and get and offer feedback on work in progress. At the same time, most students have a laptop or a tablet. Doing most of your design work on a smaller screen can have an impact on your outcomes: you likely never see the work in totality and at full scale. If you're working in OLB103B, we have 2 external monitors located next to the printers in the back of the room that students with laptops can use in that lab. Give them a try. If enough students are using these, perhaps we can get a few more for the lab and you might also want to invest in one for yourself at home.

Sometimes we'll specify the software we want students to use, and most of it does not run on an iPad. When you use your own device, you'll need an Adobe Creative Suite subscription; student subscriptions are available. Read the terms and conditions.

It's realistic to have a computer of your own and also use the lab equipment. You'll develop skills in going back and forth between your computer and our desktops, which is pretty much what designers going back and forth between working at home and working in a studio have to do. We strongly recommend a portable drive (like SanDisk's 256GB Extreme Pro thumb drive) for you to backup and store your work on. It's unlikely that you'll need more storage than that but if you want more, something like Samsung's T7 1 TB solid-state drive is a good option).

We advise against a PC laptop because there's an additional layer of challenge taking these files back and forth. But if you are willing to develop the tech savvy to do so (which is what we expect you to do), we understand that it's a more affordable option.

How do I know if I should drop a class?

Good reasons to drop a class include:

- reaching the midterm with a grade below B- (in required design courses) and deciding that you don't have the time, energy or desire to improve your work
- you've got more going on than you can realistically handle and aren't able to adjust other time commitments to permit you to focus on your work
- needing to increase your focus on your health and well-being

Dropping classes may affect your financial aid package and time to graduation. If the course is in the major, you'll need to re-enroll in it in another semester. If you receive financial aid, consult with an FA advisor if you're considering making a change in your course load. For future course planning, consult with your advisor after reviewing your progress report.

Fieldwork/Internship Work

Fieldwork requires an overall GPA of 2.5 with a GPA of 3.0 in the major. Students must have completed 18 credits/6 upper division design courses before being eligible. There are two kinds of fieldwork:

- Outside the College and supervised on-site by a creative director, art director or designer. You'd most likely find the opportunity yourself. To register for the class, consult with the GD Program Director, and then complete the binder (on our blog at <https://gd.newpaltz.edu/fieldwork-in-art/>). Download and use the Fieldwork in Design application at the post's end

- An on-campus position, not supervised by a designer. These may include opportunities at the Sojourner Truth Library, the Athletic and Wellness Center, the Departments of Music and Art. For these positions, enroll in New Paltz Design Lab. The course is run as a professional design studio; class meetings will focus on project management, client communication, deadlines and printing budgets, in-progress peer critique, file preparation and production, case study development, and project assessment.

We strongly encourage these experiences in the field. They can be truly transformative and help you find future employment.

Study Abroad

Many students study abroad during Fall and Spring semesters, and in the summer. If you began in the program as a freshman, the best year to study abroad is during your junior year. If you transferred in with 2 years of credit, the summer before beginning Thesis I is best. Learn about opportunities and deadlines at: <https://www.newpaltz.edu/studyabroad/>

When you know the country and school you're headed for, select classes from their course catalog. Consult with your major advisor and your general advisor for equivalencies.