



Rock Valley College Transfer Guide Bachelor of Fine Arts in Graphic Design

Available at:
NEIU Main Campus (Chicago, IL)

Why Choose Northeastern?

Northeastern Illinois University is committed to providing an affordable education. That's why our tuition and fees are among the most affordable of the Illinois public universities. We offer a **tuition guarantee program** that guarantees incoming students the same tuition rate for four years.

Northeastern offers more than 40 undergraduate degree and certificate programs, with classes on weekdays, evenings, weekends, and online. Small class sizes allow for students to pursue a more personal academic experience in one of the most ethnically diverse universities in the nation.

Graphic Design Program Description

The Bachelor of Fine Arts in Graphic Design is an applied arts program with a focus on the development of visual solutions to communication problems, and offers students guided hands-on experience in the creation of visual messages in print and electronic media. Degree candidates in the program are prepared for professional careers in the field and are challenged to research and evaluate the role contemporary design practices hold in our society.

The B.F.A. in Graphic Design begins with a strong foundation in design principles, introduces students to digital technologies and progresses into more specialized courses. Particular emphasis is placed on the development of typographic skills, and students are familiarized with a range of topics including branding/identity design, packaging design, systems design and environmental design through studio and special topics courses. Interaction design, mobile apps, and web design are taught alongside publication design, as well as historic print processes that inform contemporary design practice. The program is enriched through mentorship by professionals in the related fields of photography, digital arts, and printmaking. Courses in these areas help our students develop image-making and print production skills, expose them to base level coding and web development skills, and introduce them to experimental areas of design, which merge elements of branding, web design and development.

The B.F.A. in Graphic Design is a professional degree and students must fulfill required coursework to be admitted to the program.

Contact Information

Northeastern Illinois University Transfer Center: Students who have questions about the program prior to admission may contact the Northeastern Transfer Center at (773) 442-4076 or email TransferSteps@neiu.edu.

Admission Requirements

- Students must have earned a minimum cumulative grade point average of 2.0 or higher for all college or university course work attempted. Students must be in good academic standing at the last college or university attended.
- Required documents are: application for admission, \$30 nonrefundable application fee, and official transcripts from all colleges and universities.
- Additional Admission and application materials, including the option to apply online can be found at www.neiu.edu/Transfer.
- Application deadlines are as follows:

Semester Applying	Deadline to Apply	International Student Deadline to Apply
Fall	July 15	June 15
Spring	November 1	October 1
Summer I	April 1	March 1
Summer II	May 1	April 1

General Education Requirements

Three options are available to students who plan to complete their General Education requirements at Rock Valley College.

- **Associate of Arts or Associate of Science degree:** Students who transfer with an approved Illinois Community College Board (ICCB) Model Associate of Arts degree will have met Northeastern Illinois University's General Education requirements. Students who transfer with an Associate of Science degree granted December 2016 or later may need to take one additional Humanities course and one additional Social and Behavioral Sciences course to meet Northeastern's General Education requirements.
- **Completion of the Illinois Articulation Initiative (IAI):** Students who transfer after completing the Illinois Articulation Initiative (IAI) will have met their General Education requirements.
- **Transfer Course Lists for Rock Valley College:** Students may choose to meet their General Education requirements by selecting courses from Northeastern's Transfer Course Equivalency Guides, available at: www.neiu.edu/Transfer. *When choosing this option, please use the following Northeastern Illinois University General Education guide:*

Northeastern Illinois University General Education Program		
The General Education Program requires a minimum of 39 credit hours of courses distributed among 6 areas.		
Northeastern Illinois University Requirement	Credits	Rock Valley College Equivalent (if any)
Math / Quantitative Reasoning – one course (3 hours)	3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● This requirement can be met by completing MTH 115 or higher at Rock Valley College with a grade of "C" or better.
Social / Behavioral Sciences 3 courses (9 hours)	9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● No more than two courses from the same department may be used.
Natural Sciences 3 courses (9 hours)	9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● No more than two courses from the same department may be used. ● One course must have a lab component.
Fine Arts 2 courses (6 hours)	6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● ART 251 History of Art I ● ART 252 History of Art II
Humanities 3 courses (9 hours)	9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● No more than two courses from the same department may be used. ● No more than two foreign language courses may be used to fulfill this requirement.
Non-General Education University Requirements (3-6 hours)	3-6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● ENG 101 Composition I at Rock Valley College with a grade of "C" or better. ● Improving Human Relations Requirement – can be met through one of many general education courses. Please see the Rock Valley College Transfer Course Equivalency Guide to find courses meeting the Human Relations requirement.

Degree Plan*

D: Degree		Semester-by-Semester Program Plan for Full-Time Students				
GECC: General Education Core Curriculum		*All plans can be modified to fit the needs of part-time students by adding additional semesters				
D	GECC	Semester 1	Rock Valley Category	NEIU Category	Next Actions	
•	•	ENG 101 Composition I (3)	Communication	Writing Requirement	DO THIS – Meet with advisor to discuss academic goals and plan coursework	
•	•	Social Science Course (3)	Social Science	General Education		
•	•	SPH 131 Fund of Comm (3)	Communication	General Education		
•	•	Humanities Course (3)	Humanities	General Education		
•		ART 101 Drawing & Comp I (3)	Elective	Major Requirement – ART 120		
•		STU 100 Planning for Success (1)	Student Planning	Elective	DO THIS – Visit your campus Advising Center	
16 Credit Hours						
D	GECC	Semester 2	Rock Valley Category	NEIU Category	Next Actions	
•	•	ENG 103 Composition II (3)	Communication	Elective	DO THIS – Mid-term check-in with advisor	
•	•	Life Science or Physical Science Course (3)	Life/Physical Science	General Education		
•	•	MTH 115 or higher (3)	Mathematics	Math/Quantitative Reasoning	DO THIS – Apply to NEIU's Guaranteed Admission Program (GAP)	
•	•	ART 251 History of Art I (3)	Fine Arts	General Education Major Requirement – ARTH 106		
•	•	Social Science Course (3)	Social Science	General Education		
15 Credit Hours						
D	GECC	Semester 3	Rock Valley Category	NEIU Category	Next Actions	
•	•	Life Science or Physical Science Lab Course (4)	Life/Physical Science	General Education	DO THIS – Mid-term check-in with advisor	
•	•	ART 252 History of Art II (3)	Fine Arts	General Education Major Requirement – ARTH 107		
•	•	Social Science Course (3)	Social Science	General Education	DO THIS – Begin seeking additional four-year funding	
•		ART 103 Design I (3)	Elective	Major Requirement – ART 130		
•		ART 102 Drawing & Comp II (3)	Elective	Major Requirement – ART 220	DO THIS – Apply for admission to NEIU	
16 Credit Hours						
D	GECC	Semester 4	Rock Valley Category	NEIU Category	Next Actions	
•	•	Social Science Course (3)	Social Science	General Education	DO THIS – Petition to graduate	
•		ART 203 Design II (3)	Elective	Major Requirement – ART 140		
•		ART 215 Printmaking I (3)	Elective	Major Requirement – ART 250	COMPLETION of Associate of Arts Degree	
•	•	Humanities Course (3)	Humanities	General Education		
•		Elective Course (3)	Elective	Elective		
•		Elective Course (2)	Elective	Elective	DO THIS – Register for NEIU orientation (once admitted)	
17 Credit Hours						
MINIMUM TOTAL AA CREDIT HOURS: 64						
WRITTEN DEGREE PLAN CREDIT RANGE: 64						

Note:

- ***In order to be admitted to the BFA in Graphic Design, students must undergo a portfolio evaluation and complete the following courses with a 3.0 GPA or higher: ART 101 and ART 103 (taken at Rock Valley) and ART 281, ART 314 and ART 381 (to be taken at Northeastern). Applicants to the program must also have a 2.5 or higher overall university grade point average.**
- All Rock Valley College students must complete one course in Non-Western Culture as part of their associate's degree. See your Rock Valley College advisor for course options.
- All students who earn an Associate of Arts Degree from Rock Valley College enter Northeastern with 64 hours of transfer credit, even if they earned less than 64 credit hours. See the [NEIU Transfer Policy](#) for further information.

Northeastern Illinois University		
<i>All plans can be modified to fit the needs of part-time students by adding additional semesters</i>		
Semester 5 – Fall	NEIU Category	Next Actions
ART 289 Graphic Design Survey (3)	Major Requirement	DO THIS – Meet with the Graphic Design advisor
ART 281 Intro to Graphic Design (3)	Major Requirement	
ART 234 Digital Foundations (3)	Major Requirement ELE-X Requirement	
9 Credit Hours		
Semester 6 – Spring	NEIU Category	Next Actions
ART 285 Image (3)	Major Requirement	DO THIS – Meet with the Graphic Design advisor at the start of the Spring Semester to submit portfolio and apply for admission to the Graphic Design program
ART 314 Typography (3)	Major Requirement	
ART 261 Photography (3)	Major Requirement	
9 Credit Hours		
Semester 7 – Fall	NEIU Category	Next Actions
ART 381 Studio in Graphic Design (3)	Major Requirement ELE-DS Requirement	DO THIS – Meet with your Graphic Design advisor
ART 379 Interactive Arts: Web (3)	Major Requirement	
ART 384 Internship in Graphic Design (1-3)*	Major Requirement ELE-DS Requirement	
ART 280 Art + Tech (3)	Major Requirement	
10-12 Credit Hours		
Semester 8 – Spring	NEIU Category	Next Actions
ART 386 Interactive Arts: Form and Motion (3)	Major Requirement	DO THIS – Meet with your Graphic Design advisor
ART 387 Special Topics in Graphic Design (3)	Major Requirement ELE-DS Requirement	
ART 389 Print Production (3)	Major Requirement	DO THIS – Meet with Career Services for career counseling
ART 388 Typography II (3)	Major Requirement	
12 Credit Hours		
Semester 9 – Fall	NEIU Category	Next Actions
ART 381 Studio in Graphic Design (3)	Major Requirement ELE-DS Requirement	DO THIS – Meet with your Graphic Design advisor
ART 344 WIP: Professional Practices in Graphic Design (3)	Major Requirement WIP Requirement	
ART 301 Contemporary Design (3)	Major Requirement	DO THIS – Meet with Career Services
ART 315 Letterpress (3)	Major Requirement	
11 Credit Hours		
Semester 10 – Spring	NEIU Category	Next Actions
ART 387 Special Topics in Graphic Design (3)	Major Requirement ELE-DS Requirement	DO THIS – Meet with your Graphic Design advisor
ART 384 Internship in Graphic Design (1-3)*	Major Requirement ELE-DS Requirement	
ART 394C Senior Exhibition in Graphic Design (2)	Major Requirement ELE-DS Requirement	DO THIS – Meet with Career Services
7-9 Credit Hours		COMPLETION of Bachelor of Fine Arts Degree
BACHELOR'S DEGREE MINIMUM TOTAL: 124 CREDIT HOURS		

Note: * ART 384 Internship in Graphic Design can be taken more than once but must add up to 4 credit hours

Financial Aid and Scholarships

For information about financing your education at Northeastern, including Financial Aid and Scholarship opportunities, please see our website: <http://www.neiu.edu/financial-aid/>. You may also contact our Financial Aid Office directly at (773) 442-5016 or email Financial-Aid@neiu.edu. If you are completing the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), Northeastern's federal School code is **001693**.

Provost and Deans Merit Scholarships for TRANSFER students*:

Scholarship	Amount Awarded	Credit Hour Requirement	GPA Requirement	Residency Requirement	NEIU Enrollment Requirement
Provost Merit	\$2,000	60+ credit hours	3.50 GPA	Illinois Residency	Full-Time (12+ credit hours)
Dean's Merit	\$1,000	60+ credit hours	3.0 GPA	Illinois Residency	Full-Time (12+ credit hours)

Until all of the scholarships are awarded, students who meet these qualifications will automatically be considered for the Provost and Deans Merit Scholarships at the time of applying for admission to Northeastern. Completing an additional application is not necessary. The Office of Scholarships may be reached at (773) 442-4606 or scholarships@neiu.edu.

Art Department Merit Scholarship

Application Deadlines: April 1 for Fall semester and November 1 for Spring semester. The online application and guidelines can be found on the Art + Design Department website under [Art + Design Department Scholarships](#).