Illustration

Our illustration program provides you with a broad background in a variety of fine arts and design techniques encompassing artistic study in both traditional and digital media. Since the tools and media illustrators use are constantly evolving, we emphasize effective visual communication of a message, narrative or point of view so you master the ability to create meaningful images.

Our Program

Our illustration area of study demands you develop exceptional conceptual thinking skills and proficiency in traditional and digital media — skills required to successfully develop unique and creative imagery that visually communicates. Best business practices are also an integral part of our illustration program curriculum.

Clubs, Groups, Events

An active visiting artist and scholar program enhances our illustration program at the School of Art and Design. Visiting artists and scholars are scheduled throughout the academic year, giving you the opportunity to meet like-minded people working in their field.

Faculty and Opportunities

You can participate in our annual juried Ars Nova exhibition. This exhibition is sponsored by Blick Art Materials and you're eligible to win cash prizes.

Faculty
Kimberly Martens — kmartens@niu.edu
Jeremy Tinder — jtinder1@niu.edu

NORTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY
School of Art and Design
College of Visual and Performing Arts

ILLUSTRATION AT NORTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY

Degree Requirements

Your individual goals and diverse career objectives may lead to intensified work intended for print, electronic media and/or multimedia environments. Faculty members in our illustration area of study are accomplished artists who are professionally productive in illustration and scientific/medical illustration, and bring real life examples into the classroom.

Basic Requirements (9 credit hours)
ART 100   Drawing Foundation I (3)
ART 102   2D Foundation (3)
ART 103   3D Foundation (3)

Art History Requirements (12 credit hours)
ARTH 282   Intro to World Art (3)
ARTH 292   Intro to Modern Arts & Design (3)
ARTH Elective 300/400 level (3)
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Core Studio Requirements (24 credit hours)
ARTS 200   Beginning Life Drawing (3)
ARTS 321   Water-based or ARTS 323 Painting I (3)
ARTS 327   Beginning Illustration (3)
ARTS 330   Introduction to Printmaking (3)
ARTS 341   Beginning Ceramics (3)
ARTS 351   Beginning Metalwork & Jewelry (3)
ARTS 361   Beginning Sculpture I (3)
ARTS 368   Intro to Fiber: Papermaking (3) OR
ARTS 371   2D/3D Woven Construction (3) OR
ARTS 372   Intro to Fiber: Print Dye (3) OR
ARTS 374   Installation and Fiber Sculpture (3)

Illustration Requirements (33 credit hours)
ARTD 201   Intro to Visual Comm (3)
ARTD 370   2D Animation (3)
ARTS 324   Painting II: The Figure (3)
ARTS 437   Intermediate Illustration (6)
ARTS 438   Advanced Illustration (6)
ARTS 447   Computer Raster Apps for Ill. (3)
ARTS 448   Computer Vector Apps for Ill. (3)
ARTS 406   Senior Project (3)
300/400 level studio elective (3)

TOTAL ART HOURS: 78

PORTFOLIO REVIEW
Review of your illustration work after taking ARTS 327 is required to continue with future coursework.

Minimum Graduation Requirements for NIU:
- Minimum 120 semester hours earned for degree.
- Forty of the 120 hours must be upper-level (300 and/or 400 level) courses.
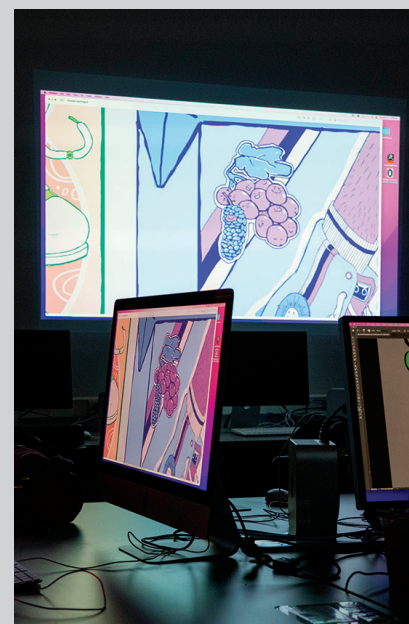- Fulfill university general education requirements (minimum of 33 semester hours).

Career Information

Earning your B.F.A. degree in illustration may lead to career opportunities such as working in print, electronic media and/or multimedia environments such as advertising; editorial or book illustration; concept art for games and movies; scientific illustration; illustrations for comics, graphic novels and more.

Career outcomes obtained from the Department of Labor Occupational Outlook Handbook.

Northern Illinois University