RIT

Rochester Institute of Technology
College of Art and Design
55 Lomb Memorial Drive
Rochester, NY 14623
rit.edu/artdesign

Greetings!

It is a pleasure to welcome you to the Master of Fine Arts in Visual Communication Design. We are delighted that you will be joining our graduate program in the College of Art and Design. As a graduate student, you are an important part of RIT's university community. We are confident that you will find this a truly exciting place to pursue your graduate studies.

Orientation

In preparation for the academic year, orientation meetings have been scheduled for all new graduate students. Your attendance at these meetings is required as you will learn about facilities, meet members of the RIT graduate community, receive an academic planning sheet, learn about graduate assistantships, and review specific details about your graduate program.

Your graduate orientation session in the College of Art and Design (CAD) is:

Graduate Events	Date	Time	Location
MFA Visual Communication Design Graduate Orientation	Friday, August 20, 2021	1:00 – 3:00pm	1305 Booth Hall and online at https://rit.zoom.us/j/96196405076
Classes begin	Monday, August 23, 2021		

In addition to our college orientation, the RIT Graduate School has orientation events planned for the week.
For a complete list of RIT Graduate Orientation Events, please visit
https://www.rit.edu/academicaffairs/graduateeducation/online-graduate-student-orientation.

If you are an international student, the International Student Services Office also has mandatory (virtual) orientation event. Please visit https://www.rit.edu/orientation/international for more information.

Fall Course Schedules

Your fall schedule will consist of five (5) required studio and lecture courses. You will automatically be registered for:
- Design History Seminar
- 3D Modeling and Motion
- Web and UI Design
- Typography
- Digital Design in Motion

If you have any scheduling questions, please contact your academic advisor, Kristie Gross at kristie.gross@rit.edu.

Graduate Student Resources – insideCAD website

The College of Art and Design has an internal page devoted to Graduate Student Information. Please visit
https://inside.cad.rit.edu/current-students/academic-information/graduate-student-info/ for the new student checklist, academic calendar, and informational handouts to be used throughout your studies at RIT.

Software

To ensure that you have a successful transition into your first semester, preparing yourself with a foundational knowledge in the software that will be used is paramount. Your fall semester will consist of four intense studio courses. These courses are designed to leverage working knowledge and competency of software in the Adobe CC suite. The primary applications that will be used are Photoshop, Illustrator, InDesign, and AfterEffects. Through the RIT library (library.rit.edu) you have access to a wide range of educational materials that are fully available online. Additionally, tutorials through http://lynda.com are also available to you with your RIT account – You can sign in through the organizational portal using your RIT sign in.

Learning software and course concepts at the same time is a difficult task. **By taking advantage of the resources available to you to learn new skills and refine existing knowledge prior to starting your fall semester you will be preparing yourself in the best way possible.** Please feel to contact the VCD director and co-director for additional information, recommendations and learning materials that best meet your current level. While these initial courses will cover aspects of the Adobe and other software, they will not offer comprehensive lessons. The additional effort you invest now in software skill development will contribute to your success during the program.

Should you have any questions, please contact us at aesfaa@rit.edu, mpsfaa@rit.edu or WeChat ID: Adam_at_RITDesign. We will be reaching out with our VCD Slack Channel invite in July and look forward to seeing you in August. Enjoy the remainder of your summer!

Sincerely,

Adam Smith
Graduate Director

Mike Strobert
Co-Graduate Director