



Re-Designing the Art Major

by Debbie Richard '02, '04, Assistant Director of Marketing

As Defiance College continues to work to align the academic programs to give every student a real-world experience, some majors are changing to meet these goals. One of the early changes is to reinvent the Art and Graphic Design majors into a new major called Design.

“We’re excited about the changes happening here with the creation of the Design program. We truly believe this could be the start of something very special here at Defiance College,” said Jason Stockman, assistant professor of art. “This new program will help these students develop the skills needed for jobs in Design to come in the 21st century.”

The Design major has been created with two tracks to better prepare students for their future careers. The first is the 2D track. The 2D track is essentially the same as the original Graphic Design major, but with some exciting enhancements. Students concentrating in 2D track will focus on creating the surface of objects both in print and on screen and experience courses such as photography, web design, graphic design and digital animation. This concentration is aligned to equip students with the knowledge and skills to pursue the fields of graphic and web-based design.

The second Design major track is 3D. In the 3D track, students will fabricate objects found in everyday life using design principles most commonly found in industrial design. This track taps into the emerging techniques available with rapid prototyping technology such as 3D printing and CNC machines to create an end product for designs. Students will learn how to design products on every level: finding problems, solving problems, conceptualizing their ideas, sketching and prototyping, experimenting with materials, testing mock-ups, and creating a finished product. Preparing for positions such as product designers, project managers or freelance designers, students will experience a well-rounded education to support their future careers.

The new Design major is an exciting opportunity for students. It gives them access to new technologies that are becoming more and more prevalent, while still keeping the fundamentals of the previous majors as building blocks. As they look forward to their future careers, students will find the new Design major to be aligned strategically to assist them to be successful as they design the products and images of tomorrow.



“Defiance College’s graphic design program is a uniquely hands-on learning experience. The professors are personally dedicated to our success. They’ve helped me grow as a designer and a professional.”

Jenny Reolfi, Class of 2014