

# Graphic Design

*Students who are interested in commercial applications of the visual arts often are attracted to a career in graphic design. As a student in St. Ambrose's Graphic Design program, you'll not only learn to speak in this visual language of type, color, image, and text in an articulate and responsive manner, you'll receive the core general education needed to be effective working with businesses to craft their communications.*

## Contact Us

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 Visit the Art Department  
 Web site at [www.sau.edu/art](http://www.sau.edu/art)  
 For general information about St. Ambrose or how to apply:  
 Admissions Office  
 563/333-6300 or 800/383-2627  
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[www.sau.edu](http://www.sau.edu)

## Degrees offered and required credit hours

St. Ambrose offers a Bachelor of Arts degree majoring in Art with a concentration in one of four areas of study: Art Education, Book Arts, Fine Arts or Graphic Design. Minors in Art or Art History are available, as well. The Graphic Design concentration requires 45–46 credits, including 24 credits of studio and art history, and 21 upper-level credits in design.

## Program highlights and courses

Graphic design courses at St. Ambrose are taught by professional designers. Students become well-versed in the language of typography and color theory and develop acute problem-solving skills in order to anticipate the needs of the ever-demanding client. In addition to contemporary practices, processes and techniques, an investigation of historical movements and influences are an integral element to the development of each student's personal style and graphic voice.

Courses during the first couple of years include Drawing, Photography, Computers in Art, 2-D and 3-D Design, Figure Composition and Anatomy, and Art of the 20th Century. Courses specific to the major include Graphic Design I, II and III, Letterforms for Graphic Designers, Illustration, and a senior capstone in which students create a coherent body of work based on an original design concept. This work forms their senior exhibit. Occasional visiting artists and field trips further enrich students' experiences.

See our course catalog at [www.sau.edu/catalog](http://www.sau.edu/catalog) for a full description of required and elective courses.

## Resources

One full wing of the Galvin Fine Arts Center is devoted to art activities. The graphic design Macintosh lab contains scanners, color and black-and-white laser printers, Wacom tablets, digital and designated graphic design software. A smaller lab is set aside for upper-level majors.

Drawing and painting studios are equipped with easels, drawing benches and tabourets. They accommodate still-life setups, a model stand and critique areas. Individual studio space is available for upper-level Fine Art majors.

The printmaking studio has presses and support materials for relief, intaglio, silkscreen, and lithographic printing. Digital and photo-mechanical printmaking equipment includes an analog darkroom, stat camera, exposure units, and additional equipment necessary for burning screens, alternative processes and photopolymer plates.

In the Book Arts studio, students will find a fully-equipped press room complete with an array of lead type and several presses including; a Vandercook 325, two Chandler & Price floor presses, and several proof presses.

The photography lab is geared to black-and-white photography with Beseler and Simmons-Omega enlargers supporting up to 16-by-20 inch prints and formats up to 4-by-5 inches. Digital photography applications also are carried out in the Mac lab.

The Catich and Morrissey Galleries, housed in the Galvin Fine Arts Center, display revolving shows of fine and applied art from around the country as well as the work of seniors in Fine Arts, Graphic Design and Book Arts.

## Financial assistance

The Department of Art has scholarships available to students who show exemplary talent in their art work. Portfolio submission guidelines and specific scholarship programs may be found online at [www.sau.edu/art](http://www.sau.edu/art).

## Alumni

Businesses that typically require full-time graphic designers are advertising agencies, printers and media outlets such as television stations and newspapers, as well as larger businesses and institutions with on-going marketing and advertising needs. And the demand for designers with Web capabilities is growing.

St. Ambrose boasts an impressive roster of recent art graduates working in graphic design, including:

- Graphics Coordinator, Rojas Publishing Corporation, Bakersfield, Calif. Graduated in 2005.
- In-House Freelancer, Disney Design Group, Orlando, Fla. Graduated in 2004.
- Agency Art Director, McMurry Ad Agency, Tempe, Ariz. Graduated in 2003.
- Graphic Designer and wayfinder, ASI Modulex Architectural Signage Solution, Omaha, Neb. Graduated in 2000.
- Assistant Designer, Carus Publishing. Graduated in 2000.
- Art Director and Designer, Global Sports, Los Angeles, Calif. Graduated in 1998.
- Creative Director, Ryan Partnership, Wilton, Conn. Graduated in 1997.
- Designer and Artist, Gearbox Toys and Collectibles, Cedar Rapids, Iowa. Graduated in 1996.

## About the faculty

**Kathryn Anderson** MFA, Assistant Professor

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Prof. Anderson teaches Introduction to Printmaking and courses in Graphic Design and Book Arts. She holds a Master of Fine Arts in visual communications-illustration from the University of Massachusetts at Dartmouth. Her areas of interest include printmaking, drawing, mixed media, and the book arts. She began teaching at St. Ambrose in 2004.

**Leslie Bell** MFA, Professor and Department Chair

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Prof. Bell teaches drawing, painting, photography, and illustration, helping to strengthen the bond between commercial and fine art. He believes that art principles are universal—that each discipline should inform the other. Prof. Bell received his Master of Fine Arts degree from Northern Illinois University where he was employed as an illustrator. He was a

professional musician for years fronting bands and playing harmonica in the pit orchestra for Circa 21 Dinner Theatre's *Big River*. Prof. Bell began teaching at St. Ambrose in 1974.

**Kristin Quinn** MFA, Professor

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Prof. Quinn teaches painting, drawing and foundation design. She received her Master of Fine Arts degree from Indiana University. She is a professional artist who says she is not sure that she ever consciously chose to be an artist, but that making art was something she can't remember not doing. Her love of the natural world is reflected in her painting as well as in her gardening, cooking and digging of fossils. Prof. Quinn began teaching at St. Ambrose in 1989.

**Terri Switzer** PhD, Associate Professor

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Prof. Switzer teaches art history. After living in Eastern Europe and Russia during the 1990s, she received her doctorate in art history from Indiana University. Prof. Switzer has taught in both Europe and the United States, and has extensive museum experience, having worked at the curatorial and director levels since 1995. Her research focuses on Central European art, but she is equally excited by a wide range of interdisciplinary topics, from comic book heroines to Russian icons. Prof. Switzer began teaching at St. Ambrose in 2002.