Graphic Communications Program of Study

Graphic Communications

A program of study serves as a guide, along with other career planning materials, as learners continue along a career path. Courses listed are only recommended coursework and should be individualized to meet each learner's educational and career goals.

Ultimately, a program of study should be customized with course titles and appropriate high school graduation requirements as well as college entrance requirements. Additional career exploration opportunities should also be offered at upper elementary grade levels to promote higher engagement and learner focus in subsequent years. Student Success Plans outlining career goals should be utilized through the advisement process.

Sample occupations

Requires on-the-job training or industry-recognized credential
- Printing Press Operator

Requires an associate degree
- Desktop Publisher
- Graphic Arts Technician
- Imaging Specialist
- Layout Designer
- Web Developer

Requires a bachelor's degree
- Advertising Art Director
- Creative Director
- Design Director
- Industrial Designer
- Multimedia Artist and Animator
- Prepress Technician
- Promotion Manager
- Public Relations Specialist
- User Experience Designer

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Course examples

Career Exploration (22151A001)
Career Exploration courses help students identify and evaluate personal goals, priorities, aptitudes, and interests with the goal of helping them make informed decisions about their careers. These courses expose students to various sources of information on career and training options and may also assist them in developing job search and employability skills.

Introduction to Communication (11001A001)
Introduction to Communication courses enable students to understand and critically evaluate the role of media in society. Course content typically includes investigation of visual images, printed material, and audio segments as tools of information, entertainment, and communication to influence opinion; improvement of presentation and evaluative skills in relation to mass media; recognition of various techniques for delivery of a particular message; and, in some cases, creation of a media product. The course may concentrate on a particular medium.

Beginning Graphic Communication (11154A003)
Beginning Graphic Communication course will teach students to use artistic techniques to effectively communicate ideas via illustration and other forms of digital or printed media. Topics covered may include concept design, layout, paste -up and techniques such as engraving, etching, silkscreen, lithography, offset, drawing, collage and computer graphics.

Digital Media Design and Production (11153A001)
Digital Media Design and Production courses teach students the fundamentals of graphic design and production and provide students with the opportunity to apply these principles to printed media, digital presentation media, and interactive media.

Graphic Communications I (11154A001)
Graphic Communications I provides learning experiences common to all graphic communications occupations. Instruction should include use of color, balance, and proportion in design; three-dimensional visualization; sketching; design procedures; layout; selection of type styles; selection of appropriate drawing tools and media; and the use of the computer as a communication tool. Planned learning activities will allow students to become knowledgeable of fundamental principles and methods and to develop technical skills related to the graphic arts industry.

Graphic Communications II (11154A002)
Graphic Communications II provides learning experiences related to the tools, materials, processes, and practices utilized in the printing industry. Instruction is provided in industrial safety; stencil preparation and duplicating equipment operation; print screen preparation and printing; machine typesetting; ink and color preparation; assembly, binding, and trimming operations; and layout, digital paste up, and copy preparation. In addition, the course provides the student with learning experiences in the use of cameras and photographic equipment, development and processing of photographic negatives and prints, negative stripping and related platemaking procedures, photocomposition, photoengraving, lithography, and offset presswork. Use of the computer in graphic arts occupations should be emphasized.

Graphic Communications Workplace Experience (00948A001)
Graphic Communications Workplace Experience courses provide students with work experience in a field related to communication. Goals must be set cooperatively by the student, teacher, and employer (although students are not necessarily paid). These courses must include classroom instruction at least once per week, that involves further study of the field, discussion of relevant topics that are responsive to the workplace experience, and employability skill development. Workplace Experience courses must be taught by an approved work-based learning educator-coordinator. These courses should be aligned to a Career Development Experience that could include Student-led Enterprises; School-based Enterprises; Immersion Supervised Agricultural Experiences; Clinical Experiences in Health Science and Technology programs; Internships; and Apprenticeship programs, including Youth Apprenticeships, Pre-apprenticeships, and Registered Apprenticeships.

Full sequence

	Grade	English	Math	Science	Social Studies	Required Courses, Electives, and Learner Activities	Career and Technical Courses
Middle School	7	ELA 7	Math 7	Science 7	Social Studies 7		Career Exploration
	8	ELA 8	Math 8	Science 8	Social Studies 8		Introduction to Communications
Secondary	9	ELA 9	Algebra I	NGSS Aligned Science 9	U.S. History	All programs of study should meet local and state high school graduation requirements and college entrance requirements. Participation in a Career and Technical Student Organization is also important for developing appropriate skills and competencies.	Beginning Graphic Communications
	10	ELA 10	Geometry	NGSS Aligned Science 10	World History or Economics		Digital Media Design and Production*
	11	ELA 11	Algebra II	Biology*	U.S. Government*		Graphic Communications I
	12	Transitional English or English Composition*	TM QL & Statistics or Calculus*	Physics*	*		Graphic Communications II Graphic Communications Workplace Experience
Postsecondary	13	English Composition†	General Education Statistics**†	Science†	†	All programs of study should meet learner's career goals with regard to required degrees, licenses, certifications, or journey worker status. Participation in appropriate student organizations is also important for developing appropriate skills and competencies.	Continue required courses in learner's chosen area of specialization to complete the desired certification and/or credential.
	14	Oral Communication†	Mathematics for Elementary Teach I & II†				
	15	Continue courses in learner's chosen area of specialization.					
	16						

* AP/dual credit opportunities
** Skip to next course in sequence if accomplished through credit transfer opportunity
† Postsecondary course affiliated with Illinois Articulation Initiative Code

Additional opportunities

Early career opportunities learning about work
- Career Planning
- Career Fairs
- Industry Speakers
- Informational Interviews
- Career Presentations
- Worksite Tours
- Cooperative Education
- Job Shadow
- Simulated Skill Development
- Other

Credit Transfer and WBL opportunities
- Dual Enrollment/Dual Credit
- Advanced Placement
- Articulated Credit
- Career-Related Service Learning
- School-Based Enterprise
- Student-Led Enterprise
- Project-Based Learning
- Internships
- Apprenticeships (e.g., youth, pre-registered, non-registered, research)
- Other

Industry-recognized credentials
- Certification
- License
- Other

Student organizations
- Business Professionals of America
- Educators Rising
- Future Business Leaders of America
- Family, Career and Community Leaders of America
- National FFA Organization (Illinois Association FFA)
- Future Health Professionals
- Illinois Distributive Education Clubs of America
- Science Olympiad
- Skills USA Illinois
- Technology Student Association
- Other
- Team-Based Challenge