

FAQ's: Attention Graphic Design students!

You've heard about the BFA in Graphic Design. Here are some answers to your questions.

What is the BFA? The BFA is a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree in Graphic Design. It is the first BFA at CSUF. It is oriented toward students who want a professional degree in graphic design.

Why is it so special?

- **Admission is competitive.** A maximum of 20 students from each emphasis can be admitted each year. We want our BFA graduates to be recognized as outstanding designers.
- Students choose from three specialized emphases: **Graphic Design, Illustration, or Interactive Multimedia.**
- BFA courses include specialized upper-division courses not available in the current GD Option, including Professional Practices, Portfolio Development, and exhibition in the Graphic Design Senior Portfolio Show.
- BFA students are guaranteed places in their BFA classes, but must adhere to the roadmap.

How do I get in? To apply for entry to the BFA program, students will **submit a digital portfolio** of their work from all seven lower-division graphic design courses: GD35, GD37, GD39, GD41, GD42, GD50, and GD60. Applicants must select a **first choice of emphasis**, and are allowed to indicate a **second choice** if they wish. Students must earn a C or higher in their lower-division GD courses.

What if I don't have all the required lower-division classes? Students missing GD50, and/or GD60 may still apply for provisional acceptance. (GD 50 is required for Interactive Multimedia applicants, GD60 is required for Illustration applicants). Senior GD faculty will evaluate the portfolios and select students to enter the program.

What is the deadline? Students can apply in the **spring semester only**. The Portfolio deadline is 4 p.m. 4/5/16, about three weeks before you register for fall 2016 classes. That way you will know whether you were accepted and what to enroll in. Students accepted in the BFA will typically meet with their emphasis advisor before fall registration begins.

What if I'm not accepted? Students not admitted to the BFA program will complete their studies in the BA in Art/GD Option.

Does it require more units to graduate? No. The BFA requires the same number of units as the BA in Art/GD Option.

When do my BFA classes start? Students who apply in spring 2016 and are accepted, will start the BFA in fall 2016. They should finish in spring 2018. There is no way to shorten the process.

Who should apply? Students with serious interest in a design education with a professional focus or plans to continue elsewhere with an MFA in Graphic Design.

If I'm not qualified to apply this spring, should I wait another year to get in the BFA? The University does not want students to stay enrolled any longer than necessary, but sometimes waiting until the following spring is the best choice. We advise anyone interested in the BFA to evaluate their situation, including financial aid and personal design goals. Talk to your advisor.