Graphic & Interactive Design
college to career major map

	1ST YEAR	**2ND YEAR**	**3RD YEAR**	**4TH OR FINAL YEAR**
Academics	Start taking LASC coursework as well as foundation and core **Graphic & Interactive Design** courses. Need a little help in your classes? **Look into tutoring with the Academic Support Center.**	Take a deeper dive into the discipline of **Graphic & Interactive Design** and begin considering an emphasis in Digital Design Production, Interactive Media, or Graphic Design. **Schedule an appointment with a Career Coach** to discuss how to connect your academics to your future career.	Schedule an appointment with your Academic Advisor to ensure you're on track for graduation. Take inventory of your professional goals and decide if your future will need to include graduate school. Take the necessary exams and begin submitting applications to programs that will help you achieve your goals.	Participate in the President's Winter Celebration of the Arts to showcase your work and connect to the community. Ensure you submit your application for graduation on time.
Get Relevant Experience	Sign up to participate in the **Graphic Communications Learning Community**. Join a major or interest specific student organization such as the **American Institute for Graphic Arts Dragons**. Participate in **Student Life Pathways** to continue growing your skills/knowledge outside of the classroom. We recommend starting with the Community Life Pathway.	Find an on-campus job or a part-time position in the community. Visit **DragonJobs powered by Handshake,** or one of the many other online job boards to find opportunities. Continue working on your **Student Life Pathways**. Try working your way through the Personal Wellness and the Equity and Inclusion paths.	Begin your leadership journey by applying for a student leadership position or run for an officer position in Drawing Guild or **American Institute for Graphic Arts Dragons**. During your third year, we suggest focusing on the **Professional Success and Contribution and Influence Student Life Pathways**. These will help connect you to potential employers and develop skills necessary for success post-graduation.	Assess what experiences or skills are areas of growth for you and fill in gaps with volunteering, organizations, internships, or part-time employment. Finish up your pathways and be sure to add your accomplishments to your LinkedIn and resume.
Connect to the Community	Volunteer on or off-campus with different community organizations such as the **American Advertising Federation**, **Fargo Moorhead Visual Artists**, **Plains Art Museum**, or **The Rourke**. Participate in the Dragon Business Crawl to learn more about local businesses.	Join **LinkedIn** to begin building your professional network and online presence. Think of your profile as a virtual resume and make sure to update it regularly to reflect new jobs, research, coursework, volunteering, involvement, and skills. Develop on online portfolio to showcase your work.	Attend **off-campus events** such as **Creative Mornings Fargo, StartUp Brew, Ladyboss, Springboard for the Art**s, or TedX to connect with others and gain exposure to the community. Attend the on-campus **Meet the Employer and Featured Employer events** as often as possible. Make sure to engage with the representatives and collect contact information to follow up.	Join professional organizations such as **American Advertising Federation** to gain access to research, continuing education opportunities, job boards, and message boards. Make sure to join prior to graduation to receive the discounted student rate (when applicable).
Understand Your Career	Explore your interests, skills, and values and learn about the career readiness competencies by taking the **FOCUS 2**, an online assessment free for all MSUM students. Schedule an appointment with the **Career Development Center** to review your FOCUS 2 results and to begin building your resume.	Start researching potential career paths on **O*Net**. Here, you will be able to find valuable information such as typical tasks associated with the profession, skills, and knowledge needed, education and licensures needed, wages and employment trends, professional organizations, and related occupations. We suggest you search for careers such as **Graphic Artist**.	**Attend professional development-related events** on-campus, and connect with faculty to learn more about the field and gain insights on how to be successful in your job search. Find an internship or part-time job with a local or regional company or organization to learn the ins and outs of your chosen career. Prior to applying, schedule an appointment with the **Career Development Center** to help you prepare.	Network relentlessly! Attend the spring Career Fairs to get connected to employers looking to hire soon-to-be grads. Check **DragonCentral** for more information. **Schedule appointments with a Career Coach** to go over your professional documents and to prepare for upcoming interviews. And remember, once a dragon always a dragon. You have access to these services for life.

Where can you go?

A degree in **Graphic & Interactive Design** can take your career in many directions. Most students choose to enter the workforce right after graduation and some may continue their education after a few years in the workforce. Our students are equipped with a strong foundation for a career as a(n):

- Production Artist
- Graphic Designer
- Multimedia Artist
- Web Designer
- Film Editor
- Prepress Specialist

What skills will you need?

To be successful in the world of **Graphic & Interactive Design**, you will need the following skills:

- Critical Thinking
- Critical Thinking
- Active Listening
- Active Learning
- Visualization
- Creativity
- Written Comprehension
- Technology

Thankfully, through your coursework, on-campus involvement, part-time employment and/or internships, and other self-guided learning, you will be prepared for life post-graduation.