Your Program Requirements

This program guide defines the 20.0 credits required for the Bachelor of Design (BDes) in Illustration, including Major requirements (specific courses and course options), Arts & Science requirements and open electives.

Of the 20.0 credits required, the following applies:
- No more than 6.0 credits may be at the 1000 level
- At least 5.0 credits must be at the 3000 level or higher, including at least 1.0 credit at the 4000 level or higher
- At least 1.5 credits of Arts & Science courses must be at the 3000 or 4000 level

Reading Your Program Guide

Course Codes
Codes begin with a four letter subject code followed by four digits. The first digit indicates the year level of the course. For example, *GRPH-2004* designates a specific *Graphic Design* course at the *2000 level*. Generally, students complete 1000 and 2000 level courses before 3000 and 4000 level courses.

Course Weight
- 0.5 credit courses typically meet three hours per week for a 12-week term.
- 1.0 credit courses typically meet six hours per week for a 12-week term.

Major Requirements - Course Options
Although a specific number of credits are required from each category, you may choose to take additional courses from these lists as open electives.

Sample 4 Year Plan & Helpful Planning Information (at the end of this package)

The program is structured so that it can be completed in four years, by a student taking 2.5 credits per term in the fall and winter terms (a limited number of courses are also offered in the spring/summer terms). The sample plan will help you plan your courses.

In addition to general planning tips and suggested pathways, the helpful planning information can include recommended courses for your program and tips on meeting prerequisites for electives you may want to take.

If you want to accelerate your program progression, are attending part time or with a reduced course load, and require planning support, please contact **Student Advising** at ocadu.ca/services/academic-advising.

More Information

Your program and degree requirements are also reflected on your **My Progress** page within My OCAD U Records (Self-Service) at selfservice.ocadu.ca/student.

View course offerings (available sections), course descriptions, prerequisites and more in the **Course Catalogue** at selfservice.ocadu.ca/student/courses.

View **videos and guides** on program planning and registration at ocadu.ca/reg-guides.

Illustration – 2025/2026 Program Guide

Major Requirements

Specific Courses:

Courses designated 'core': Second and third year core courses each require a minimum grade of 60% in the identified prerequisite core course. To meet graduation requirements, students must also complete their final core course with a minimum grade of 60% as well as have a minimum 60% average for all of the core courses.

ILLU-1002	Illustrative Concepts 1 **(core)**	**0.5 credit**
ILLU-1003	Illustrative Concepts 2 **(core)**	**0.5 credit**
ILLU-1004	Media Studio: Analogue	**0.5 credit**
ILLU-1005	Observational Illustration 1	**0.5 credit**
ILLU-2004	Illustration 1 **(core)**	**0.5 credit**
ILLU-2007	Illustration 2 **(core)**	**0.5 credit**
ILLU-2008	Observational Illustration 3	**0.5 credit**
ILLU-2009	Media Studio: Digital	**0.5 credit**
ILLU-3003	Illustrative Painting 2	**0.5 credit**
ILLU-3004	Illustrative Painting 3	**0.5 credit**
ILLU-3005	Illustration 3 **(core)**	**0.5 credit**
ILLU-3006	Illustration 4 **(core)**	**0.5 credit**

Course Options: Complete the identified number of courses from EACH of the categories below.

Course Code	Course Title	Course Credit
Category A – **Choose ONE course from the list below:**		**0.5 credit**
DRPT-2014	Anatomy for Artists	
DRPT-2018	Anatomy: Structure & Movement	
SCTM-2002	Human Form & Function: Anatomy	
SCTM-2014	Human and Comparative Anatomy	
Category B – **Choose TWO courses from the list below:**		**1.0 credit**
ILLU-2010	Contemporary Illustration	
ILLU-4010	Media Studio: Social	
ILLU-4011	ILLU Professional Practice	
Category C – **Choose ONE course from the list below:**		**0.5 credit**
IVCL-2001	A History of the Metis	
IVCL-2002	Ways of Telling-Indigenous Lit	
Category D – **Choose TWO courses from the list below:**		**1.0 credit**

VISA-2002	History of Modern Art	
VISC-2016	Art History & Visual Culture	
VISD-2006	History of Graphic Design	
VISM-2003	Introduction to Games Studies	
VISD-3002	Illustration-Rise Pop Culture	
ILLU-1001	Observational Illustration 2	
ILLU-1007	Design Principles	
ILLU-2003	Graphic Design for ILLU	
ILLU-2006	Illustrative Painting 1	
GDES-3005	Guerrilla Entrepreneurship	
GDES-3045	Illustrative Activism	
GDES-3068	Concept Art: Characters	
GDES-3069	Graphic Novel Illustration	
GDES-3074	Sequential ILLU Project	
GDES-3075	Book Illustration	
GDES-3095	Concept Art: Settings	
GDES-3112	Storyboarding	
GDES-3117	Concept Art: Painting	
ILLU-3007	Media Studio: Hybrid	
GDES-4008	Animated Illustration	
ILLU-4901 AND ILLU-4902	ILLU Thesis Portfolio 1 AND ILLU Thesis Portfolio 2	
ILLU-4009 AND ILLU-4008	Illustrative Painting 4 AND Illustrative Painting 5	
0.5 credit 3000 level PRPB or PRNT course AND 0.5 credit 4000 level PRPB or PRNT course		

Arts & Science Requirements:

Course Code	Course Title	Course Credit
Category F – **Choose ONE course from the list below:**		**0.5 credit**
ENGL-1003	The Essay & the Argument	
ENGL-1004	Essay and the Argument: ELL	
Category G – **Choose TWO courses from the list below:**		**1.0 credit**
IVCV-1001	Turtle Island Visual Culture	
VISC-1001	Global Vis & Mat Cult: to 1800	
VISC-1002	Global Vis & Mat Cult: to Pres	
VISC-1004	Contemporary Art and Design	

Level 2000/ 3000/4000	Visual culture courses (IVCV, VISA, VISC, VISD, VISM) Fulfilled by Category D required for Major program - replaced with 1.0 credit open electives below.	(1.0 credit fulfilled)
Level 2000/ 3000/4000	Breadth elective course (HUMN, IVCL, SCTM, SOSC)	**0.5 credit**
Level 2000/ 3000/4000	Breadth elective courses (ENGL, HUMN, IVCL, SCTM, SOSC)	**1.0 credit**
Level 2000/ 3000/4000	Breadth elective and/or visual culture courses (ENGL, HUMN, IVCL, IVCV, SCTM, SOSC, VISA, VISC, VISD, VISM)	**1.0 credit**

Open Electives:

Level 1000/ 2000/3000/ 4000 or higher	Open electives	**6.0 credits**

Notes:

An **open elective** may be chosen from any of the following subject areas: ADVR, ASOC, BUSI, CRCP, CROS, CRWR, DIGF, DRPT, ENVR, ENGL, EXAN, FABR, GART, GDES, GRPH, HUMN, ILLU, INDS, INTM, INVC, IVCA, IVCD, IVCL, IVCV, LIFE, MAAD, PHOT, PRNT, PRPB, SCIN, SCTM, SOSC, VISA, VISC, VISD, VISM.

Senior undergraduate students in good academic standing may take graduate courses at the **5000 level** from any of the following subject areas: CADN, CRCP, DHEA, DIGF, INCD, SFIN. Inquiries regarding access to 5000 level courses should be directed to the student's Faculty Office.

Students who have completed a minimum of 4.0 credits and are in good academic standing may **declare a minor**. Only open electives and general Arts & Science courses may fulfill both degree and minor requirements, subject to the credit limits stipulated in this program guide. For more information on minors: ocadu.ca/academics/minors.

Course offerings and scheduling vary by year; in some cases it may not be possible to follow the sample plan exactly as listed.		
Year 1	Specified Course(s): Take ILLU-1002, ILLU-1003, ILLU-1004, ILLU-1005	2.0 credits
	Arts & Science: Choose one course from Category F option list	0.5 credit
	Arts & Science: Choose two courses from Category G option list	1.0 credit
	Open Elective(s): Choose three courses	1.5 credits
Year 2	Specified Course(s): Take ILLU-2004, ILLU-2007, ILLU-2008, ILLU-2009	2.0 credits
	Course Option(s): Choose one course from Category A option list	0.5 credit
	Course Option(s): Choose one course from Category C option list	0.5 credit
	Course Option(s): Choose two courses from Category D option list	1.0 credit
	Open Elective(s): Choose two courses	1.0 credit
Year 3	Specified Course(s): ILLU-3003, ILLU-3004, ILLU-3005, ILLU-3006	2.0 credits
	Course Option(s): Choose two courses from Category B option list	1.0 credit
	Arts & Science: Choose two courses from Category I or J	1.0 credit
	Open Elective(s): Choose two courses	1.0 credit
Year 4	Course Option(s): Choose two courses from Category E option list	1.0 credit
	Arts & Science: Choose three courses from Category I or J	1.5 credits
	Open Elective(s): Choose five courses	2.5 credits
Open electives, Arts & Science courses, and Year 3 and 4 requirements, may be taken in any order, subject to meeting course prerequisites.		
Ensure that overall requirements are met (minimum and maximum requirements for year level and Arts & Science).		

Helpful Planning Information – Illustration

General Planning Tips:

- When choosing Open Electives, we recommend you consider the courses in the Option Categories as these courses are a good fit with your Major. If you take more courses than the minimum requirement to fulfill the Category, these courses will fulfill Open Electives.

- The Illustration program recommends that students prioritize ILLU and GDES coded option courses from Category E, as they represent the broadly applicable and diverse skillsets needed by a professional illustrator.

Planning for Fourth/Final Year:

- If you intend to pursue Illustration as a profession upon graduation, you are encouraged to take ILLU-4901 ILLU Thesis Portfolio 1 and ILLU-4902 ILLU Thesis Portfolio 2 (in Category E/ Open Electives) in your final year of study.

  o The pre-requisite for ILLU-4901 is ILLU-3006 Illustration 4 with a minimum grade of 60%, which is a Specified Course. All Illustration students are required to take this pre-requisite course in their third year of study.

  o Students must register in the same SECTION for both ILLU-4901 and ILLU-4902 to allow for continuity within the classes and both courses must be taken in the same academic year. ILLU-4901 with a minimum grade of 60% is the pre-requisite for ILLU-4902.

- If you intend to focus on Gallery Art as a career path, you may choose to take ILLU-4009 Illustrative Painting 4 and ILLU-4008 Illustrative Painting 5 (in Category E/ Open Electives).

  o It is recommended that students complete both ILLU-4009 and ILLU-4008 in the same academic year for continuity and skill development. ILLU-4009 is the pre-requisite for ILLU-4008.

Planning for Specific Pathways:

- Below are some recommended courses to be taken if pursuing different career pathways in the Illustration Program.

  o Please note: ILLU-4901 ILLU Thesis Portfolio 1 and ILLU-4902 ILLU Thesis Portfolio 2 is recommended for **all Illustration students**, as they provide students with the unique opportunity to finish their studies with an intentional and faculty-guided professional quality portfolio of work developed for their chosen pathway.

  o As well, ILLU-4011 ILLU Professional Practice (in Category B) is recommended for all Illustration students, as it provides necessary business literacy and development skills for operating a professional practice.

- Ensure that you review the course description and pre-requisites for all courses so you can plan correctly from year to year.

- The Open Electives requirement for Illustration gives students an opportunity to take all of the ILLU coded courses offered in Categories B and E of the above Program Guide, while taking pertinent GDES (or other recommended) electives.

Recommended Courses for Illustration Pathways

For each pathway, ensure that you take the recommended courses for that pathway, though you have flexibility when choosing the number and type of recommended electives. Some of the recommended courses are required as Specific Courses in your program, while others will fulfill Option Categories or Arts & Science electives, with the remainder falling within Open Electives. You will need to ensure you meet your overall degree requirements, regardless of the pathway you are following. Refer to your Program Guide and your My Progress page to assist you with your planning.

Professional Illustrator: This path is recommended for students wishing to achieve a well-rounded education in the broader field of Illustration and be able to work in a variety of fields including publishing, advertising, editorial, entertainment, institutional, entrepreneurial, or sequential/book illustration.

ILLU 1001 Observational Illustration 2
ILLU-1007 Design Principles
ILLU-2003 Graphic Design for ILLU
ILLU-2006 Illustrative Painting 1
ILLU-2010 Contemporary Illustration
ILLU-3007 Media Studio: Hybrid
ILLU-4009 Illustrative Painting 4
ILLU-4008 Illustrative Painting 5
ILLU-4011 ILLU Professional Practice
ILLU-4901 ILLU Thesis Portfolio 1
ILLU-4902 ILLU Thesis Portfolio 2
GDES electives: selected from Category E

Graphic Novels/Book Illustrator: This pathway is recommended for students focused on a career pathway in the fields of visual storytelling via sequential illustration or book illustration.

ILLU 1001 Observational Illustration 2
ILLU-1007 Design Principles
ILLU-2003 Graphic Design for ILLU
ILLU-2006 Illustrative Painting 1
ILLU-2010 Contemporary Illustration
ILLU-4011 ILLU Professional Practice
ILLU-4901 ILLU Thesis Portfolio 1
ILLU-4902 ILLU Thesis Portfolio 2
GDES-3069 Graphic Novel Illustration
GDES-3074 Sequential ILLU Project
GDES-3075 Book Illustration
ILLU and GDES electives: selected from Category E
CRWR electives: CRWR-2002
PRPB electives: PRPB-2002, PRPB-2003, PRPB-2004, PRPB-2005, PRPB-2009

ENGL electives: ENGL-2010, ENGL-2012, ENGL-4005

Gallery Artist/Illustrator: This pathway is recommended for students focusing on a hybrid illustration/fine art practice with a dual focus on publishing and exhibitions.

ILLU 1001 Observational Illustration 2
ILLU-1007 Design Principles
ILLU-2006 Illustrative Painting 1
ILLU-2010 Contemporary Illustration
ILLU-3007 Media Studio: Hybrid
ILLU-4009 Illustrative Painting 4
ILLU-4008 Illustrative Painting 5
ILLU-4011 ILLU Professional Practice
ILLU-4901 ILLU Thesis Portfolio 1
ILLU-4902 ILLU Thesis Portfolio 2
DRPT elective: DRPT-2002

Concept Artist: This pathway is recommended for students wishing to pursue a career in entertainment arts such as film production or gaming.

ILLU 1001 Observational Illustration 2
ILLU-1007 Design Principles
ILLU-2006 Illustrative Painting 1
ILLU-4009 Illustrative Painting 4
ILLU-4008 Illustrative Painting 5
ILLU-4011 ILLU Professional Practice
ILLU-4901 ILLU Thesis Portfolio 1
ILLU-4902 ILLU Thesis Portfolio 2
GDES-3068 Concept Art: Characters
GDES-3095 Concept Art: Settings
GDES-3112 Storyboarding
GDES-3117 Concept Art: Painting
GDES-4008 Animated Illustration
EXAN electives: EXAN-1001, EXAN-2005, EXAN-2008
DIGF electives: DIGF-1007, DIGF-2013, DIGF-3006, DIGF-3007

Entrepreneur/Artisan: This pathway is recommended for illustration makers, focusing on a fusion of illustration, surface design, and craft.

ILLU 1001 Observational Illustration 2
ILLU-1007 Design Principles
ILLU-2003 Graphic Design for ILLU
ILLU-2006 Illustrative Painting 1
ILLU-3007 Media Studio: Hybrid
ILLU-4010 Media Studio: Social
ILLU-4011 ILLU Professional Practice (Category B)
ILLU-4901 ILLU Thesis Portfolio 1
ILLU-4902 ILLU Thesis Portfolio 2
GDES-3005 Guerrilla Entrepreneurship

MAAD electives: MAAD-1005, MAAD-1007, MAAD-2006, MAAD-2007, MAAD-2008, MAAD-2011
PRPB electives: PRPB-2004, PRPB-2007, PRPB-2009