

Your Program Requirements

This program guide defines the 20.0 credits required for the Bachelor of Art (BA) in Visual and Critical Studies, 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.

Visual and Critical Studies – 2026/2027 Program Guide

Major Requirements

Specific Courses:

Course Code	Course Title	Course Credit
IVCV-1001	Turtle Island Visual Culture	0.5 credit
VISA-1001	Crit Frameworks Art History	0.5 credit
VISC-1001	Global Vis & Mat Cult: to 1500	0.5 credit
VISC-1002	Global Vis & Mat Cult: to Pres	0.5 credit
CRCP-2002	Museums, Galleries, Alternates	0.5 credit
VISA-2001	Art & Globalization 1250-1800	0.5 credit
VISA-2002	History of Modern Art	0.5 credit
VISA-3022	Historiographies of Art	0.5 credit
VISA-3032	Art & Globalization 1800-Pres	0.5 credit
Total Course Credits: 4.5 credits		

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

Course Code	Course Title	Course Credit
Category A Global Perspectives – Choose TWO courses from the list below:		1.0 credit
VISA-2014	Modern and Contemporary Arab Art	
VISA-3001	The Arts of Africa	
VISA-3012	Latin American Art	
VISA-3017	South Asian Art – The Sacred	
VISA-3018	South Asian Art: Modernisms	
VISA-3028	Art & Arch-The Islamic World	
VISA-3031	Modern East Asian Art	
VISD-3007	Material Arts: Global Context	
IVCV-4001	Global Views: Indigenous Art	
VISA-4001	Latin American Contemp. Art	
VISA-4006	Modern Korean Art & Society	
VISA-4015	Art of the Black Diaspora	
VISA-4024	East Asian Art: pre-1800	
Category B Indigenous and Canadian Art – Choose TWO courses from the list below:		1.0 credit
VISA-2006	Canadian Art: The Modern Era	
IVCV-3001	Indigenous Brilliance in Art	
IVCV-3002	Sovereign Screen	
VISA-3003	Contemporary Canadian Art	
VISD-3001	Architecture in Canada	

IVCV-4001	Global Views: Indigenous Art	
IVCV-4002	Issues in Inuit Art	
IVCV-4004	Indigenous Art and Activism	
IVCV-4005	Issues in Indigenous Curating	
Category C Pre-1850 – Choose TWO courses from the list below:		1.0 credit
VISD-2001	Technologies of Writing	
VISA-3006	Art of the Italian Renaissance	
VISA-3007	Art of the Baroque	
VISA-3012	Latin American Art	
VISA-3017	South Asian Art – The Sacred	
VISA-3027	Medieval Art & Architecture	
VISA-3028	Art & Arch-The Islamic World	
VISA-4012	Art&Arch-MedievalMediterranea	
VISA-4024	East Asian Art: Pre-1800	
Category D Design – Choose ONE courses from the list below:		0.5 credit
VISC-1004	Contemporary Art and Design	
VISD-2001	History of Modern Design	
VISD-2003	Material Arts: Ancient-Modern	
VISD-2004	History & Evolution Typography	
VISD-2005	Contemp Design Theories & Prac	
VISD-2006	History of Graphic Design	
VISD-2009	History of Modern Architecture	
VISD-2010	Technologies of Writing	
VISD-3002	Illustration-Rise Pop Culture	
VISD-3006	Advertising-Art of Persuasion	
VISD-3007	Material Arts: Global Context	
Category E 4000 level courses – Complete requirements below:		1.0 credit
Level 4000	Visual culture courses (IVCV, VISA, VISD, VISM)	
Category F Studio Electives–:		1.0 credit
Level 1000/2000	Studio Elective course(s) (ADVR, ASOC, BUSI, CRCP, CROS, CRWR, DIGF, DRPT, ENVR, EXAN, FABR, GART, GDES, GRPH, ILLU, INDS, INTM, INVC, IVCA, IVCD, LIFE, MAAD, PHOT, PRNT, PRPB, SCIN.)	
Total Course Credits: 5.5 credits		

Arts & Science Requirements:

Course Code	Course Title	Course Credit
Category G – Choose ONE course from the list below:		0.5 credit
ENGL-1003	The Essay & the Argument	
ENGL-1004	Essay and the Argument: ELL	
Level 2000	ENGL course	
Category H – Complete requirements below:		
Level 2000/ 3000/4000	Visual culture courses (IVCV, VISA, VISC, VISD, VISM)	3.0 credit*
Category I – Complete requirements below:		
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
Total Course Credits: 5.0 credits		
* 3.0 credits of Visual culture courses (IVCV, VISA, VISC, VISD, VISM) must be taken in addition to credits required in the Specific Courses or Course Options Sections. Science requirements.		

Open Electives:

Course Code	Course Title	Course Credit
Level 1000/ 2000/3000/ 4000 or higher	Open electives	5.0 credits
Total Course Credits: 5.0 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.

Sample 4 Year Plan		Visual and Critical Studies
<i>Course offerings and scheduling vary by year; in some cases it may not be possible to follow the sample plan exactly as listed.</i>		
YEAR	REQUIREMENTS	COURSE CREDIT
Year 1	Specified Courses: Take IVCV-1001, VISA-1001, VISC-1001, VISC-1002, CRCP-2002	2.5credits
	Arts & Science: Choose one course from Category G option list	0.5 credit
	Studio Elective: choose two 0.5 credit courses or one 1.0 credit course	1.0 credit
	Open Electives: choose two courses	1.0 credit
Year 2	Specified Courses: Take VISA-2001, VISA-2002	1.0 credit
	Course Options: Choose one course from Category D option list	0.5 credit
	Arts & Science: Choose two courses from Category H option list	1.0 credit
	Arts & Science: Choose two courses from Category I option list	1.0 credit
	Open Electives: choose three courses	1.5 credits
Year 3	Specified Course(s): Take VISA-3022, VISA3032	1.0 credit
	Course options: Choose four courses from Category A, B and/or C	2.0 credits
	Arts & Science: Choose one courses from Category I option list	0.5 credit
	Open Electives: choose three courses	1.5 credit
Year 4	Course options: Choose 2 courses from Category A, B and/or C	1.0 credit
	Course options: Choose 2 courses from Category E option list	1.0 credit
	Arts & Science: Choose four courses from Category H option list	2.0 credits
	Open Electives: choose two courses	1.0 credit
Notes:		
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).		