



MERRIMACK COLLEGE

Academic Year 25-26 Catalog Addendum

New Degree: Bachelor of Arts (B.A.) in Creative Arts and Design

Catalog Section Title: Department of Creative Arts, Design & Architecture

Effective Date: 1/1/2026

Addition of Creative Arts and Design, B.A. - Add the following Program information:

Bachelors of Arts (B.A.) in Creative Arts and Design

Minimum number of credits required to graduate: 124

Minimum cumulative GPA required to graduate: 2.3

Minimum number of credits to complete the major: 44

At Merrimack College, the Major in Creative Arts and Design offers students the opportunity to explore a creative practice, while building a portfolio of projects. This interdisciplinary program—rooted in music, studio arts, graphic design, media and theatre—enables students to develop skills in collaboration, research, play, making, writing, speaking, and creativity through the study of the visual and performing arts.

The major provides a core of interdisciplinary coursework, an opportunity to choose a concentration, as well as supplement their concentration with additional Arts electives. Concentrations are Music, Theatre Arts, Graphic Design, Illustration, Studio Arts, or Film Studies and Media. The interdisciplinary coursework introduces students to peers throughout their tenure building lasting creative relationships, along with opportunities to work in a variety of media. The concentrations add knowledge and skill in a chosen discipline. Courses, along with internships, co-ops, and study abroad further students' experience in the creative marketplace.

The Creative Arts and Design Major

The Creative Arts and Design major is the cultural engine of Merrimack College. Our mission is to prepare students for fulfilling careers in the Arts. However, much of the knowledge and skill is also transferable to creative and corporate professional employment or for application to advanced degrees.

Our students learn to manage projects through the application of analytical, critical thinking, and creative skills. They research, interpret, solve problems, make strategic decisions, and demonstrate originality and inventiveness. They understand how to gather and use knowledge, facts, and evidence to engage in meaningful and relevant discourse. They develop the ability to adapt effectively to new and emerging technologies and circumstances—understanding the value of flexibility. They practice integrity and ethical behavior learning how to respond constructively to feedback. Moreover, they act responsibly, and respectfully, with the interests of the larger community in mind.

We believe the Arts are fundamental to the human condition, immersing students and the community in a variety of experiences building shared cultural traditions. These traditions create value for the Arts, which is necessary for the development of the whole person and society.

Students will be able to:

Learn from professors in all the Creative Arts and Design programs; develop and share creative work with their peers; and build knowledge, skills and a brand for employment. Creative Arts and Design majors will be able to:

- Analyze and interpret complex Arts' genres and traditions from across the world
- Understand the role, value, and function of the Arts as an influencer on human history, society, and the economy
- Enhance and sharpen the ability to think critically, speak eloquently, work collaboratively, and write effectively for a broad range of applications
- Possess industry skills and experience to conceive, craft, and create creative works, essays, and theses
- Apply their experience, research, and skills, to develop a creative practice, brand identity and portfolio
- Become proficient in publicly sharing their creative work and understand where it fits in artistic culture
- Be accountable, responsible and ethical in their work

Our Creative Arts and Design major provides each student with the perfect intersection of music, theatre, graphic design, media, and studio arts. Internships, study abroad, and/or co-ops, expose students to the environment of creative production, arts management, and reveal the intersections of all related creative industries.

Technology Requirements

Creative Arts and Design majors are required to have professional level software and a professional level laptop at the start of their freshmen year. Inquiries about technical requirements are always welcome; contact the Chair of the Department of Creative Arts, Design and Architecture.

Transfer Students

If a student is transferring as a Creative Arts and Design major, the transfer of studio courses and level of placement in the Creative Arts and Design program will be determined by the faculty. Upon application to Merrimack College, students are required to submit a portfolio to the Department for review. During the portfolio review, the faculty will assess a student's skills, as well as the courses to be transferred toward the degree requirements. Faculty will compare a student's level of accomplishment with the Program's expectations to determine where a student is qualified for placement into the program. Portfolios can be submitted in-person or digitally.

Major Requirements

Many of our courses are “learning-by-doing,” or employ project-based work. Students develop a portfolio of work as they seek internships, employment after graduation, and advanced degrees.

To fulfill the requirements of the Creative Arts and Design major, students complete eleven courses for a total of 44 credits. They complete six core courses; five concentration courses; can choose highly recommended Arts electives, internships, co-op or study abroad opportunities; build a junior portfolio; and complete a senior capstone project.

CORE COURSES: Creative Arts and Design majors complete six courses from multiple creative disciplines, along with courses that provide a foundation in creativity, critique, business acumen, and help to development of their own creative voice:

1. VPA1110 Intro to Visual and Performing Arts
2. DES1230 Design for Tomorrow
3. THR2585 Improvisation
4. VPA2590 Arts Management
5. VPA 2900 Practice and Identity
6. VPA4960 Senior Seminar and Capstone

CONCENTRATIONS: Students complete a five course concentration as part of completing the Creative Arts and Design major. These concentrations enable students to expand their knowledge and skill.

Filmmaking and Media Arts Concentration

1. COM2401 Media and Culture
2. DES2840 Visual Storytelling
3. DES2850 Videography
4. COM3420 The Film Experience OR COM3312 Media Criticism
5. COM3422 Live Media Production OR COM3423 Field Production OR COM3424 Post-Production

Graphic Design Concentration

1. DES2820 Elements of Graphic Design
2. DES2840 Visual Storytelling

3. DES2830 Graphic Design Studio
4. DES3860 UX Design
5. DESXXXX Social Media Design OR DES3830 Visual Web Design OR DES3840 Motion Design OR DESXXXX Data Visualization

Illustration Concentration

1. ART2210 Creative Drawing 2
2. ART 2220 Illustration
3. DES2840 Visual Storytelling
4. ART3150 Comics and the Art of the Graphic Novel
5. ART3155 Character Design

Music Concentration

1. MUS2360 Elementary Music
2. MUS2380 The Architecture of Music
3. MUS3310 Music Production
4. MUS 3320 Songwriting or MUS 3330 Music Composition
5. Performance classes [may count for a total of 4 credits and replace another course recommended by student's advisor]

Studio Arts Concentration

1. ART2230 Intro to 3D: Form, Space, Materiality
2. ART2270 Painting II
3. ART2210 Drawing 2
4. ART2500 Art of Human Anatomy OR ART2250 Independent Studio
5. ART3150 Comics and the Art of the Graphic Novel OR ART3155 Character Design

Theatre Concentration

1. THR1510 Acting 1
2. THR 1515: Theatre Practicum (2 credits, required to take it 2x)
3. THR2570 Technical Production
4. THR2580 Design for the Theatre
5. THR3510 Directing 1

HIGHLY RECOMMENDED ARTS ELECTIVE: Students can continue to learn through more related Arts courses within their concentration, add an additional concentration, choose a minor, or complete a certificate. See list of [Arts course listings](#) or the [College's Minors or Certificates](#). The minor or certificate cannot be part of the Core or their existing Concentration coursework.

JUNIOR PORTFOLIO: Starting in a student's freshman year, students will work with the [O'Brien Center for Career Development](#) on their preparation for employment. Students build a portfolio that is reviewed by the Department faculty in the middle of their junior year for a zero-credit and a pass/no pass grade. This assessment provides students with feedback for their launch into the professional world.

CAPSTONE PROJECT: Students complete *VPA4960 Senior Seminar and Capstone*. This course is designed to provide students with research, data gathering, analysis, writing, creative making, production management, critique, and public presentation skills and knowledge. The course culminates in an original creative project. The project allows students to contribute knowledge and creative work within their field of concentration, as well as provides skills and structure resulting in a public exhibition and/or performance.

Our students annually participate in Merrimack College's Research and Creativity Conference, our public Senior Capstone Project exhibition and [website](#), and performances on and off campus. This allows many people to view the great variety of student work, as well as helps prepare our students for their careers.

FURTHER EDUCATION: Students who complete the Creative Arts and Design may wish to pursue graduate education in a number of fields. Merrimack College has a number of Masters programs that can be paired with the [Double Warrior Program](#) complementing their chosen Concentration.

New Degree: Bachelor of Arts (B.A.) in Government

Catalog Section Title: Department of Political Science, Policy and History

Effective Date: 1/1/2026

Addition of Government, B.A. - Add the following Program information:

Bachelors of Arts (B.A.) in Government

Minimum number of credits required to graduate: 124

Minimum cumulative GPA required to graduate: 2.0

Minimum number of credits to complete the major: 44

The Government major provides students with foundational knowledge of the structures and functions of governments. Students will learn how individuals and various groups engage with and influence outcomes from inside and outside of governing bodies and study theories and approaches to political systems, institutions, and operations. The flexible options for concentrations within the major will enable students to build interdisciplinary expertise and skill sets for careers that connect with governments, laws, and political institutions as citizens, professionals, and decision makers in a range of fields. Students will develop skills in critical thinking, research, and communication. Government majors will be prepared for careers and graduate education in business, government, public service, advocacy, health care administration, and many other fields.

Major Requirements

To fulfill the requirements of the Government major, students complete at least eleven courses for a minimum total of 44 credits. Students will take six major core courses and at least five concentration courses.

CORE COURSES:

The core courses are designed to give students core knowledge and critical thinking, communication, and analytical skills related to the study of government. Students have a total of six courses in their major core.

Students must take the survey course for the major, preferably in their first or second year:

- GOV XXXX Intro Government

Students must take one out of three introductory level context course options:

- HIS 1119 - The European Experience: Antiquity to the Reformation
- HIS 1120 - The European Experience: Early Modern to the Present
- POL XXXX Foundations and Structures of Government

Students must take a total of two upper level specialized courses out of six upper level options:

- HIS 3360 - Medieval European Civilization
- HIS 3439 - Sugar and Revolutions: Atlantic World History, 1400-1800
- HIS 3550 - Global Empires, Violence, and Nature, 1750-1945
- POL 3113 - The American Presidency
- POL 3130 - Campaigns and Elections
- POL 3160 - United States Foreign Policy

Students must take the research methods course for the major, preferably in their second or third year (but must be taken before their capstone course):

- POL 2000 - Political Science Methods

Students must take the capstone course in their senior year:

- POL 4800 - Senior Seminar

*****Students must take different classes for their core and concentration courses. No course can double count within the major.*****

CONCENTRATIONS:

Unless otherwise noted, students complete a five course concentration as part of completing the Government major. The concentrations available to Government majors enable students to deepen their knowledge and skill in an area of expertise.

Communication and Media (existing minor)

Cyber Security (existing minor)

Data Science (updated minor)

Complete the following three required courses:

- CSC 1611 - Problem Solving with Python
- DSE 1001 - Foundations of Data Science I
- DSE 1002 - Foundations of Data Science II

Choose one of the following two courses:

- DSE 2001 - Creating Information Graphics **Credits: 4**
- DES 2840 - Visual Storytelling **Credits: 4**

Choose one course from the following courses:

- MTH 1111 - Basic Statistics **Credits: 4**
- MTH 1505 - Applied Statistics and Probability for Engineers **Credits: 4**
- MTH 2527 - Probability and Statistics I **Credits: 4**
- PSY 2110 - Statistical Methods in Psychology **Credits: 4**

Economics (existing minor)

Environmental Policy (Government major specific concentration)

Complete the following three required courses:

- POL 1300 Public Administration
- ESS 1060 Environmental Science Gateway
- ESS 3550 Environmental Policy

Choose two courses from the following electives:

- HIS 3335 World Environmental History 1300-Present
- ESS 3100 Environmental Justice OR PHL 2070 Environmental Ethics
- POL 2010 Political Ethics
- POL 2300 The Politics of Food

Ethics (existing minor)

History and Government (Government major specific concentration)

Complete one required survey course:

- HIS 1107 - U.S. History: From Reconstruction to the Present (required for students who take HIS 1120 in the Government Core)

OR

- HIS 1120 - The European Experience: Early Modern to the Present

Complete four upper level courses, one chosen from each category:

One course on Revolutions:

- HIS 3370 - Renaissance, Reformation and Exploration
- HIS 3380 - Science, Technology, and Society
- HIS 3439 - Sugar and Revolutions: Atlantic World History, 1400-1800

One course on Leaders, Law and Governing:

- HIS 3350 - Ancient History
- HIS 3410 - Twentieth-Century Europe
- HIS 3425 - Contemporary United States History
- HIS 3550 - Global Empires, Violence, and Nature, 1750-1945

One course on War and Crisis:

- HIS 3330 - World History Since 1945
- HIS 3335 - World Environment History 1300-Present
- HIS 3360 - Medieval European Civilization
- HIS 3437 - Civil War and Reconstruction

One course on Beliefs and Society:

- HIS3366 - History of Modern Middle East
- HIS 3355 - Barbarians and Holy Men: The History of Late Antiquity
- HIS 3390 - Modern European Social History
- HIS 3391 - Women in Modern European History

International Studies (existing minor)

Leadership and Decision Making (Government major specific concentration)

Complete two required courses:

- POL 3113 - The American Presidency
- HIS 3410 - Twentieth-Century Europe

Complete at least two elective courses from:

- POL 2010 Political Ethics
- POL 1300 Public Administration
- HIS 3437 Civil War and Reconstruction
- POL 2181 American Political Thought
- POL 3160 United States Foreign Policy

Complete one course from any of the elective courses above or below:

- LDR 1010 Foundations in Leadership
- MGT3260 Leadership
- MGT3430 Ethics and Social Responsibility

Management (existing minor)

National Security, Strategy, and Law (Government major specific concentration)

Complete the following two required courses:

- POL 3160 United States Foreign Policy
- POL 3151 American Constitutional Law

Complete three elective courses from the following options:

- POL 3541 Cyber Security: The Intersection of Technology and Policy
- POL 4599 Issues and Cases in United States Foreign Policy
- POL 3162 Citizenship Rights, Politics, and Law
- POL 3113 The American Presidency
- HIS 3360 Medieval European Civilization
- CRM 3725 Terrorism

Organizational Dynamics (Government major specific concentration)

Complete two courses from the following options:

- POL 1300 Public Administration
- POL 3113 The American Presidency
- POL 3130 Campaigns and Elections
- POL 3160 United States Foreign Policy

Complete three elective courses from the options above and below:

- COM 2801 Communication and Society
- COM 2531 Intercultural Communication
- MGT 1100 Intro to Business
- MGT 3120 Organizational Behavior
- MGT3440 Workplace and Culture
- PSY 1000 Introduction to Psychology (required for upper level PSY classes)
- PSY 2200 Social Psychology (Must take PSY 1000 first)
- PSY 2270 Group Dynamics (Must take PSY 1000 first)

Political Science (existing minor)

Pre-Law (existing minor)

Public Policy (existing minor)

Public Health (existing minor)

[Public Relations](#) (existing minor)

[Sociology](#) (existing minor)

Teacher Education: History and Society

(note that this concentration requires seven courses for a 22 credit concentration)

Complete the following required courses:

- EDU 2110 Foundations and Principles of Education
- HDE 2230 Applied Adolescent Development
- HDE 3210 Psychology of Learning and Assessment
- HIS 1119 The European Experience: Antiquity to the Reformation
- HIS 1120 The European Experience: Early Modern to the Present

Complete the following two 1-credit courses:

- ESP 1000 Career Design: Explore, Plan, Develop (1 credit)
- ESP 1050 Career Readiness: Professionalism, Dispositions, Prospects (1 credit)

Teacher Education students seeking licensure should also:

1. Select History for their General Education Core minor, and
2. Complete an Education Licensure minor

Students selecting the Teacher Education concentration are advised to take the recommended additional courses listed below:

- HDE 2130 Ethics, Identity, and Society (for Core C&S)
- EDU 4040 Reading, Writing and Literacy for Secondary Education
- EDU 4221 Positive Learning Environments and Behavior Interventions (2 credits)
- POL 1300 Public Administration
- POL 3113 The American Presidency (take as a Government major elective)
- POL 3140 Mass Media and American Politics
- POL 3151 American Constitutional Law
- POL 3162 Citizenship Rights, Politics, and Law

*****Students must take different classes for their core and concentration courses. No course can double count within the major.*****

FURTHER EDUCATION: Students who complete the Government major will be well-prepared to pursue graduate education in a number of fields. Merrimack College has a number of Masters programs such as the Master of Public Administration that can be paired with the [Double Warrior Program](#) complementing their chosen Concentration.