

# ILLUSTRATIVE DESIGN (TECHNICAL CERTIFICATE)

## Overview

Award: Technical Certificate  
Program of Study: Illustrative Design  
Program Code: 1179

The Illustrative Design Certificate (12 credit hours) provides students with foundational and applied skills in drawing, illustration, motion design, visual communication, and creative problem-solving. This short-term credential is designed for students seeking an affordable, accessible entry point into the creative industries, as well as for working adults and concurrent-enrollment students looking to expand their artistic and digital design competencies.

Through hands-on studio work and project-based learning, students engage with industry-relevant tools and processes, including Adobe Creative Cloud, digital and time-based media, professional screen-printing equipment, and traditional drawing and sketchbook practices. Courses emphasize creative development, iterative design, critique, and the ability to communicate ideas visually across multiple formats. The program prepares graduates for entry-level creative roles, freelance opportunities, or continued study in CMU's AA or BFA programs in Graphic Design.

The 12-credit curriculum is composed entirely of existing courses within the Department of Art & Design, ensuring full stackability into CMU's AA and BFA degrees. This structure allows students to progress efficiently into advanced coursework without duplicating requirements while gaining a practical credential that supports both workforce readiness and ongoing academic achievement.

All CMU/CMU Tech technical certificate graduates are expected to demonstrate proficiency in specialized knowledge/applied learning, communication fluency, and critical thinking. In addition to these campus-wide student learning outcomes, graduates of this major will be able to:

1. Demonstrate visual literacy and apply drawing, composition, and design principles to create effective illustrative design work.
2. Use industry-standard software, tools, and production methods to create illustrative, motion, and print-based visual communication.
3. Create cohesive visual solutions in illustration, motion, and print that respond to audience and contextual needs using research-informed illustrative design processes.
4. Present and critique illustrative design work using clear visual communication, professional vocabulary, and reflective creative processes.

## Requirements

Each section below contains details about the requirements for this program. Select a header to expand the information/requirements for that particular section of the program's requirements.

**To print or save an overview of this program's information, including the program description, learning outcomes, requirements, suggested course sequencing (if applicable), and advising and graduation information, scroll to the bottom of the left-hand navigation menu and select "Print Options."** This will give you the options to either "Send Page to Printer" or "Download PDF of This Page." The "Download PDF of This Page" option

prepares a much more concise presentation of all program information. The PDF is also printable and may be preferable due to its brevity.

## Institutional Certificate Requirements

The following institutional requirements apply to all CMU or CMU Tech Technical Certificates. Specific programs may have different requirements that must be met in addition to institutional requirements.

- Consists of 5-59 semester hours.
- Consists of 100-200 level courses.
- At least fifty percent of the credit hours must be taken at CMU/CMU Tech.
- 2.00 cumulative GPA or higher in all courses taken to satisfy certificate requirements.
- A grade lower than "C" will not be counted toward meeting the requirements.
- A course may only be used to fulfill one requirement for each degree/certificate.
- Non-traditional credit, such as advanced placement, credit by examination, credit for prior learning, cooperative education and internships, cannot exceed twenty-five percent of the semester credit hours required for a technical certificate.
- Pre-collegiate courses (usually numbered below 100) cannot be used for graduation.
- Capstone exit assessment/projects (e.g., Major Field Achievement Test) requirements are identified under Program-Specific Certificate Requirements.
- The Catalog Year determines which program sheet and certificate requirements a student must fulfill in order to graduate. Visit with your advisor or academic department to determine which catalog year and program requirements you should follow.
- See "Requirements for Undergraduate Degrees and Certificates" in the catalog for a complete list of graduation requirements.

## Program Specific Certificate Requirements

(12 semester hours. To continue in the program and eventually earn the certificate, a student must earn at least a grade of "B" in the program-specific course requirements.)

Code	Title	Semester Credit Hours
ARTG 112	Graphic Design I	3
ARTS 151	Foundation Drawing I	3
ARTG 222	Illustration Principles	3
ARTG 226	Motion Graphics	3
<b>Total Semester Credit Hours</b>		<b>12</b>

## Suggested Course Plan

First Year	Semester	Semester Credit Hours
Fall Semester		
ARTG 112	Graphic Design I	3
<b>Semester Credit Hours</b>		<b>3</b>

<b>Spring Semester</b>		
ARTS 151	Foundation Drawing I	3
<b>Semester Credit Hours</b>		<b>3</b>
<b>Second Year</b>		
<b>Fall Semester</b>		
ARTG 222	Illustration Principles	3
<b>Semester Credit Hours</b>		<b>3</b>
<b>Spring Semester</b>		
ARTG 226	Motion Graphics	3
<b>Semester Credit Hours</b>		<b>3</b>
<b>Total Semester Credit Hours</b>		<b>12</b>

## Advising and Graduation

### Advising Process and DegreeWorks

Documentation on the pages related to this program is intended for informational purposes to help determine what courses and associated requirements are needed to earn a certificate. Some courses are critical to complete in specific semesters while others may be moved around. Meeting with an academic advisor is essential in planning courses and discussing the suggested course sequencing. It is ultimately the student's responsibility to understand and fulfill the requirements for their intended certificate.

DegreeWorks is an online degree audit tool available in MAVzone. It is the official record used by the Registrar's Office to evaluate progress towards a certificate and determine eligibility for graduation. Students are responsible for reviewing their DegreeWorks audit on a regular basis and should discuss questions or concerns with their advisor or academic department head. Discrepancies in requirements should be reported to the Registrar's Office.

## Graduation Process

Students must complete the following in the first two months of the semester prior to completing their certificate requirements (for one-semester certificates, complete in the first week of class):

- Review their DegreeWorks audit and create a plan that outlines how unmet requirements will be met in the final semester.
- Meet with their advisor and modify their plan as needed. The advisor must approve the final plan.
- Submit the "Intent to Graduate" form to the Registrar's Office to officially declare the intended graduation date and commencement ceremony plans.
- Register for all needed courses and complete all requirements for each degree sought.

Submission deadlines and commencement details can be found on the [Graduation](#) web page.

If a student's petition for graduation is denied, it will be their responsibility to apply for graduation in a subsequent semester. A student's "Intent to Graduate" does not automatically move to a later graduation date.