

Student Success Map

B.A. in Communication Design—Media Arts Option Department of Communication Design

Essentials for Every Semester

- Meet with your major advisor and consult **Advisors** in SSC 220 as needed for course selection strategies. Take courses in the proper sequence.
- Meet deadlines to **register**, pay **fees**, and **apply** for financial aid.
- Check your **DPR**. Are you on-track to meet requirements?
- Complete a sufficient number of units each term (15–16 units) to graduate in four years. Some programs require more.
- Check your **Student Center** prior to registration for registration holds and updating your personal info.
- Check your **Student Center** in the first two weeks of classes to confirm your class schedule and that all adds and drops have been processed as you expected.
- Check your **Student Center** after each semester for your grades and academic standing. If your GPA drops below a 2.0, consult an **Advisor**.

FRESHMAN

Learn where to find and how to use campus resources such as the **Student Learning Center**, **Health Center**, **Academic Advising**, **Wellness Center** and your faculty advisor. Introduce yourself to each of your instructors, and your **Media Arts advisor**. Your advisor will help you navigate the program through out your undergraduate career.

Obtain your Major Academic Plan (**MAP**). Start taking **Communication Design core courses** and a **Media Arts core course**. If you need preparatory math and/or English courses, complete them in your first year.

Visit the **Student Activities Office** and get involved with a club or organization - or start your own. Check out the **Freshman Leadership Opportunity (FLO)**. Get involved with the **Digital Filmmaker's Guild (DFG)** or **KCSC** to meet and socialize with others in the major.

Select courses in GE that meet the **diversity requirements** (US Diversity and Global cultures). Get out of your comfort zone, attend the **University Film Series**, and see the work of others from around the globe.

Consider a time management workshop in the **Student Learning Center**. Use the **Career Center** to assess your interests, skills, and work values. Ask how to explore media related careers on your own.

SOPHOMORE

Know how to use your Degree Progress Report (**DPR**) in your Student Center. Go to **Academic Advising** for help. Visit your **Media Arts advisor** to gain advice about classes and long term goals.

Complete your **GE Foundation courses**. Explore **GE Pathways**. Consider completing an **interdisciplinary minor** within your GE. Consult an **advisor** for help.

While you're finishing your lower division GE courses, begin taking production courses within your program (CDES 206, 216, and 226), in addition to CDES 261.

Consider an **internship** to explore your major and build professional skills. **Internships** provide you with valuable work experience prior to graduation.

Stay involved with the **DFG** and **KCSC**.

Explore **Study Abroad** opportunities. Attend an info meeting they offer every semester. Or consider **National Student Exchange**.

Start compiling work for your reel. Work on several projects outside of the classroom during the year.

JUNIOR

Apply for graduation one year in advance of your expected graduation date.

Discuss post-graduation options with your **Media Arts advisor** and confirm that you are on track to graduate

Begin your **Upper Division GE Pathway courses**. If you choose the **Science, Technology and Values Pathway**, count CDES 307 toward this requirement!

Begin your **upper division CDES courses**. Tailor them to suit your needs, so that you can gain the knowledge and skills to succeed after graduation.

Take an internship with a local TV or radio station. Work on video **projects**.

Review your involvement, leadership, and cultural resumes. Have you participated in on- or off-campus activities such as clubs, community service, recreational opportunities, musical, dramatic or cultural performances, lectures or forums?

Take video and film criticism courses and actively apply what you learn to your own projects in your production courses. Volunteer video work for university and community groups - it's a great way to contribute to the community and also a way to build up your reel.

Continue to gather footage and work on several projects. Start putting together your reel. Visit the **Career Center** to learn about career opportunities and résumé building. Attend a **career fair** on campus, regularly scheduled early in fall semesters and several times during spring semesters.

SENIOR

Confirm graduation progress with an **Evaluator**.

Review your DPR with your **Media Arts advisor**. Seek advice on post-graduation options.

Finish all **major requirements**.

Complete your upper division CDES courses and take your capstone, CDES 461.



Present your video projects at the **SMASH awards**. Consider becoming an officer of the **DFG**.

Network with **alumni** and other potential employers.

Take **GRE** or other appropriate **exams**. Apply for graduate/professional school.

Take CDES 461 your final semester to build your online portfolio.

Graduation and Beyond

Careers

- *Media/Script Writer*
- *Director*
- *Producer*
- *Editor*
- *Sports Broadcaster*
- *Videographer*



CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, CHICO

Get Good Advice

Take the Right Classes

Apply What You Learn

Connect with Peers

Think Globally

Prepare for Life After Graduation