The world needs good design.

The size and shape of mobile devices, the animation we see on the big screen, the materials used in the buildings we enter, design touches everything around.

In response to an expanding global interest in all disciplines of design, the College's curriculum incorporates relevant practices that prepare our students for a career in design.

Keep reading for more information about the application guidelines for

Architecture
Art + Design
Graphic Design
Industrial Design

NC STATE College of Design

Studio-Based Major Application Guidelines

Architecture | Art + Design | Graphic Design | Industrial Design

HOW TO APPLY TO A STUDIO-BASED MAJOR

01

APPLICATION

Submit a completed
Common Application
or
Coalition Application

A studio-based major
needs to be selected
as your first-choice
major, it cannot be
selected as a second
choice major.

We strongly suggest
choosing a second
choice major on
your application,
if applicable. Your
second choice major
cannot be another
studio-based major.

02

WOLFPAW

Use wolfPAW
to upload
portfolio + essay
and complete
your application.

Important! You will
not have access
to wolfPAW until
14 days after
you submit your
application!

The checklist for
completing an
application to
NC State University
can be found within
your personalized
wolfPAW account.

03

PORTFOLIO

Submit your 10
portfolio images
and Design Essay
response through
wolfPAW.

A portfolio is a
collection of your
strongest work. This
is a showcase of
who you are as a
maker and creator.

Submissions do not
need to be major
specific. Any medium
is accepted.

You must submit 10
images.

04

ESSAY

Submit your 10
portfolio images
and Design Essay
response through
wolfPAW.

The Design essay
prompts the applicant
to think creatively
about the world
around them.

You will receive your
major-specific essay
question on your
wolfPAW account.
Please submit your
essay as a .doc or
.pdf file.

APPLICATION TIMELINE

NOVEMBER 1

Application + Portfolio Deadline
Submit your Common or Coalition application, your 10-piece portfolio and design essay through your wolfPAW account.

Important! You will not have access to wolfPAW until 14 days after you submit your application. Please be prepared to upload your essay response and 10-piece portfolio as soon as you have access to wolfPAW. Incomplete portfolios or portfolios received after November 1 may not be reviewed for admission.

Undergraduate Admissions reviews applicants and sends competitive students to Design for review of portfolio and essay.

LATE DECEMBER

Admissions Update
College of Design provides recommendations (admit, interview, decline) to the Office of Undergraduate Admissions. The Office of Undergraduate Admissions will provide an update within wolfPAW.

MID-JANUARY

Interview by invitation only.
Students who are invited to an interview will be given specific instructions on how to participate and what to prepare.

LATE FEBRUARY

Final Decisions
Final notifications will be released by the Office of Undergraduate Admissions.

PORTFOLIO RECOMMENDATIONS BY MAJOR

ARCHITECTURE

Hand drawing / hand rendering
sketching, drawing or painting by hand

3-Dimensional exploration
innovative thinking in 3D mediums
(ex. sculpture, furniture, pottery, etc.)

Creativity and good craft
pieces that show imagination in their
conception and attention to detail in
their construction

ART + DESIGN

Evidence of Creativity
pieces that show innovation and
imagination

2D + 3D skill
work within a variety of mediums

Digital Media
sketching, drawing, creating within a
digital medium

GRAPHIC DESIGN

Visual communication skills
work should express specific ideas,
attitudes, events, or stories

Serial or sequential work
series of themed works; various
iterations of same idea; same subject
executed in different mediums

Problem solving skills
evidence of problem solving for larger
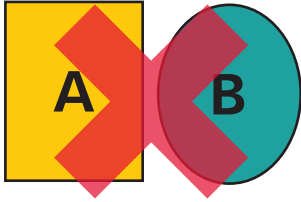or smaller issues

INDUSTRIAL DESIGN

Evidence of creativity
pieces that show imagination

Problem solving skills
work that centers around purposeful
design, evidence of problem solving for
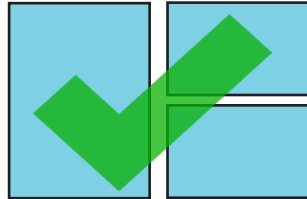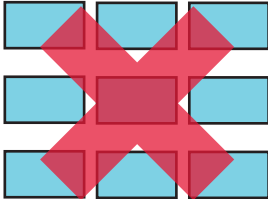larger or smaller issues

Originality
images that show independent and
innovative thinking in 2D or 3D
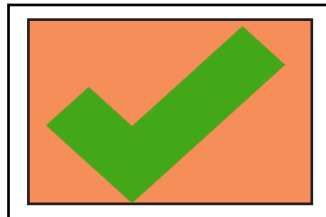mediums

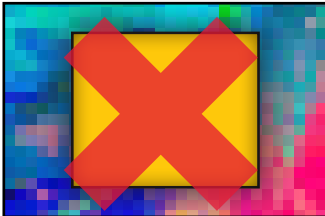# GENERAL PORTFOLIO RECOMMENDATIONS

SHOW ONE PIECE OF WORK PER IMAGE

YOU CAN SHOW MULTIPLE VIEWS OF ONE WORK

USE WELL-LIT, HIGH-RES IMAGES WITH NEUTRAL BACKGROUNDS

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