

A + D



“At the beginning of Genesis, we have this generous invitation to join God in His creative work by unlocking the potential that God has already built into His creation in the systems and structures as well as the materials and animals. When we cultivate the earth, when we make and maintain, we are living into the plan God had, and we are leaning into our image-bearing.”

-Michelle Radford

This philosophy is reflected in the Division of Arts and Design programs and in the nearly 200 students who are pursuing degrees in this division.

Each student, as a freshman, chooses which of the four majors in the division they would like to pursue: studio art, graphic design, fashion design or interior architecture and design. As they progress in their respective majors, students grow in their knowledge of their areas of study and themselves.

Graphic design is focused on teaching students how to create work that connects with people visually and emotionally. Students also study the fundamentals of art and the software used to create graphic design.

Luke Gonzales, a senior graphic design major, described his major here at BJU as a program that helped him grow in his technical skills, knowledge of the field and thought processing. He said the best part of his major is his professors.

“They have so much knowledge of the field, and their goal is to see us as students thrive,” he said.

Gonzales said he has worked on many different projects throughout his time in graphic design. He said a lot of planning and research goes into each one. “Projects can vary from a simple brochure to a complex app,” he said. “No matter what you’re designing, it needs to effectively

communicate the desired message.”

Gonzales is utilizing his experience with projects as he interns for Jackson Marketing. “I am really enjoying what I am currently doing at Jackson and would love to work at a marketing firm,” Gonzales said.

Studio art is the second largest major in the Division of Arts and Design. The program is designed to grown students in their knowledge of and their ability to create art.

Ambrose Rouse, a senior studio art major, said his chosen program of study is filled with diversity. “In studio art you take classes in a wide variety of media and styles while also being able to narrow your focus to one medium,” he said. “Some of the classes offered are oil painting, watercolor, advanced drawing techniques, figure drawing, illustration, sculpture, and printmaking to name a few.”

Rouse has finished his senior art show, 16 pieces of photolithographic prints which were put on display on Feb. 22. He said he enjoyed creating each one. Rouse also said he has never regretted majoring in studio art because it has grown his relationship with the Lord.

“I have grown as an artist, and I even met my fiancée in the art and design program,” he said.

Fashion design, in contrast to graphic design, is the smallest major in the division. Students take classes on a variety of subjects like home business and fashion retail.

Allyson Carl, a senior fashion design major, first became interested in the fashion design when she visited some classes in the program here at BJU as a senior in high school. “I loved what I saw and knew that was the major for me,” she said.

Carl described some of the main courses in fashion design as classes on apparel construction and apparel design. She said she has taken three of each.

She also described other classes on textiles, fibers, fashion illustration, as well as several classes on the foundations of art. “I was able to learn how to make a suit jacket, construct a wide variety of garments, create patterns for clothes [and] design an original line of clothes,” she said.

Carl said she has juggled many projects throughout her four years at BJU, which included sewing and patterning garments and writing on current fashion runway trends. “The projects are pretty hard, but they allow you to really practice what you’ve been taught,” she said.

Carl is using her knowledge to create original collections for a class project. She said she is thrilled to be using her talents. “I really enjoy the process of picking the inspiration, starting to sketch, picking colors and fabrics,” she said. “I just love everything about it and being able to see the collection come together.”

Interior architecture and design is fourth major in the Division of Arts and Design. The program instructs students on how to participate in architecture and design teams to create smart environments in various professional settings.

Bekah Griffith, a senior interior architecture and design major, said her major is so much more than picking out paint colors, pillows and curtains. She said students in her program learn to decorate rooms, follow specific codes of building such as how many water fountains

should be on each floor and how to choose the correct building materials for different kinds of building projects.

She said as a freshman she spent many hours sketching blueprints by hand, but as she progressed in the major, she took applications classes that involved computer programs. “[The computer programs] allowed us to build models and make them look like real photos, so that we can give our clients a good idea of what their space could [and] will look like,” she said.

Like all the other majors in the Division of Arts and Design, Griffith said interior architecture and design is project intensive. “Projects range from hand drafting floor plans, to building realistic models on the computer,” she said. “They are time consuming and take a lot of patience. Time management is key, and you learn to become very disciplined and efficient.”

Griffith said interior architecture and design is a very precise but also a very creative major. She is enjoying working on two different projects and is excited to see where the Lord will lead her in the future.



Radford summed up the goal and motivation of the Division of Arts and Design and said, “It’s really no wonder art and beauty bring us such joy—both in making and observing—this is directly in line with what God created us to be and do.”