Minnesota North College

Graphic Design and Visual Communications
(remote learning option)

Graphic Design and Visual Communications at Minnesota North College offers both in-person and remote (synchronous) learning options to incoming students. Students who participate in person will be able to utilize classroom equipment (computers, cameras, etc.) Students who choose the remote learning option will need to purchase their own equipment and technology. Remote learners will be required to attend all live/synchronous lectures and critiques (via zoom) at the regularly scheduled class meeting times.

ONLINE | REMOTE LEARNER EQUIPMENT AND SOFTWARE NEEDS MacBook Pro and software available from apple.com/us-hed/shop		
Hardware	14-inch or 16-inch MacBook Pro running OS Ventura or Sonoma	Apple computer estimated cost $2,200 minimum
Processor	Apple M1 chip with 8-core CPU, 8-core GPU, and 16-core Neural Engine or Apple M1 Pro with 8-core CPU, 14-core GPU, 16-core Neural Engine	
Memory	16 GB minimum	
Storage	512 GB SSD minimum (1TB SSD storage recommended)	
Software	First year students need Pro Apps Bundle for Education pre-installed (Includes Final Cut Pro, Motion, Compressor, Logic Pro and MainStage), -or- Final Cut Pro and Motion (purchased individually from the App Store). Second year students need Adobe Creative Cloud Subscription All students may download a free copy of Microsoft Office 365	Pro-apps for education: $200 -or- FCP and Motion $350 Adobe CC: $240/year Download Office 365
Extras	AppleCare+ (recommended) USB-C to USB Adaptor (required) USB-C to SD Card Reader (required)	Estimated cost $90
DSLR Camera	New or pre-owned Canon T5i through T8i (or DSLR with audio capabilities) with 18-55mm lens (Available at B&H Photo and Adorama) 32 GB SD video card (minimum)	Price $500-$750 SD Card $25
Tripod	Manfrotto mkcompact	
Textbooks	See Minnesota North College bookstore webpage for required texts	
Internet	Internet connection and video conference capabilities required	

Live (synchronous) lectures will be held each school day. Remote students will be held to the same attendance expectations as are in-person students.

All required course materials, supplemental videos, and written resources will be available to all students through D2L. Instructors are available to answer questions and provide feedback by phone, video chat, and e-mail.

At the time they register, students will designate their preference for in-person or remote/synchronous. Students will continue to work with their academic advisor to ensure that they fulfill the graduation requirements for the Diploma or A.A.S. Degree.

For more information, call Rosanne Omersa in admissions at 218-550-2615 or instructors Paul McLaughlin, 218-550-2613, or Kayt Dowling 218-550-2605 or academic advisor Matt Jarva, 218-550-2608.

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Last updated December 2023

If I'm a remote/synchronous student, can I log into the course and do my work when it's convenient for me?

No. This program will be delivered synchronously, which means that instructors expect remote/synchronous students to attend all class sessions, during class session time, just as the face-to-face students do. The class meets from 8:00 AM until 1:30 PM Monday through Thursday. Classes have a productive mix of lecture and lab components for both the face-to-face students and the remote/synchronous students.

Daily attendance of remote/synchronous learners is required to develop and strengthen good communication and productive collaboration skills. These are skills critical to students' success in this program and in the profession.

If I'm a remote/synchronous student, how do I get my course materials?

Course materials are available to students in a number of ways.

- Instructor-provided materials are available in D2L. Remote/synchronous students will have the exact same access to these materials as face-to-face students.

- Textbooks can be purchased through the Minnesota North College bookstore. Remote/synchronous learners can email the bookstore with their textbook needs. Once materials are paid for, the bookstore can send the purchased materials via FedEx.

- Course-required hardware, software, and additional equipment will be available on campus for all face-to-face students. Remote/synchronous students will have to purchase those items. See Graphic Design and Visual Communications Spec Sheet for details. Contact instructors if you have ques-tions.

Paul McLaughlin (First Year Instructor)
Phone: 218-969-5012
Email: paul.mclaughlin@minnesotanorth.edu

Kayt Dowling (Second Year Instructor)
Phone: 218-550-2605
Email: kayt.dowling@minnesotanorth.edu

If I'm a remote/synchronous student, how do I get my questions answered during class?

Instructors are dedicated to the success of all their students. Here are all the ways remote/synchronous students can get their questions answered.

- During class: Students will have multiple opportunities during class to ask questions. Remote/synchronous students (attending class via zoom) may raise their hand or simply unmute to ask a question when questions are invited by the instructor.

- Instant Message (D2L Brightspace): All students may use the IM feature in D2L. Instructors check their online classes regularly and can generally commit to responding to questions within 24 hours.

- Email: Student questions often arise outside of class when students are engaged in completing the assignment. For this reason, we encourage all our students to begin their assignments early so that when questions or issues arise, they have time to contact their instructor, wait a reasonable amount of time for a reply, and then get on with their assignment so that it can be completed on time. Instructors check their email regularly and can generally commit to responding to questions within 24 hours.

- Phone: The GDVC first-year instructor is on campus and available to answer questions after class (1:30-3 Mon-day-Thursday and available by arrangement 10-5 on Fridays)

GRAPHIC DESIGN and VISUAL COMMUNICATIONS

Remote/Synchronous Option 2024-2025 | Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

The GDVC second–year instructor is available to answer questions remotely daily 1:30–3:30 and Fridays by arrangement between 9 a.m. and 2 p.m. This can be done via IM, e-mail, phone call or a face–to–face zoom call.

Instructors' email and phone number information is available in course syllabi and here:

Paul McLaughlin (First Year Instructor)
Phone: 218–969–5012
Email: paul.mclaughlin@minnesotanorth.edu

Kayt Dowling (Second Year Instructor)
Phone: 218–550–2605
Email: kayt.dowling@minnesotanorth.edu

Do I have to have the version of the operating system and software that is listed on the Spec Sheet?

Yes. Students in the GDVC program must have an Apple computer. In addition, your computer's Operating System must be updated to Monterey or Ventura. No older versions of the OS are compatible with the software.

Final Cut Pro (FCP) must be updated to 10.6.4 at the minimum and Motion 5.6.2.

Students will be responsible for purchasing and managing their own Adobe Creative Cloud Subscription while enrolled in the second year of the program. Student pricing is available directly from Adobe.

If I am a remote/synchronous student, are there times that the on–campus lab might be available for me to use? If so, when?

Yes, a remote/synchronous student can utilize the lab equipment including lighting, sound equipment, and the blue/green screens.

The hours of availability are the same as for face–to–face students:

Monday – Thursday 8:00 – 1:30 and Fridays by appointment for the first year students.

Second year students may access the classroom and lab by appointment with instructor.

Can I switch from being a face–to–face student to a remote/synchronous student or vice versa?

Yes. Keep in mind, though, that the face–to–face student will have access to college computers, software, equipment, etc. If you switch from the face–to–face option to the remote/ synchronous option, you will need to obtain your own computer and camera and you will continue to be required to attend class during scheduled class time.

Will financial aid cover the cost of tuition and equipment/software?

Students are encouraged to visit with a financial aid advisor regarding the use of financial aid funds.

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