

CSUSB DEPARTMENT OF ART & DESIGN

10 Tips for Academic Advising & Choosing Courses

1. Check out the ROADMAP for your degree program. These can be found on our department website: <https://www.csusb.edu/art/ba-bfa/ba-road-maps>
2. Get to know your PAWS REPORT. Here is a handy video on how to read and navigate your PAWS Report: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Rcm7e0ULh50>
3. Follow the COURSE NUMBERING SYSTEM. Typically, you should take 1000-level courses first, if you are a first year student, followed by 2000- level, then 3000- level, and so on. Leave 5000- level courses until your final year or semester.
4. Various majors have their own course PREFIX. Art Education courses start with AAED, Art History courses start with AH, Studio Art courses start with ART and Design courses start with DES. Please note that most DES courses ending in '0' are offered in the fall and those ending in '5' are offered in the spring semesters (think 5 = S). Try to plan accordingly.
5. Understand Course PRE-REQUISITES. Many upper division (3000- level and above) will have lower division (1000- or 2000-level) pre-requisites. These are usually listed in the course descriptions, or will pop up in your Student Center, especially if you haven't completed all of them to enroll in a particular course. Pre-reqs are pre-reqs for a reason but in some instances, they might be able to be waived. Contact your advisor with questions.
6. Spread out your GE COURSES. Be sure to take courses in your major in your first semester with us. Refer to your ROADMAP for a suggested schedule. Don't try to get all of your GE courses out of the way first; instead, plan on taking your GE courses throughout your time here.
7. TRANSFER STUDENTS: Make sure that your lower division courses have transferred. If you see that there some courses in your unused electives section on your PAWS Report, talk to your advisor or the department chair about going through these to make sure what can count towards your degree is counting towards your degree. This will also save you from repeating coursework that you may have already done.
8. COURSE SUBSTITUTIONS. Sometimes, courses can be substituted in on your PAWS Report even if they do not show up as being an option towards satisfying your degree requirements. Talk to your advisor or the department chair if you have questions about a particular course or courses that really interest you and you would like to take.
9. Refer to the department's WEBSITE. There are a lot of resources for you, especially on this page: <https://www.csusb.edu/art/student-resources>
10. If in doubt, REACH OUT! We are here to help. Faculty contact information can be found here: <https://www.csusb.edu/art/our-team> or you can contact the department at art@csusb.edu. General advising information can be found here: <https://www.csusb.edu/advising>