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*Note: This document may not be fully accurate if it hasn't been updated in a while. You can always ask questions in the DSA discord server if you are unsure.

Can I have a double major/minor?

No! It's not possible to have a double major or minor due to the degree requirements. Check your Degree Requirement Worksheet in the Design Handbook for your cohort for more information on what courses you need to take to fulfill graduation requirements.

How do I print in black and white?

You can use any of the workstations in the blue, green or red labs to print in black and white in the labs. You can also print in black and white in the Fab Lab, just specify that you are printing in the "Design B&W" printer or the Wide Format B&W if it's bigger than 12x18in.

How do I print in colour?

Go to the Fab Lab and print from the computer stations. A Fab Lab technician (Rich or Loris) or a print monitor will be on hand to approve your print job and apply any specifications (double siding, stapling, etc). Colour jobs can only be done when a Fab Lab technician (Weekdays 9am-5pm) or print monitor (varied schedule) is available, so always check the schedule for print monitors to see if they are on campus.

How much does printing cost?

It depends! Colour has a different price from black and white printing. Black and white is 10 cents per page and colour is 50 cents per page on the small format printers. If you are printing on the wide format, it depends on the size of the print, and if it's in black and white or colour. For a studio class that requires colour printing, it can cost between \$150-\$300+ in a semester, depending on how many prints you make!

(First Year) Do I need to buy everything on the incoming list? New Laptop?

Although it is recommended, if you don't have the budget for it, the best things to buy are an X-Acto knife and a metal ruler, so you can trim your work. Cutting mats are nice-to-have, but every classroom and the Fab Lab has desks with cutting mats on them that you can use! This philosophy also applies to new laptops. If you have an older computer, don't feel pressured to buy the latest specs. If it works fine, and if you remember to save your work often and have a secondary backup (SSD or cloud storage), it's not necessary to buy a new laptop in first year. You may want to save up for a newer computer for third and fourth year, when you will be doing much more complex projects that will require more processing power.

(First Year) How much does it cost to be in the Design Program?

Program fees vary every year. Check this website for the latest amount: <https://sfs.yorku.ca/fees/courses>. Program fees include both tuition and supplementary fees (extra fees that fund student wellbeing at York). Tuition and supplementary fees are required.

YFS offers health insurance automatically to all undergraduate students for about \$200 or so every year. This can be opted out of every year, but the health insurance at York is actually well worth the cost (<https://www.yfs.ca/healthplan>). It covers vision, dental, psychotherapy (mental health counselling), extended health services like physiotherapy, chiropractor, nutrition coaches, etc. If you are not covered by parental insurance, I would recommend keeping this insurance.

Make sure to account for printing costs for your studio courses. Consider it as a cost you should account for, similar to how students in other programs have textbook fees on top of their tuition.

Living on campus or off-campus in the York Village will also be an extra expense. You will have to consider residence costs or rents, meal plans or groceries, and additional bills if you live off campus (utilities, wifi, transportation, etc). Even if you live on campus, consider the costs of if you visit friends and family out of town, or want to go out somewhere with friends (commuting). Also account for discretionary expenses, like eating out, going out, clothes, makeup, video games, etc. You don't want to end the year realizing that you spent more than you can afford.

Can we request books, that aren't available, from the YorkU library?

Yes, students can request books that are currently not available in the YorkU library! Just send an email to Mary Kandiuk (mkandiuk@yorku.ca) with the book you would like to request and they will get back to you with an update on the book.

Do we have exams?

There are no exams in Design courses, for both studios and studies. All courses consist of projects (such as studio projects, or essays) and participation, which contribute to your final grade.

What's the recommended/max amount of courses you can take per semester?

A full course load is considered to be 5 courses (15 credits) per semester. With your tuition, DESN students pay a flat rate, regardless of how many courses you take in the year. This means that you can take 18 credits or 30 credits in Fall/Winter, but still pay the 10k or so every year. We get a max of 36 credits for every year (Fall/Winter/Summer). You can take a max of 15 credits in the summer, but the summer term is accelerated learning, so I recommend doing no more than 6 credits every summer, unless you have enough time to dedicate to school (aren't doing full/part time work in the summer semester), then you can take more credits. If you are unable to dedicate time in the summer to a summer course, you must take 30 credits a year to stay on track to graduate. Our program requires 120 credits

across 4 years. If you have to drop a course for some reason, you may need to graduate late and take summer courses in fourth year (summer after fourth year), so that you meet the 120 credit requirement.

I am a student with a disability and I cannot take a full course load. What do I do?

Although it is unfair, due to the limits of the program, you will have to take at the very minimum, all of your design courses every year, so that you stay within the correct academic standing every year. Many design courses are requisites for the next year level, so you have to complete and pass these courses to advance in the program (although exceptions can be made by talking to academic advising and the chair of the department). A full course load for students with disabilities is 18 credits according to OSAP. In first year, 18 credits of design courses are required. To stay on track, you could take 12 credits in the summer term, so that you meet 30 credits at the end of each year. However, given that first year is the easiest year, I recommend doing as many credits as you can given your disability, or talking to advising about taking a fifth year. You may have to take a mix of gen eds and required second year courses, in your second year, then take third year required courses in third year, and then third year electives in fourth year, and then degree exhibit, thesis, and other fourth year courses in your fifth year. However, keep in mind that you will have to pay the same flat rate tuition for every year (\$10k or so). There is a financial penalty, but it would be better for your physical and mental health to stretch it out over 5 years and plan for that ahead of time so you don't feel overloaded. But always talk to advising before making any drastic changes to your schedule.

(First Year) I have been told to not take my Gen Eds in first year. But I want to complete them in first year.

Past DESN students have taken only Gen Eds for their 12.0 credits in first year. There shouldn't be any issues with taking only Gen Eds in first year. All courses at York can be taken by any year of student, as long as they meet prerequisites and there is capacity. FA1900s can be taken at any point in your degree, and they are considered to be the easiest courses in the DESN program. You do not have to take them in first year. You can save them to take them in second year/third year or the summer, so that you have more time to focus on your design courses.

Do I need to sign up to join DSA events?

It depends! All design students have exclusive access to DSA events. However, some events may have sign up sheets due to capacity (such as a guest speaker event, studio tour or Winter trip to a different city). All of our design social events are open to all design students.

Can I join the DSA?

Yes! Elections open every year in March. Any person in the undergraduate program of Design can run for elections. An election package is required. Please check our constitution for more details.

What happens if I can't get an Internship in third year?

Do not fret! While the placement course is pretty self-driven, the department/course director will do their best to support you and work something out if you are struggling. If their own network isn't panning out, they may allow you to work at York for your placement, or even allow you to work freelance. They may also allow you to take the course in your fourth year and try again, and you may graduate in the Fall. Be sure to communicate and reach out to your Course Director if you find yourself having trouble finding a placement, and be sure to attend our internship panel sessions for more info as well as the opportunity to learn from the experiences of upper years who've completed their placement!

Questions about Courses:

Check out our upper year panel notes for specific course questions:

<https://yorkudsa.notion.site/Upper-Year-Panel-e1836d3aa8b443c694b590f1e6577d3d?pvs=4>