

Dear **Graphic Design** Students,

Welcome graphic design pioneers! We are delighted to have you participate in GSA's 2026 Graphic Design Program. This letter provides insight into how your three weeks at our program will go.

Expect a hyper-creative curriculum that will introduce you to studio-based learnings and practices that can give you a glimpse into what the journey as a visual designer might be like. Our studios (we call classes "studios") will explore basic design fundamentals and tools, inspire you with an appreciation for the discipline, help you learn to collaborate better with others, and help you create some pieces for your portfolio. Our program is partially modeled as a hybrid of some of the foundational classes you would have in your freshman year in college, albeit in a condensed way that will help you more rapidly generate work. You will be creating solo work in the studio as well as working on a group project. These two models of solo and collaborative working styles are a key part of understanding how design work gets created in the real world. The program will give you an appreciation of graphic design's importance in society and inform you about what a future as a graphic designer could look like. We'll do all of this with a fun and spirited approach, and we'll share our work in the gallery at the end of the three weeks.

While GSA will provide raw materials for your projects, we have included a supply list of items you'll need to bring with you to the program on the next page. For effective design practice, we'll use a series of both digital and analog tools. Everything on the list can be found online or at many art supply/craft stores. We **encourage you to label your personal items.**

Also, note that you can always find a substitution if you have trouble finding an item or two. In addition, if you are unable to purchase any supplies due to financial reasons, no worries! Please send a detailed request to us **immediately** at gsainfo@kentuckyperformingarts.org; we'd be happy to help.

We've also included a brief message from our counselors-in-residence:

GSA is an experience like no other, with opportunities to make memories and be part of an arts community to cherish for a lifetime. In preparation for your time with us, please keep in mind a few important points for both your physical and mental health.

- Even though your brain might go into "summer mode" after wrapping up the school year, please know that the 3 weeks of GSA aren't like a typical summer camp. Every day you will work and play hard and, along the way, be challenged and inspired!
- Because our days are full of activity, be sure to try your best to prioritize rest, healthy eating, and opportunities to recharge when you can. Quite honestly, we recommend making these priorities right now in preparation, so it's a smoother adjustment.
- The GSA staff, faculty, and counselors are available to help if you ever feel out of balance while on campus. We're your go-to people to help you find the best fit in our unique community and to help with any adjustments that are needed. Don't wait to reach out because we're there to help from Day 1!

- As it applies to you, don't forget to bring any prescribed medication (we can help with reminders but do not administer) and know that we can help with coordination of telehealth therapy sessions (with your already established provider) while at GSA as long as it's not overly disruptive to your studio schedule.

Collaboration, celebrating each of us as individuals, and bringing positivity to what we are doing will be essential during our 3 weeks together. The creative culture of our studio will be essential, and we ask that you bring with you the willingness to try new things and support each other. The work you will do here is not driven by competition. And you are not competing to get a "good grade". You are here to explore, learn, and have some great creative experiences. We look forward to being with you!

Best,

Mike and Ruzanna

(Your Graphic Design Faculty)

Michael Tittel

www.michaeltittel.com

Ruzanna Rozman

<https://www.instagram.com/ruz.dsgnz>

GSA 2026 Graphic Design Supply List

- **Drawing Pens & Pencils**: Bring a variety of what you already use to write, sketch, or draw. If you use predominantly pencils or pens, bring both. Markers and/or colored pencils are included!
- **Erasers & Sharpeners**: Bring at least one of each.
- **Broad-tipped Markers**: black markers like Sharpie with the normal tip or fine point. (Not the micro fine or ultra fine)
- **Personal Sketchbook**: This can be whatever size or paper type you prefer. We recommend any sketchbook about 8.5" x 11"; avoid sketchbooks that are too small or too big.
- **Storage Container**: Any kit, box, or bag for your personal supplies and the items above.
- **Hard Drive Digital Storage Device**: This is where you store your personal digital design files. It can be any portable external storage and comes in various options, such as a USB-C flash drive or thumb drive, a pocket hard drive, or a portable drive. If you already have one, bring that along if it has room for storage. If you must purchase one, we suggest storage sizes with at least 128 GB or more with a USB-C connection; these are readily available under \$20.
- **Portfolio Case (for transporting your work home)**: Bring any kind of portfolio case, or portfolio binder with empty sleeves to take home your prints and work home. The work will range in size from 11x17 to 18x24. The larger pieces could be carried by hand of course so choose the size based on what you want to deal with.
- **Camera (Optional)**: Feel free if you have a camera in addition to your smart phone you may bring it as it may come in handy for assignments.
- **Headphones (Optional)**: if you have a set of headphones with a mini stereo jack that can hook into a Macintosh lab computer, this would be helpful for class activities that include audio, but it is not mandatory.
- **General Art Supplies (Optional)**: Feel free to bring any other personal tools or media you feel comfortable using. This can include items like markers, colored pencils, and more. You may or may not use any of these items in the studio, but you are more than welcome to bring them.

If you need to purchase art supplies online, we recommend <https://www.dickblick.com> & <https://www.utrechtart.com>. You can also purchase supplies through <https://www.amazon.com/>.

Other things to note regarding supplies and preparation for our program:

- **NO Computers**: Please **do not** bring your personal computer or tablet to the studio. Our spaces include computers for the projects we need them for.
- **Accessories for Outside Activities**: Backpack/or sling, water bottle, and comfortable shoes (for when we do out-of-studio tours).
- **Spending Money**: Though the GSA covers housing, meals, room, and board, you might want to spend a little extra money on GSA merchandise on campus or souvenirs/snacks during field trips.

- **Studio Clothing:** We recommend that you do not wear your best clothing to the studio, as our activities may involve materials that can stain, tear, or otherwise damage clothing. Comfortable, durable clothes and closed-toe shoes are strongly encouraged. Think of the studio as a working space—creativity can get messy! Sandals are not recommended as open-toed shoes can be problematic in the studio.