

GUIDE TO CHOOSING YOUR FIRST YEAR COURSES

Please note: For Transfer, Visual Arts Certificate, and Graduate level students, please reach out to registrar@nscad.ca to schedule an appointment with an academic advisor.

In your first year of study, you will be expected to complete the **Foundation Core** courses along with a selection of **1000-1500 level Studio Courses** that align with your intended major. Typically, full-time students take a courseload of 15 credits in the fall and 15 credits in the winter, but it isn't mandatory to take a full courseload. If you plan to graduate in 4 years you need 30 credits per academic year. Speak to an advisor if you'd like to take fewer credits so they can help you outline your degree path. Remember that each semester can be different. Refer to the [Academic Calendar](#) for add/drop dates and the [NSCAD Website](#) for tuition reimbursement dates.

Important Definitions:

Office of Student Experience (OSE): Your one-stop shop for ALL questions about the institution, your degree path, your transcript, and the options you have if things get a little rough during your studies. Think of us as your people while you're at NSCAD. If we don't know the answers, we will help you find them.

Foundation Core: Four mandatory courses for every student in an undergraduate program.

- FNDN 1010 Intro Studio Practice
- FNDN 1100 Foundation Drawing 1
- FNDN 1200 Intro to Visual Culture
- FNDN 1800 Writing for the Arts

Credits: The numeric value, or weight, that the university assigns to each course you take. An undergraduate degree requires the successful completion of 120 credits. Courses are worth 1.5 to 9 credits depending on the number of hours you spend in the classroom per week.

Open Credits/Electives: Optional courses that count toward the completion of your degree, but are not specifically defined in your degree requirements.

Full-time Status: 9 credits or more per semester (6 if you are registered with accessibility).

Part-time Status: 6 credits or less per semester.

Pre-Requisite Courses: Courses that you must take before you can take another course at a higher level of study.

Important Note:

The role of the university's academic advisors is to advise students, but we can't make decisions or choices on a student's behalf. In the selection of programs, courses, majors, minors, schedules, and adherence to academic policies and procedures, **students are solely responsible for the choices they make.**

Sample First Year (based on 15 credits per semester)

Fall Semester	Winter Semester
1. FNDN 1xxx (Core Course)	1. FNDN 1xxx (Core Course)
2. FNDN 1xxx (Core Course)	2. FNDN 1xxx (Core Course)
3. 1000 level studio course	3. 1000 level studio course
4. 1000 level studio course	4. 1000 level studio course
5. 1000 level studio course	5. 1000 level studio course

*Note that we recommend selecting two foundation core courses in the fall semester and two in the winter, however this is not required. Choose the courses that work best for you and your schedule and speak to an advisor if you have questions.

Each degree program at NSCAD has specific course requirements. Some courses are recommended but not required. Use the table below to help you choose your first-year courses based on your major.

Major/Discipline	Required	1000 Level Studio Electives	Recommended
Ceramics	Foundation Core plus: DRAW 1500	15 credits	ARTS 1000 One of these 4: CRFT 1000 CRFT 1010 CRFT 1015 CRFT 1030
Design	Foundation Core plus: ARTS 1000 or DSGN 1010 or DSGN 1030 DRAW 1500 or DSGN 1520 DSGN 1000 DSGN 1510	6 credits	One of these 3: DSGN-1040 DSGN-1550
Expanded Media	Foundation Core plus: <i>Choose any two from:</i> MDIA 1000 FILM 1000 PHOT 1000	12 credits	ARTS 1000
Film	Foundation Core plus: FILM 1000	15 credits	ARTS 1000 One of these 2: MDIA 1000 PHOT 1000
Fine Art	Foundation Core	18 credits	DRAW 1500
-Drawing	Foundation Core plus: DRAW 1500	15 credits	DRAW 1500
-Painting	Foundation Core	18 credits	PNTG-1500
-Printmaking	Foundation Core	18 credits	PRTM 1503 PRTM 1525
-Sculpture	Foundation Core	18 credits	ARTS 1000 SCLP 1500
Interdisciplinary Arts	Foundation Core	18 credits	ARTS 1000

Jewellery & Metalsmithing	Foundation Core	18 credits	ARTS 1000 One of these 4: CRFT 1000 CRFT 1010 CRFT 1015 CRFT 1030
Photography	Foundation Core plus PHOT 1000	15 credits	One of these 2: MDIA 1000 FILM 1000
Textiles/Fashion	Foundation Core	18 credits	DRAW 1500 TEXL 1000 TEXL 1001 One of these 4: CRFT 1000 CRFT 1010 CRFT 1015 CRFT 1030

1000-1500 level studio courses open to first year students (see [Academic Calendar](#) for course descriptions):

ARTS-1000 Fundamentals of Wood and Metal
CRFT-1000 Form: Structure and Material
CRFT-1010 Material Exploration and Expression
CRFT-1015 Materials and Colour
CRFT-1030 Digital Tools for Making
DRAW-1500 Foundation Drawing II
DSGN-1000 Digital Tools for Designing
DSGN-1010 Material Exploration and Expression
DSGN-1040 Digital Tools for Interaction
DSGN-1510 Creativity in Design Practice
DSGN-1520 Visual Thinking: Drawing and Model Making

DSGN-1550 Studio Practice: Design Fundamentals
FILM-1000 Moving Image
MDIA-1000 Expanded Media
MDIA 1360 Movement Arts
PHOT-1000 Photography
PNTG-1500 Painting
PRTM-1503 Foundations of Print Media
PRTM-1525 Print off the Press
SCLP-1500 Introductory Sculpture
TEXL-1000 Fundamentals of Textiles
TEXL-1001 Sewing Basics

Additional Information and Helpful

Tips:

- Some 1000 level courses are worth 6 credits, keep this in mind when planning your schedule.
- PNTG 1500 and PNTG 2000 are anti-requisites, meaning you cannot get credit for both.
- If you plan on taking DRAW 1500 (Drawing II) in your first year, make sure to schedule FNDN 1100 (Drawing I) in your first semester.
- Keep an eye on important dates and important information in the Academic Calendar and on the NSCAD website: <https://nscad.ca/student-experience/academic-resources/important-dates/>
- Use the resources available to you, such as the Office of Student Experience, the Writing Centre, the NSCAD Library, and more.
- **Remember:** The Office of Student Experience (OSE) is here to help you! Our office is located on the second floor of the Duke Building, Fountain Campus, and we can't wait to meet you. If at any point during your studies you have a question that you're not sure who to ask, speak with someone in the OSE.