



CHILDREN'S BOOK ILLUSTRATION



University of Findlay

Program Overview

Our children's book illustration major prepares students to become skilled visual storytellers. Our curriculum combines traditional studio art training with coursework in children's literature to develop students' narrative capabilities, technical skills, and personal style. Students gain knowledge of the publishing industry and work closely with staff at the Mazza Museum, which houses the world's most diverse collection of original children's book art.

Students who major in children's book illustration develop strong problem-solving skills and visual communication skills. They are creative individuals who can think critically about their work, their surroundings and the processes in which they engage. The art program encourages students to shape their own creative and professional journey, and many students pair their degree with additional studies in graphic design, marketing, writing, entrepreneurship, or art. This interdisciplinary approach allows students

to expand their skill sets and prepare for diverse careers both within and beyond the publishing industry.

Potential careers students may consider include:

- Children's Book Illustrator
- Comic Book or Graphic Novel Artist
- Concept Artist
- Storyboard Artist
- Commercial or Editorial Illustrator
- Medical or Technical Illustrator
- Fine Artist

Program Highlights

- Strong Faculty Mentorship
- Experiential Learning through the Lea Gallery
- Direct Access to the Mazza Museum
- Interaction with Professional Artists and Illustrators
- Internship with the Mazza Museum
- Study Trips to Major Cultural Centers
- Opportunities to Attend the Mazza Conference

WHY CHILDREN'S BOOK ILLUSTRATION?

Creativity, problem-solving, and adaptability are some of the top skills valued by employers. A degree in children's book illustration equips students with these skills and prepares graduates for a wide range of creative careers across the arts, design, and publishing industries.

ABOUT OUR FACULTY

Art program faculty are practicing artists, designers, photographers, and art historians who are active in their field of expertise.

INDIVIDUALIZED ATTENTION

The art program offers a mentoring atmosphere, small classes, and one-on-one interaction with faculty who utilize their experience and expertise to help students reach their career goals.

12:1*

campus-wide student-to-faculty ratio ensures individual attention

16

16-week capstone semester in individualized area of interest

75%

75% of graduates participate in professional activities

DIVERSE EXPERIENCES

Art program students take advantage of all the opportunities UF has to offer. Most students double-major or choose minors to complement their field of study. Our flexible program supports student participation in athletics, theatre, choir, band, The Pulse Newspaper, UF TV, *From the Writer's Kitchen* Student Literary Journal, and study abroad.

CAREER READINESS

- Resume Building
- Project Development
- Personal Brand and Website Development
- Interviewing
- Portfolio Development
- Career Research and Networking

SAMPLE CURRICULUM

Core Art Classes

2D Visual Fundamentals*	3 hrs
Introduction to Digital Design*	3 hrs
Introduction to Drawing*	3 hrs
History of Art I*	3 hrs

History of Art II*	3 hrs
Research and Readings in Art	3 hrs
Senior Portfolio and Exhibition	3 hrs
Professional Practices in Art*	3 hrs

Required Children's Book Illustration Courses

Drawing: Media and Concepts	3 hrs
Film Photography or Digital Photography	3 hrs
Watercolor and Works on Paper	3 hrs
Printmaking	3 hrs
Painting	3 hrs

Typography	3 hrs
Conceptual Illustration	3 hrs
Narrative Illustration	3 hrs
Evaluating Human Impact on the Environment Through Children's and Early Adolescent Literature	3 hrs
Independent Study/Mazza Internship	3 hrs

* Indicates courses that fulfill CORE+ general education requirements.

Disclaimer: The plan outlined above is a suggested course sequence. It may be adjusted based on prior college credit or transfer coursework earned before enrollment.



"Once in a lifetime opportunities."

"Deciding to pursue a degree in Children's Book Illustration and in Graphic Design was the best decision of my life! While the art program at the University of Findlay may be small, it is full of amazingly talented faculty, once in a lifetime opportunities, and connections to the art industry you can't find anywhere else, such as the Mazza Museum. The art program has not just provided me with the tools to be a successful student; it has prepared me for the future ahead of me."

– Ray Wallen – Children's Book Illustration 2026

