

# COMPUTER GAME DESIGN, BFA

Banner Code: AR-BFA-GAME

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The 120-credit Computer Game Design program enables students to focus on the artistic components of computer game design while providing them with the technical skills prerequisite to the field.

## Admissions & Policies

### Policies

#### Upper-Level Credits

All undergraduate students are required to complete a minimum of 45 credits of upper-division courses at the 300-499 level. Fulfilling degree requirements does not guarantee this requirement will be met.

#### Major GPA

All GAME undergraduate students must earn a minimum 2.00 cumulative GPA in their major. All GAME courses except GAME 101 Introduction to Game Design (Mason Core) (<http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/>), GAME 250 Music for Film and Video, and GAME 367 Writing and Editing Music and Sound must be passed with a grade of C or better.

## Requirements

### Degree Requirements

Total credits: 120

#### Mason Core

Code	Title	Credits
AVT 180	New Media in the Creative Arts (Mason Core) ( <a href="http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/">http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/</a> )	3
PSYC 100	Basic Concepts in Psychology (Mason Core) ( <a href="http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/">http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/</a> )	3
Select one from the following (or any other PHYS natural science course with advisor approval):		4
PHYS 103	Physics and Everyday Phenomena I (Mason Core) ( <a href="http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/">http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/</a> )	
PHYS 160 & PHYS 161	University Physics I (Mason Core) ( <a href="http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/">http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/</a> ) and University Physics I Laboratory (Mason Core) ( <a href="http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/">http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/</a> )	
Total Credits		10

### Non-Specific Mason Core Requirements

Code	Title	Credits
Oral Communication ( <a href="http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/#oral">http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/#oral</a> )		3
Arts ( <a href="http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/#arts">http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/#arts</a> )		3
Literature ( <a href="http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/#literature">http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/#literature</a> )		3
Natural Science ( <a href="http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/#natural-science">http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/#natural-science</a> ) <sup>1</sup>		4
Western Civilization/World History ( <a href="http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/#western-civilization-world-history">http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/#western-civilization-world-history</a> )		3
Global Understanding ( <a href="http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/#global">http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/#global</a> )		3
Quantitative Reasoning ( <a href="http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/#quantitative">http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/#quantitative</a> )		3
Written Communication (Foundation) ( <a href="http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/#written">http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/#written</a> )		3
Written Communication (Integration) ( <a href="http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/#written">http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/#written</a> )		3
Total Credits		28

<sup>1</sup>

including laboratory

Approved courses may be found under the Mason Core section of this catalog.

### Major Core

Code	Title	Credits
GAME 140 or CS 112	Applied Coding for Game Designers Introduction to Computer Programming (Mason Core) ( <a href="http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/">http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/</a> )	3
GAME 104	Two-Dimensional Design for Games <sup>1</sup>	3
GAME 101 or GAME 210	Introduction to Game Design (Mason Core) ( <a href="http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/">http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/</a> ) Basic Game Design	3
GAME 230	History of Computer Game Design	3
GAME 231	Three-Dimensional Game Art I	3
GAME 250	Music for Film and Video	3
GAME 240	Gameplay Scripting Implementation I	3
GAME 300	Portfolio Preparation	1
GAME 310	Digital Game Design	3
GAME 330	Computer Game Platform Analysis	3
GAME 331	Consumer Gaming Platform Analysis Lab	1
GAME 332	RS: Story Design for Computer Games	3
GAME 367	Writing and Editing Music and Sound	3
GAME 398	Three-Dimensional Game Art II	3
GAME 410	Advanced Game Design Studio	3
GAME 489	Pre-Internship Seminar	1
Six credits of		6

GAME 490	Senior Game Design Capstone (Mason Core) ( <a href="http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/">http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/</a> ) (Must be taken twice for 3 credits each)	
GAME 491	Internship	3-4
Total Credits		51-52

1

Students who took AVT 104 and GAME 231 during catalog years 19-20, 20-21, 21-22, may use these courses to fulfill the GAME 104 requirement.

## Digital Media Electives

Code	Title	Credits
Select at least 12 credits from the following (or another course approved by your advisor):		
AVT 280	Introduction to New Media Arts	12
AVT 354	Digital Photography II	
AVT 382	2D Experimental Animation	
AVT 383	3D Experimental Animation	
AVT 390	Video Art	
AVT 482	Advanced Image Making	
AVT 487	Advanced Topics: New Media Art	
ENGH 372	Introduction to Film (Mason Core) ( <a href="http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/">http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/</a> )	
FAVS 399	Special Topics in Film and Video Studies	
GAME 320	Digital Painting for Games	
GAME 399	Special Topics	
GAME 431	Advanced Game Animation I	
Total Credits		12

## Visual Arts Electives

Code	Title	Credits
Select 6 credits from the following (or another course approved by your advisor):		
AVT 215	Typography (Mason Core) ( <a href="http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/">http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/</a> )	6
AVT 217	Introduction to Web Design	
AVT 222	Drawing I (Mason Core) ( <a href="http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/">http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/</a> )	
AVT 232	Painting I (Mason Core) ( <a href="http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/">http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/</a> )	
AVT 243	Printmaking I (Mason Core) ( <a href="http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/">http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/</a> )	
AVT 252	Darkroom Photography I (Mason Core) ( <a href="http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/">http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/</a> )	
AVT 262	Sculpture I (Mason Core) ( <a href="http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/">http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/</a> )	
AVT 311	Graphic Design Methods and Principles	
AVT 323	Drawing II	
AVT 324	Figure Drawing	
AVT 333	Painting II	
AVT 337	Figurative Painting	
AVT 343	Printmaking II	
AVT 353	Darkroom Photography II	

AVT 363	Sculpture II	
Total Credits		6

## General Electives

Code	Title	Credits
Select 8-13 credits of General Electives		
Total Credits		8-13

## 4-Year Plan

### Bachelor of Fine Arts in Computer Game Design Sample Plan of Study

The sample plan below is a recommended sequencing of courses based on pre-requisites and scheduling. This may not fit every student's needs and is a guideline, not a requirement. Students should confirm major requirements with their academic advisor and with PatriotWeb Degree Evaluation to ensure they enroll in the proper courses and are on track to graduate.

#### First Year

Fall Semester	Credits	Spring Semester	Credits
GAME 210		3 GAME 250	3
GAME 230		3 GAME 140	3
ENGH 101		3 MATH 113	4
MATH 105		4 AVT 104	3
Mason Core Western Civilization Requirement		3	
		16	13

#### Second Year

Fall Semester	Credits	Spring Semester	Credits
GAME 231		3 GAME 310	3
GAME 232		3 GAME 398	3
Mason Core Oral Communication Requirement		3 PSYC 100	3
AVT 180		3 Mason Core Literature Requirement	3
Any Visual Arts Elective		3-4 Any Digital Media Elective	3-4
		15-16	15-16

#### Third Year

Fall Semester	Credits	Spring Semester	Credits
GAME 330		3 GAME 410	3
GAME 331		1 GAME 489	1
ENGH 302		3 GAME 332	3
GAME 367		3 Mason Core Natural Science Including Lab	4

PHYS 103 4 Any Visual Arts Elective 3-4

GAME 300 1

15 14-15

**Fourth Year**

<b>Fall Semester</b>	<b>Credits</b>	<b>Spring Semester</b>	<b>Credits</b>
GAME 490	3	GAME 490	3
GAME 491	3	Any Digital Media Elective	3-4
Any Digital Media Elective	3-4	Any Digital Media Elective	3-4
Mason Core Global Understanding Requirement	3	General Elective	3
General Elective	3	General Elective	3
15-16		15-17	

Total Credits 118-124

Detailed four year plans and degree planning checklists can be found at <https://advising.gmu.edu/current-student/majors-at-mason/>.