

# CREATING **YOUR** FUTURE

## **What can I do with my degree?**

In an era characterized by financial pressures and rapid technological change this is an important question. Stamps' curriculum, and our faculty and staff can help you define and reach your goals. But it's important to keep in mind that it's your degree. And, ultimately, the answer depends on the role you play in designing and directing your education.

## **Here are some things you can do to identify your passion, improve your opportunities and maximize your skills:**

### **Learn the Basics.**

#### **Explore Your Talents and Interests.**

Stamps' unique curriculum can help. We recognize that during your years here you will have multiple interests and will want to develop multiple talents. We also recognize that there are some skills every creative person

should have. To assist you with the basics, we have required core studios (courses like drawing, 2-D, 3-D and 4-D media, etc). Then to help you explore and develop your individual skills and talents, you will choose from a variety of studios at more advanced levels.

### **Learn from Real-world Experiences**

Part time jobs, internships, freelance work and other experiential learning, including study abroad, will help you develop your resume, portfolio and career network. No one school or major can teach you everything you need to know to prepare for your first job out of college, let alone what you do for the rest of your life. But the Stamps' approach reinforces your ability to make choices and learn from those choices while encouraging you to figure out how to get what you want. These are skills you will use forever.

## **Get Started Right Away**

Use your first semesters at Stamps to explore. You may think you want to go into advertising, only to find that you love fibers. You may imagine yourself working as a solo artist, only to find that you like working as part of a team. So explore various media and look for opportunities outside of your classes. These opportunities may come in the form of freelance work, calls for art/design, part time jobs, internships etc. The Career Development Coordinator posts new opportunities on a regular basis at <http://stamps.umich.edu/career>

**Do Your Research:** Once you have identified interesting career fields, do some research. Read about the field and conduct informational interviews. An informational interview is just what it sounds like: interviewing someone for information. Ask whatever you like!

### **Sample questions might be:**

*How long have you been doing this?*

*What made you interested in doing this?*

*What is your background?*

*What do you know now that you wish you had known before you started?*

*What do you look for when you hire someone?*

*What is the best advice you can give someone like me?*

*Do you take on interns?*

### **Get Some Experience in the Field**

It could be a part time job, freelance work or an internship. An internship not only gives you real world experience in your fields of interest, but also allows you to try something on for size. Before interning, you may wish to shadow someone for a day and get a feel for the work, the environment, the people, etc.

Stamps has a handout out on internships, and internship opportunities are posted to the Stamps web site and to Handshake <https://umich.joinhandshake.com>

### **Make The Most of**

#### **Your Academic Courses**

Learning can be a means...and an end. Stamps requires certain academic credits that, on the surface, may not seem related to your career choice. However, a liberal arts education helps you learn to learn — a skill that you will use the rest of your life. Some academic courses may be directly related to your career path.

For example:

In a recent presentation by five top advertising companies who were asked the question, “What do you

look for when hiring?” The answer was a strong portfolio, internship or other experiential learning, and a course in marketing.

Work with advisors to find the courses that fit your path. Or, look to courses at Innovate Blue <https://innovateblue.umich.edu/> at the Center for Entrepreneurship: [cfe.umich.edu](https://cfe.umich.edu) or the Multidisciplinary Design Minor <https://mdp.engin.umich.edu/>, or any other minor at the University of Michigan that fits your individual goals.

If you plan to be a freelance artist or designer, certain courses can help you learn to market yourself, your talent, and your work. Other useful courses include Social Psychology (PSYCH 280), Visual and Material Culture (AMCULT 231) and several courses offered through the PAT program: <http://www.music.umich.edu/departments/pat/index.php>

Remember, courses may have pre-requisites so meet with your academic advisor to plan accordingly.

*Interested in art therapy?*

Plan to take as many psychology courses as you can since most masters programs require upwards of 15 credits in psychology.

*How about work in film, video, animation?*

In addition to your studio courses, take a look at what Screen Arts and Culture (SAC) is offering.

*Work in museums?*

Check out History of Art and Museum Studies since these courses will come in handy.

These are just a few examples of how non-studio and studio courses come together to prepare you for your first career after graduation (and beyond).

Stamps' programs allow you to individually craft a direction, but the responsibility is yours. Work with your Academic Advisor when it comes time to register to make sure that you are both taking courses you need, and courses that interest you and augment your creative development.

### **Join Student Organizations**

Art & Design Collective (ADC) is the umbrella organization for students at Stamps. Want to help shape the future of the school? Join ADC!

Get to know your fellow students. Plan events. ADC is the voice of the students at Stamps.

American Institute of Graphic Artists (AIGA) has a student chapter at Stamps. If you are interested in graphic, media, web design, etc. then this is the organization for you. Find out more about AIGA on line at [www.aiga.org](http://www.aiga.org)

Industrial Designers Society of America (IDSA) has a student chapter at Stamps. If you are interested in product, manufacturing, shoe design, etc. then this is the organization for you. Find out more about IDSA online at [www.idsa.org](http://www.idsa.org)

There are more than 1600 student organizations listed on the Maize Pages at U of M (<https://maizepages.umich.edu/>) so you are bound to find something of interest to you!

By being part of a student group you can further your career development as well as your resume, your portfolio and your career network.

## **Take Studio Courses**

### **Outside of Stamps**

#### *Interested in theater?*

The School of Music, Theater, and Dance offers courses in scenic design, lighting design, costume design, etc. With permission, these courses can count as elective studios in the Stamps curriculum. Meet with your Academic Advisor to find out more.

#### *Interested in film and video?*

The Screen Arts and Culture Department of LSA offers many courses that may count as elective studios. Again, meet with your advisor to find out more.

You are allowed to transfer two studio courses at a more advanced level from another school in the United States. Many students augment their Stamps studio work over the summer by taking elective studios in NYC, Chicago, etc. Check with John Luther for transferability of such studios.

When you take studios as part of an International Study program, these studios will most likely transfer to Stamps. All Stamps students

are required to study abroad and employers report that they look very favorably on candidates with such experience. Again, meet with John Luther to check on transferability.

Your degree is designed by you for your future so take advantage of the resources available not just in Stamps but across the University and the world!

**For more information about career development, or to discuss other issues related to career development, schedule an appointment with John Luther, Career Development Coordinator, via <http://www.stamps.genbook.com>**

# WHAT CAN I DO WITH **MY** STAMPS DEGREE?

**Students who graduated with a degree from Stamps** in the last few years have gone on to do a range of creative work including:

- Associate Product Manager at ProxV, Inc.
- Ecological Artist & Educator
- Joined Mocap Team at Just Cause Productions
- Graphic Designer at Nike
- Freelance Graphic Designer & Illustrator
- Extended Education Instructor at Northwestern Michigan College
- Media Associate at Starcom MediaVest Group
- Design & Office Assistant at Carus Publishing
- Executive Assistant at Harpo Productions
- Performing Arts Professional
- Assistant Photo Editor at Lennon Photo
- Operating Systems Programmer Senior
- Process Engineer at Michelin
- Creative Director at Fairwinds Trading
- Junior Graphic Designer at Carte Blanche Creative, Inc.
- Mobile / Blended Training Developer iPhone, Droid, iPad
- Program Coordinator | Advisor | Faculty of Sustainable Design Online Program at Minneapolis College of Art and Design
- Senior Art Director at Profero
- Strategic Planning & Creative Director
- Director, Office of Admission at Parsons The New School for Design
- Education Coordinator at Center for Photography at Woodstock
- Industrial Designer at Weinreich Labs
- Creative Specialist at American Greetings
- Associate Product Manager at ProxV, Inc.
- Director of Education & Community Engagement at University Musical Society
- Lecturer at University of New Mexico
- Media Associate at Starcom MediaVest Group
- Senior Curriculum Developer
- Designer at Global Prairie
- Senior Designer at Ford Motor Company
- Textile Designer at Mata Traders
- Owner, gourmet cake bakery
- Shoe Designer Manolo Blahnik
- Assistant Media Planner at Universal McCann
- A & R at Pentimento Music Company
- Adjunct Faculty at Sotheby's Institute of Art
- Visual Designer at Opera Solutions
- Teaching Artist at Harlem Children's Zone
- Digital Marketing Manager for Kingsford
- Art Studios Assistant at The Jewish Community Center in Manhattan
- User Experience Designer at Code and Theory
- Brand & Design Manager at ReCellular
- Assistant Photo Editor at Lennon Photo
- Account Manager at Google

# CAREER RESOURCES

## AT THE STAMPS SCHOOL AND THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

The unique curriculum at Stamps is based on the concept that all artists are designers and all designers are artists. Because we maintain this philosophy, our approach to education is broad based and not geared toward any one specific career or career path. The foundation year allows for exploration and helps students determine for themselves what interests them most. Based on these interests, students begin to craft their own concentrations.

In this framework, it is never too early to begin career exploration/ planning and there are many resources available to you. John Luther, Career Development Coordinator at the Stamps School, sends weekly updates and maintains the Career section of the Stamps website which contains in depth information on many aspects of career development.

Here are some of the online resources available to you:

- Career Resources at Stamps: [stamps.umich.edu/career](https://stamps.umich.edu/career)
- Careers at Stamps blog: [careersstamps.tumblr.com](https://careersstamps.tumblr.com)
- The University of Michigan Career Center: [careercenter.umich.edu](https://careercenter.umich.edu)
- MPowered: [mpowered.umich.edu](https://mpowered.umich.edu)
- Innovate Blue: [innovateblue.umich.edu](https://innovateblue.umich.edu)
- Another great resource is **Student Organizations** (e.g., AIGA, IDSA, Michigan Advertising and Marketing, etc.) and you can explore them in the Maize pages: [maizepages.umich.edu](https://maizepages.umich.edu)
- In addition, Stamps School of Art & Design alums are located all over the world and in many different fields. **Networking** sites like LinkedIn will help you connect to these alums and John is happy to facilitate making these connections. [www.linkedin.com](https://www.linkedin.com)
- Another great site for finding like-minded creatives for networking is Behance: [www.behance.net](https://www.behance.net)

**REMEMBER,** email is the way we let you know what is going on so **READ YOUR EMAIL!**

You can email John at [jonel@umich.edu](mailto:jonel@umich.edu) or make an appointment via [stamps.genbook.com](https://stamps.genbook.com)