



TWO DEGREES, ONE PATH

TRANSFER PATHWAY GUIDE 2025-2026

Associate in Arts to
Bachelor of Arts in 3D Digital Design and Visual Effects

Overview

Completion of the following curriculum will satisfy the requirements for the Associate in Arts (AA) degree at Gateway Community and Technical College (GCTC) and leads to the Bachelor of Arts (BA) in 3D Digital Design and Visual Effects degree at Northern Kentucky University (NKU).

Applying to the Gateway2NKU Program

Students can apply to participate in the pathway program by completing the online application on the NKU transfer webpage. Students must be enrolled in at least six credit hours at Gateway CTC, enrolled in an associate degree program, plan to transfer to NKU, and maintain a minimum 2.0 cumulative GPA at Gateway CTC.

Degree Requirements for GCTC

1. Completion of minimum 60 credit hours
2. Minimum cumulative GPA 2.0
3. Minimum of 15 credit hours earned at the institution awarding the degree
4. Demonstration of digital literacy
5. College success requirement

Admission Requirements to NKU

Students completing an associate degree with a cumulative GPA of 2.0 or higher will be accepted into NKU.

Degree Requirements for NKU

1. Complete a minimum of 120 credit hours
2. Complete at least 25% of the credit hours required at NKU
3. Complete the last 30 credit hours at NKU
4. Complete at least 45 credit hours numbered 300 or above
5. Minimum 2.0 cumulative GPA across all major coursework
6. Meet all requirements for the major
7. Completion of a minor, focus, or second major (if required by major)

To earn a bachelor's degree at NKU, students must complete a minimum of 120 credit hours with at least 45 credit hours numbered 300 and above. In addition, at least 25% of the credit hours required for the degree and the last 30 credit hours must be completed at NKU. Students must have an overall GPA of 2.0 and meet all prerequisites for courses and requirements for the major which include a minimum average GPA of 2.0 across all major coursework and at least a C- in each course counted toward the major or minor. Students must complete a focus or minor as indicated on the pathway.

General Transfer Information

Students must complete the online application to NKU. There is no application fee for students who are transferring from GCTC.

KCTCS Scholars Award: Students who are KY residents transferring directly from a KCTCS institution with at least 36 hours from that institution and minimum GPA of 3.0, were never enrolled as a degree-seeking student at NKU, and will be enrolled in at least 12 credit hours both fall and spring semester are eligible for a limited number of annual scholarships (fall and spring only). Students must gain admission to NKU by June 15 for fall and November 1 for spring to be eligible for a possible scholarship. Online accelerated programs are not eligible for the KCTCS Scholars Award.

Tuition and scholarship information specific to transfer students can be viewed on the NKU Adult & Transfer Center website.

GCTC AA TO NKU BA IN 3D DIGITAL DESIGN AND VISUAL EFFECTS CHECKLIST

Gateway Community and Technical College

Category 1: GCTC General Education Core Requirements

GCTC Course	Course or Category	Credits	NKU Course	Completed
ENG 101	Writing I (WC)	3	ENG 101	
ENG 102	Writing II (WC)	3	ENG 102	
COM 181	Basic Public Speaking (OC)	3	CMST 101	
TBS XXX	Arts & Humanities (AH) – Heritage	3	TBD XXX	
TBS XXX	Arts & Humanities (AH) – Humanities	3	TBD XXX	
COM 249	Mass Media Communication (SB)	3	EMB 100	
COM 254	Introduction to Intercultural Communication (SB)	3	CMST 355	
TBS XXX	Social & Behavioral Sciences Course (not COM) (SB)	3	TBD XXX	
TBS XXX	Natural Science Course with Lab (SL)	4	TBD XXX	
TBS XXX	Quantitative Reasoning (QR)	3	TBD XXX	
INF 120U	Elementary Programming (N)	3	INF 120	
Subtotal General Education Courses		34		

TBS XXX means to be selected by GCTC student.

TBD XXX means to be determined by NKU based on course selected.

For Social and Behavioral Sciences courses, two disciplines must be represented and different from those in the Arts and Humanities category.

Category 2: GCTC AA Requirements

GCTC Course	Course or Category	Credits	NKU Course	Completed
TBS XXX	Arts & Humanities (AH), Social/Behavioral Sciences (SB), Oral Communications (OC), or Foreign Language Course	3	TBD XXX	
TBS XXX	Arts & Humanities (AH), Social/Behavioral Sciences (SB), Oral Communications (OC), or Foreign Language Course	3	TBD XXX	
	Subtotal AA Requirement Courses	6		

Students should consider classes that may count toward a chosen minor.

Category 3: GCTC Electives

GCTC Course	Course or Category	Credits	NKU Course	Completed
CIT 105	Introduction to Computing	3	INF 101	
FYE 105 or 110	Achieving Academic Success or First Year Experience and Application	3	UNV 100T	
CIT 155	Web Page Development	3	INF 286	
Taken at NKU	Visual Fundamentals for Digital Media	3	DFX 221	

GCTC Course	Course or Category	Credits	NKU Course	Completed
Taken at NKU	Principles of Digital 3D Animation	3	DFX 244	
Taken at NKU	Introduction to Interactive Media	3	DFX 244	
	Subtotal Elective Courses	21		
	Total Associate Degree Hours	61		

NKU Pre-requisite requirements: EMB 140 (no pre-requisites), DFX 221 (pre-req of EMB 140), DFX 244 (pre-req of EMB 140), DFX 240 (pre-req or co-req of DFX 221 and INF 286).

Northern Kentucky University

Category 4: NKU Major Requirements for BA in 3D Digital Design and Visual Effects

NKU Course	Course	Credits	GCTC Course	Taken at GCTC
CMST 101	Public Speaking	3	COM 181	x
EMB 100	Media Literacy	3	COM 249	x
EMB 140	Introduction to Media Aesthetics	3	Taken at NKU	x
EMB 326	Digital Compositing	3		
INF 120	Elementary Programming	3	INF 120U	x
INF 286	Introduction to Web Development	3	CIT 155	x
DFX 221	Visual Fundamentals for Digital Media	3	Taken at NKU	x
DFX 222	Visual Techniques for 3D	3		
DFX 240	Introduction to Interactive Media	3	Taken at NKU	x
DFX 244	Principles of Digital 3D Animation	3	Taken at NKU	x
DFX 245	3D Modeling Fundamentals	3		
DFX 252	Non-Linear Interactive Storytelling	3		
DFX 309 or DFX 340	3D Hard Surface Modeling or Intermediate Interactive Media	3		
DFX 352	Project Research Management	3		
DFX 420	Professional Practices	3		
DFX 452	Advanced Portfolio Production	3		
Choose 5:	Choose five classes: Any additional DFX prefix course Digital Arts & Effects Robotic Art Topics in New Media Art Current Topics in Media Ethics Communicating in the Digital Age	15		
TBS XXX	Choose one 300- or 400-level College of Informatics course	3	COM 254=CMST 355	x
	Subtotal Major Credit Hours at NKU	39		
	Subtotal Major Credit Hours at GCTC	27		
	Total Major Credit Hours	66		

Category 5: Additional Requirements at NKU

NKU Course	Course	Credits	GCTC Course	Taken at GCTC
	Subtotal of Additional Credit Hours Completed at GCTC	34		
	Subtotal Minor Credit Hours Taken at NKU *12-27 must be 300-level or higher	20		
	Total Baccalaureate Degree Credit Hours	120-127		

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