

Animation

Where can you go with an Animation Degree?

A degree in Animation can take your career in many directions. Most students choose to enter the workforce right after graduation, and many continue their education after a few years in the workforce. Our students are equipped with a strong foundation for a career as a(n): Advertising Artist, Animator, Graphics Assistant, Motion Graphics Artist, Multimedia Specialist, Technical Animator, Technical Modeler, Visual Effects Artist

First Year

Academics

- Start taking **LASC** courses as well as foundational and core animation courses.
- Need a little help in your classes? Look into [tutoring with the Academic Success Center](#).
- Look into the many [experiential learning opportunities](#) offered to build a well-rounded college experience.

On-Campus Experience

- Sign up to participate in the [Film & Animation Learning Community](#).
- Join a major specific student organization such as the [Drawing Guild](#). Check out all your student organization options by [visiting DragonCentral](#).

Connect to the Community

- Volunteer on or off-campus with different community organizations such as the [Fargo Film Festival](#).
- Attend the on-campus [Employer Visits](#) as often as possible. Make sure to engage with the representatives and collect contact information to follow up.

Understand Your Career

- Start researching potential career paths on [O*Net](#). Here, you can find valuable information, including typical tasks associated with the profession, the skills and knowledge required, the necessary education and licensures, wages and employment trends, professional organizations, and related occupations. Search for careers such as an [Animator](#).

Second Year

Academics

- Take a deeper dive into the discipline of animation and begin considering a minor and/or certificate such as **graphic communication**.

On-Campus Experience

- Find an on-campus job or begin your leadership journey by applying for a student leadership position. Visit [Handshake](#) to see open positions.
- Find time to participate in events and activities. See a list of upcoming opportunities in [DragonCentral](#).

Connect to the Community

- Join [LinkedIn](#) to begin building your professional network and online presence. Think of your profile as a virtual resume and make sure to update it regularly to reflect jobs, coursework, volunteering, involvement, and skills.
- Attend the on-campus [Employer Visits](#) as often as possible. Make sure to engage with the representatives and collect contact information to follow up.

Understand Your Career

- Schedule an appointment with the [Career Development Center](#) for career planning to learn how to make the most of your time here at MSUM.

Third Year

Academics

- In addition to getting your access code, schedule an appointment with your Academic Advisor to ensure you're on track for graduation.
- Take inventory of your professional goals and decide if your future will need to include graduate school. Take the necessary exams and keep track of application timelines.

On-Campus Experience

- Continue developing leadership skills by exploring leadership positions in the Drawing Guild or [Anime Club](#), other student organizations, or student senate.
- Explore [out-of-class learning opportunities](#) like [studying abroad](#) or internships.

Connect to the Community

- Attend [off-campus events](#) such as [Creative Mornings Fargo](#), [StartUp Brew](#), [Springboard for the Arts](#), or [TedX](#) to connect with others and gain exposure to the community.

Understand Your Career

- [Attend professional development-related events](#) on campus, and connect with faculty to learn more about the field and gain insights on how to be successful in your job search.
- Find an internship or part-time job with a local or regional business to learn the ins and outs of your chosen career.

Fourth Year

Academics

- Participate in the President's Winter Celebration of the Arts to showcase your work and connect to the community.
- Ensure you submit your application for graduation on time and complete the graduate follow-up survey, letting us know your career or continuing education plans.

On-Campus Experience

- Assess what experiences or skills are areas of growth for you and fill in gaps with volunteering, organizations, or part-time employment.

Connect to the Community

- Join professional organizations such as [ACM SIGGRAPH](#) to gain access to research, continuing education opportunities, job boards, and message boards. Make sure to join prior to graduation to receive the discounted student rate (when applicable). Get involved in a community organization such as the [Young Professionals Network](#) to continue building your professional network.

Understand Your Career

- Network relentlessly! Attend networking events to get connected to employers looking to hire soon-to-be grads. Check [DragonCentral](#) for more information.
- [Schedule appointments with a Career Coach](#) to go over your professional documents and to prepare for upcoming interviews. And remember, once a dragon, always a dragon. You have access to these services for life.

What skills will you need?

To be successful in the world of Animation, you will need the following skills: Critical thinking, active listening, creativity, written comprehension, and technology.

Thankfully, through coursework, on-campus involvement, part-time employment, and internships, you will be well-prepared for life after graduation.