Twin Cities Campus

Design M.F.A.

DESGN GARP Administration

College of Design

Link to a list of faculty for this program.

Contact Information:
Director of Graduate Studies, Design Graduate Program, 240 McNeal Hall, 1985 Buford Avenue, St. Paul, MN 55108 (612-626-1219)
Email: dhagrad@umn.edu
Website: http://dha.design.umn.edu/programs/grad

- Program Type: Master's
- Requirements for this program are current for Fall 2017
- Length of program in credits: 60
- This program does not require summer semesters for timely completion.
- Degree: Master of Fine Arts

Along with the program-specific requirements listed below, please read the General Information section of the catalog website for requirements that apply to all major fields.

The design graduate program focuses on the study of relationships between humans and their designed environments. This focus is based on the assumption that design and analysis of environments contributes to the improvement of the human condition. The program addresses theory, research, and application, using a shared disciplinary base from the arts and social and behavioral sciences. The goal of the program is for students to analyze, evaluate, and integrate theoretical frameworks related to humans and their designed environments.

Applications submitted to the design graduate program specify the track and degree objective.

The MFA is available in the graphic design track only.

The track in graphic design focuses on design theory, process, and methods related to design practice and research. Potential areas of study include graphic design history, theory, and critical narrative; design creativity; color and design; user-centered design; design authorship; data visualization; and interactive design.

Program Delivery

This program is available:

- via classroom (the majority of instruction is face-to-face)

Prerequisites for Admission

The preferred undergraduate GPA for admittance to the program is 3.00.

Eligibility requirements are located on the track pages of the design graduate program website: http://dha.design.umn.edu/programs/grad.

Special Application Requirements:
Application requirements: http://dha.design.umn.edu/programs/grad/admissions.html

Applicants must submit their test score(s) from the following:

- GRE
  - General Test - Verbal Reasoning: 153
  - General Test - Quantitative Reasoning: 144
  - General Test - Analytical Writing: 4

International applicants must submit score(s) from one of the following tests:

- TOEFL
  - Internet Based - Total Score: 79
  - Internet Based - Writing Score: 21
  - Internet Based - Reading Score: 19
  - Paper Based - Total Score: 550

The preferred English language test is Test of English as Foreign Language

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Key to test abbreviations(GRE, TOEFL).

For an online application or for more information about graduate education admissions, see the General Information section of the catalog website.

Program Requirements

Plan C: Plan C requires 52 major credits and 8 credits outside the major.The final exam is oral. A capstone project is required.
Capstone Project: MFA coursework and research culminates in a creative thesis, which includes a paper and extensive creative project.

This program may be completed with a minor.

Use of 4xxx courses toward program requirements is permitted under certain conditions with adviser approval.

A minimum GPA of 2.80 is required for students to remain in good standing.

At least 2 semesters must be completed before filing a Degree Program Form.

Students may be required to complete additional credits upon recommendation of their committee.

Design Program Core Requirement
DES 8181 - Research Ethics (1.0 cr)

Related Field
Students are required to take a minimum of 8 credits in a related field. Courses are selected with the approval of the advisor and committee.

Theory and Philosophy
Take 6 or more credit(s) from the following:
•DES 8112 - Introduction to Design Research, Theory, and Methodology (3.0 cr)
•DES 8164 - Innovation Theory and Analysis (3.0 cr)
•GDES 5399 *{Inactive}*(3.0 cr)

Evaluation and Analysis
Take 6 or more credit(s) from the following:
•GDES 5388 *{Inactive}*(3.0 cr)
•DES 8102 - Quantitative research methods and data visualization (3.0 cr)
•DES 8103 - Qualitative Research Methods in Design (3.0 cr)

Concentration
All students are required to take DES 8114, GDES 8361, and GDES 8362.
Take 27 or more credit(s) from the following:
•GDES 4131W - History of Graphic Design [WI] (4.0 cr)
•GDES 4330 *{Inactive}*(4.0 cr)
•GDES 4345 - Advanced Typography (4.0 cr)
•GDES 5311 - Illustration (3.0 cr)
•GDES 5341 - Interaction Design (3.0 cr)
•GDES 5342 - Advanced Web Design (3.0 cr)
•GDES 5371 - Data & Information Visualization (3.0 cr)
•GDES 5372 *{Inactive}*(3.0 cr)
•GDES 5383 - Digital Illustration and Animation (3.0 cr)
•GDES 5386 - Fundamentals of Game Design (3.0 cr)
•DES 8113 - Teaching and Assessment (2.0 cr)
•DES 8114 - Design Studio (4.0 cr)
•DES 8115 - Grant Writing (2.0 cr)
•GDES 8192 - Readings in Graphic Design (1.0 - 3.0 cr)
•GDES 8193 - Directed Study (1.0 - 3.0 cr)
•GDES 8361 - Color, Design, and Human Perception (3.0 cr)
•GDES 8362 - The Nature of Representation in Visual Communication (3.0 cr)

MFA Creative Thesis Credits
Take 12 credits or more of the following:
GDES 8990 - MFA Creative Thesis (6.0 cr)

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Program Sub-plans

Students are required to complete one of the following sub-plans.
Students may not complete the program with more than one sub-plan.

Graphic Design

All Design MMFA students must complete the graphic design track. See program requirements above.

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