



Twin Cities Campus

Design M.S.

DESIGN GRAD Administration

College of Design

Link to a [list of faculty](#) for this program.

Contact Information:

Design Graduate Program, 240 McNeal Hall, 1985 Buford Avenue, St. Paul, MN 55108.

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: 34
- This program does not require summer semesters for timely completion.
- Degree: Master of Science

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.

Formal tracks are:

- Apparel studies (including dress, history, and culture; product development; and retail merchandising and consumer studies)
- Graphic design
- Housing studies
- Interior 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: 144
 - General Test - Quantitative Reasoning: 153
 - 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



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 A: Plan A requires 18 major credits, 6 credits outside the major, and 10 thesis credits. The final exam is oral.

Plan B: Plan B requires 28 major credits and 6 credits outside the major. The final exam is oral.

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 Coursework

Students are required to take a minimum of 6 credits in a related field. Courses are selected with the approval of the advisor and committee.

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.

Apparel Studies

The apparel studies track advances both theoretical knowledge and applications for apparel and worn products and their relationship to human behavior. Students may focus on product development; dress, history, and culture; or retail merchandising and consumer studies. Within each of these areas of emphasis within the track, the student completes related coursework as well as research or creative production that culminates in a thesis.

Evaluation and Analysis Coursework

Students are required to take a minimum of 6 credits in evaluation and analysis.

Students may take other courses with the approval of the advisor and committee.

Take 6 or more credit(s) from the following:

- [DES 8102](#) - Quantitative research methods and data visualization (3.0 cr)
- [DES 8103](#) - Qualitative Research Methods in Design (3.0 cr)

Concentration

Dress, History, and Culture

Theory and Philosophy Coursework

Students take a minimum of 3 credits in this category.

[DES 8164](#) - Innovation Theory and Analysis (3.0 cr)

or [DES 8112](#) - Introduction to Design Research, Theory, and Methodology (3.0 cr)

Plan A Requirements

Take 8 or more credit(s) from the following:

- [DES 5165](#) - Design and Globalization (3.0 cr)
- [APST 5218](#) - Fashion, Design, and the Global Industry (3.0 cr)
- [DES 8112](#) - Introduction to Design Research, Theory, and Methodology (3.0 cr)
- [DES 8113](#) - Teaching and Assessment (2.0 cr)
- [DES 8115](#) - Grant Writing (2.0 cr)
- [DES 8164](#) - Innovation Theory and Analysis (3.0 cr)



- DES 8166 - Material Culture and Design (3.0 cr)
- DES 8167 - Aesthetics of Design (3.0 cr)
- APST 8192 - Readings in Apparel Studies (1.0 - 3.0 cr)
- APST 8193 - Directed Study (1.0 - 3.0 cr)
- APST 8268 - Behavioral Aspects of Dress (3.0 cr)
- APST 8267 *(Inactive)*(3.0 cr)

•**Thesis credits**

Students take a minimum of 10 thesis credits.

- DES 8777 - Thesis Credits: Master's (1.0 - 18.0 cr)

or **Plan B Requirements**

All Plan B Master's students are required to register for DES 8222 Plan B Master's Project the last semester of the program.

Take 15 or more credit(s) from the following:

- DES 5165 - Design and Globalization (3.0 cr)
- APST 5218 - Fashion, Design, and the Global Industry (3.0 cr)
- DES 8112 - Introduction to Design Research, Theory, and Methodology (3.0 cr)
- DES 8113 - Teaching and Assessment (2.0 cr)
- DES 8115 - Grant Writing (2.0 cr)
- DES 8164 - Innovation Theory and Analysis (3.0 cr)
- DES 8166 - Material Culture and Design (3.0 cr)
- DES 8167 - Aesthetics of Design (3.0 cr)
- APST 8192 - Readings in Apparel Studies (1.0 - 3.0 cr)
- APST 8193 - Directed Study (1.0 - 3.0 cr)
- APST 8267 *(Inactive)*(3.0 cr)
- APST 8268 - Behavioral Aspects of Dress (3.0 cr)

•**Plan B Master's Project**

Students take a minimum of 3 credits in this category.

- APST 8222 - Plan B Master's Project (3.0 cr)

-OR-

Product Development

Theory and Philosophy Coursework

Students take a minimum of 3 credits in this category.

DES 8112 - Introduction to Design Research, Theory, and Methodology (3.0 cr)

or DES 8164 - Innovation Theory and Analysis (3.0 cr)

Plan A Requirements

Take 8 or more credit(s) from the following:

- DES 5185 - Human Factors in Design (3.0 cr)
- APST 5218 - Fashion, Design, and the Global Industry (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)
- DES 8151 - Product Development: Theory and Practice (3.0 cr)
- DES 8166 - Material Culture and Design (3.0 cr)
- DES 8167 - Aesthetics of Design (3.0 cr)
- APST 8192 - Readings in Apparel Studies (1.0 - 3.0 cr)
- APST 8193 - Directed Study (1.0 - 3.0 cr)
- GDES 8361 - Color, Design, and Human Perception (3.0 cr)

•**Thesis Credits**

Students take a minimum of 10 thesis credits.

- DES 8777 - Thesis Credits: Master's (1.0 - 18.0 cr)

or **Plan B Requirements**

Plan B Master's students are required to take DES 8222 Master's Plan B Project the final semester of the program.

Take 15 or more credit(s) from the following:

- DES 5185 - Human Factors in Design (3.0 cr)
- APST 5218 - Fashion, Design, and the Global Industry (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)
- DES 8151 - Product Development: Theory and Practice (3.0 cr)
- DES 8166 - Material Culture and Design (3.0 cr)
- DES 8167 - Aesthetics of Design (3.0 cr)
- APST 8192 - Readings in Apparel Studies (1.0 - 3.0 cr)
- APST 8193 - Directed Study (1.0 - 3.0 cr)
- GDES 8361 - Color, Design, and Human Perception (3.0 cr)

•**Plan B Master's Project**

Students take a minimum of 3 credits in this category.



- [APST 8222](#) - Plan B Master's Project (3.0 cr)

-OR-

Retail Merchandising and Consumer Studies

Theory and Philosophy Coursework

[APST 8272](#) - Digital Consumers: Theories in Retail and Consumer Studies (3.0 cr)

Plan A Requirements

Take 8 or more credit(s) from the following:

- [APST 5117](#) - Retail Environments and Human Behavior (3.0 cr)
- [APST 5123](#) - Living in a Consumer Society (3.0 cr)
- [APST 5124](#) *{Inactive}*(3.0 cr)
- [DES 8113](#) - Teaching and Assessment (2.0 cr)
- [DES 8115](#) - Grant Writing (2.0 cr)
- [DES 8151](#) - Product Development: Theory and Practice (3.0 cr)
- [DES 8167](#) - Aesthetics of Design (3.0 cr)
- [APST 8267](#) *{Inactive}*(3.0 cr)
- [APST 8268](#) - Behavioral Aspects of Dress (3.0 cr)
- [APST 8192](#) - Readings in Apparel Studies (1.0 - 3.0 cr)
- [APST 8193](#) - Directed Study (1.0 - 3.0 cr)
- [APST 8271](#) - Retailing: Strategic Perspectives (3.0 cr)

•Thesis Credits

Students take a minimum of 10 thesis credits.

- [DES 8777](#) - Thesis Credits: Master's (1.0 - 18.0 cr)

or Plan B Requirements

Plan B Master's students are required to take ApSt 8222 Master's Plan B Project the final semester of the program.

Take 15 or more credit(s) from the following:

- [APST 5117](#) - Retail Environments and Human Behavior (3.0 cr)
- [APST 5123](#) - Living in a Consumer Society (3.0 cr)
- [APST 5124](#) *{Inactive}*(3.0 cr)
- [DES 8113](#) - Teaching and Assessment (2.0 cr)
- [DES 8115](#) - Grant Writing (2.0 cr)
- [DES 8151](#) - Product Development: Theory and Practice (3.0 cr)
- [DES 8167](#) - Aesthetics of Design (3.0 cr)
- [APST 8267](#) *{Inactive}*(3.0 cr)
- [APST 8268](#) - Behavioral Aspects of Dress (3.0 cr)
- [APST 8192](#) - Readings in Apparel Studies (1.0 - 3.0 cr)
- [APST 8193](#) - Directed Study (1.0 - 3.0 cr)
- [APST 8271](#) - Retailing: Strategic Perspectives (3.0 cr)

•Plan B Master's Project

Students take a minimum of 3 credits in this category.

- [APST 8222](#) - Plan B Master's Project (3.0 cr)

Graphic Design

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; design authorship; data visualization; and interactive design.

Theory and Philosophy Coursework

Students take a minimum of 3 credits in this category.

[DES 8112](#) - Introduction to Design Research, Theory, and Methodology (3.0 cr)

or [DES 8164](#) - Innovation Theory and Analysis (3.0 cr)

or GDES 5399 *{Inactive}*(3.0 cr)

Evaluation and Analysis Coursework

Students take a minimum of 6 credits in this category.

[DES 8102](#) - Quantitative research methods and data visualization (3.0 cr)

or [DES 8103](#) - Qualitative Research Methods in Design (3.0 cr)

or GDES 5388 *{Inactive}*(3.0 cr)

Concentration

Plan A Requirements

Students are required to take DES 8114, and GDES 8361 or GDES 8362.

Take 8 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)

•**Thesis Credits**

Students take a minimum of 10 thesis credits.

- DES 8777 - Thesis Credits: Master's (1.0 - 18.0 cr)

-OR-

Plan B Requirements

Students are required to take DES 8114 and GDES 8361 or GDES 8362.

Take 15 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)

•**Plan B Master's Project**

Students take a minimum of 3 credits in this category the last semester of the program.

- GDES 8222 - Plan B Master's Project (3.0 cr)

Housing Studies

The housing studies track advances both theoretical and applied knowledge in the housing field. Through research experiences, students are prepared to assist people and communities in addressing housing-related issues. Courses emphasize human needs and behavior, analysis of designed environments, policy and community development, and housing of specific subpopulations such as the elderly or low-income families with children.

Theory and Philosophy: Required Course

HSG 8467 *{Inactive}*(3.0 cr)

Evaluation and Analysis Coursework

Students take a minimum of 6 credits in this category.

Take 6 or more credit(s) from the following:

- DES 8102 - Quantitative research methods and data visualization (3.0 cr)
- DES 8103 - Qualitative Research Methods in Design (3.0 cr)
- EPSY 5261 - Introductory Statistical Methods (3.0 cr)

Concentration

Plan A Requirements

Students take least two courses from the following: HSG 5463, HSG 5467, and HSG 8463.

Take 8 or more credit(s) from the following:

- DES 8113 - Teaching and Assessment (2.0 cr)
- DES 8115 - Grant Writing (2.0 cr)
- HSG 4461 *{Inactive}*(4.0 cr)



- HSG 4465 *(Inactive)* (3.0 cr)
- HSG 5170 *(Inactive)* (1.0 - 4.0 cr)
- HSG 5193 - Directed Study in Housing Studies (1.0 - 4.0 cr)
- HSG 5463 - Housing Policy (3.0 cr)
- HSG 5467 *(Inactive)* (4.0 cr)
- HSG 5481 *(Inactive)* (3.0 cr)
- HSG 5484 *(Inactive)* (3.0 cr)
- HSG 8170 *(Inactive)* (1.0 - 3.0 cr)
- HSG 8180 *(Inactive)* (1.0 - 2.0 cr)
- HSG 8192 - Readings in Housing Studies (1.0 - 3.0 cr)
- HSG 8193 - Directed Study (1.0 - 3.0 cr)
- HSG 8463 *(Inactive)* (3.0 cr)

Thesis Credits

Students take a minimum of 10 credits in this category.

DES 8777 - Thesis Credits: Master's (1.0 - 18.0 cr)

-OR-

Plan B Requirements

Students select at least two of the following courses: HSG 5463, HSG 5467, and HSG 8463.

Take 15 or more credit(s) from the following:

Take 15 or more credit(s) from the following:

- DES 8113 - Teaching and Assessment (2.0 cr)
- DES 8115 - Grant Writing (2.0 cr)
- HSG 4461 *(Inactive)* (4.0 cr)
- HSG 4465 *(Inactive)* (3.0 cr)
- HSG 5170 *(Inactive)* (1.0 - 4.0 cr)
- HSG 5193 - Directed Study in Housing Studies (1.0 - 4.0 cr)
- HSG 5463 - Housing Policy (3.0 cr)
- HSG 5467 *(Inactive)* (4.0 cr)
- HSG 5481 *(Inactive)* (3.0 cr)
- HSG 5484 *(Inactive)* (3.0 cr)
- HSG 8170 *(Inactive)* (1.0 - 3.0 cr)
- HSG 8180 *(Inactive)* (1.0 - 2.0 cr)
- HSG 8192 - Readings in Housing Studies (1.0 - 3.0 cr)
- HSG 8193 - Directed Study (1.0 - 3.0 cr)
- HSG 8463 *(Inactive)* (3.0 cr)

Plan B Master's Project

Students take a minimum of 3 credits the final semester of the program.

•HSG 8222 - Plan B Master's Project (3.0 cr)

Interior Design

This sub-plan is limited to students completing the program under Plan A.

Graduate study in the interior design track emphasizes the theory, research, and specialized practice components of design as applied to people's health, safety, and welfare in the interior environment, including design education, sustainability, social/cultural issues, aspects of professional practice, and facilities research (educational, office, criminal justice, and residential). Students are prepared for teaching and research positions as well as design specializations within the profession. The evidence-based design emphasis provides students with the opportunity to explore theoretical, process, and applied aspects of this design practice approach.

Theory and Philosophy Coursework

DES 8112 - Introduction to Design Research, Theory, and Methodology (3.0 cr)

or DES 8164 - Innovation Theory and Analysis (3.0 cr)

or DES 8166 - Material Culture and Design (3.0 cr)

Evaluation and Analysis Coursework

Students should take a minimum of six credits. A statistics course is required and either DES 8102 or DES 8103.

Take 6 or more credit(s) from the following:

- DES 8102 - Quantitative research methods and data visualization (3.0 cr)
- DES 8103 - Qualitative Research Methods in Design (3.0 cr)
- EPSY 5261 - Introductory Statistical Methods (3.0 cr)
- EPSY 5262 - Intermediate Statistical Methods (3.0 cr)
- EPSY 8252 - Statistical Methods in Education II (3.0 cr)
- EPSY 8266 - Statistical Analysis Using Structural Equation Methods (3.0 cr)
- EPSY 8267 - Applied Multivariate Analysis (3.0 cr)

Concentration

Take 8 or more credit(s) from the following:



- [DES 5165](#) - Design and Globalization (3.0 cr)
- [DES 5168](#) - Evidence-Based Design (3.0 cr)
- [DES 5185](#) - Human Factors in Design (3.0 cr)
- [DES 8113](#) - Teaching and Assessment (2.0 cr)
- [DES 8115](#) - Grant Writing (2.0 cr)
- [IDES 8192](#) - Readings in Interior Design (1.0 - 3.0 cr)
- [IDES 8193](#) - Directed Study (1.0 - 3.0 cr)
- [GDES 8361](#) - Color, Design, and Human Perception (3.0 cr)
- Thesis Credits**
Students take a minimum of 10 credits in this category.
- [DES 8777](#) - Thesis Credits: Master's (1.0 - 18.0 cr)