

GAME DEVELOPMENT: DESIGN, MS

for the degree of Master of Science in Game Development: Design Concentration

The Design Concentration of the Master of Science in in Game Development (MS in Game Development) degree provides technical training and practical experience for students interested in working in professional game studios, game-adjacent industries or other businesses where game-related programming skills are increasingly in demand. The program fosters critical skills in collaboration, communication, integration and professional business practices, along with technical skills in game programming. After the first year of coursework, students will shift the balance of their course work towards in-studio experiences within a professional game-development environment. The Design concentration will serve traditional graduate students as well as industry professionals who are interested in attaining a post-graduate degree while diversifying their professional skills.

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Code	Title	Hours
Major Required Courses		
GSD 511	Game Development I	4
GSD 512	Game Development II	4
Choose one or both of the following for a total of 16 credit hours:		16
GSD 513	Practicum in Game Development I (Internal Studio)	
GSD 514	Practicum in Game Development II (External Studio)	
Design Concentration Required Courses		
Choose 12 credit hours from the following:		12
GSD 530	Tools & Techniques of Game Design (may be repeated if topic varies)	
GSD 531	Tools & Techniques: Contemporary Techniques in Game Design	
Design Concentration Electives		
Choose 12 credit hours from the following:		12
GSD 515	Professionalization Seminar: Portfolio Production & Personal Branding	
GSD 521	Tools & Techniques: Contemporary Techniques for 2D Art for Games	
GSD 522	Tools & Techniques: Contemporary Techniques of 3D Art for Games	
GSD 523	Tools & Techniques: Contemporary Techniques of 3D Animation for Games	
GSD 540	Tools & Techniques of Game Production	
GSD 541	Tools & Techniques: Contemporary Techniques of Game Production	
GSD 551	Tools & Techniques: Contemporary Techniques for Programming of Games	

GSD 561	Tools & Techniques of Game Narrative: Contemporary Techniques in Writing for Games	
Total Hours		48
Other Requirements		
Code	Title	Hours
Minimum GPA		2.75
Minimum Hours at 500 Level		12

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The goal of the MS in Game Development program is to provide practical, technical, critical, and ethical training, awareness, and experiences to students who are interested in working in professional game studios, game-adjacent industries, or in other work places where game-related skills are required. To this end, the program includes four shared objectives for students across all concentrations:

1. Practical Training: Understand the roles and specifications involved in the professional development of games and interactive media, using industry-standard practices for communication, collaboration, and process flow at every stage in the development process.
2. Technical Training: Demonstrate polished game development skills in a chosen specialization sufficient to create or significantly contribute to a publishable interactive experience.
3. Critical Training: Be knowledgeable about and conversant with social, psychological, economic, and technological contexts and impacts of games and simulations in society.
4. Ethical Training: Develop the ethical, relational, and collaborative skills necessary for working on a diverse and inclusive research or design team.

Learning objectives for the Design concentration include:

1. Collaborating with a team on the creation of a game design.
2. Organizing a game design project through all stages.
3. Producing planning documents such as a GDD, Storyboard, flowchart, deck.
4. Arranging validation tools for game Quality Assurance (QA) processes.
5. Proficiency with studio processes such as design, organization, naming conventions.

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