ART & DESIGN, MFA

for the degree of Master of Fine Arts in Art and Design

The degree of Master of Fine Arts in Art and Design is designed to prepare qualified individuals for distinctive achievement in the professional area of their choice. Fields of concentration include Design for Responsible Innovation, Industrial Design, or Studio Art.

A minimum of 64 hours of graduate credit is required for the M.F.A. degree. Individual studio space and specialized resources essential to the acquisition of a high-quality professional education are available to students in all areas of study. The interdisciplinary Studio which includes Painting, Sculpture, Photography and New Media require a graduation exhibition of creative work and a written thesis approved by a thesis committee for deposit in the School of Art and Design's graduate office. The Industrial Design and Design for Responsible Innovation programs require a graduation exhibition, a written thesis approved by a thesis committee and a thesis deposit in the Graduate College Thesis Office. Admission for all programs is determined by a faculty review of a portfolio of the applicant's creative work, records of previous education and experience, letters of recommendation, and other significant achievements that may be viewed as predictors for success in the program.

Admission

Applications are considered for Fall Semester admissions only. For international applicants a recent English Proficiency test score of 96 (TOEFL) or 6.5 (IELTS) (or an exemption) is needed for admissions.

Graduate Teaching Experience

Although teaching is not a general Graduate College requirement, experience in teaching is considered an important part of the graduate experience for master and doctoral students.

Facilities and Resources

Resources for graduate students in art and design include the Krannert Art Museum's excellent permanent collections and changing exhibitions; the Ricker Library of Art and Architecture, one of the largest art and architecture libraries in the nation; the Krannert Center for the Performing Arts; School of Art and Design facilities, which include extensive computer laboratories, digital photography and video editing equipment, wireless networking, ink-printing facilities, ceramic, woodworking, and metal shops, rapid prototyping and laser cutting, black/white and color darkrooms, shooting studios, and a wide selection of production and presentation equipment via reservation and checkout facility. A variety of lectures, symposia, musical programs, dramatic productions, and other cultural events associated with a large and progressive university complement the Art and Design Facilities.

Financial Aid

Fellowships, assistantships, and tuition and service fee waivers are awarded each year on a competitive basis, with consideration given to the applicant's grade point average and, in the case of applicants for the M.F.A. programs, quality of creative work.

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Code	Title	Hours
Research/Project/Thesis Hours (min/max applied toward degree) (2 min):		2
Studio, enrollment varies by concentration		6 min
Students may choose one of the concentrations available for this major:		
Design for Responsible Innovation (http://catalog.illinois.edu/graduate/faa/art-design-mfa/design-responsible-innovation/)		
Industrial Design (http://catalog.illinois.edu/graduate/faa/art-design-mfa/industrial-design/)		
Studio Art (http://catalog.illinois.edu/graduate/faa/art-design-mfa/studio-art/)		
Electives taken in consultation with an advisor to reach 64 total hours		
Total Hours		**64**

Other Requirements

Code	Title	Hours
A concentration is not required		
Other requirements may overlap		
Minimum 500-level Hours Required Overall		12
Minimum GPA		2.75

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MFA in Art & Design, concentration in Industrial Design

1. Inquiry and insight: Select and use appropriate research and experimental methods, to access existing data or to generate new data, to analyze and draw insights, with a particular emphasis on user needs.
2. Ideation: Produce creative proposals to identified design opportunities, using design thinking, modelling, and prototyping strategies, with an appropriate integration of functional, technical, ergonomic and visual factors.
3. Implementation: Select and use appropriate making and manufacturing processes with an understanding of the potential of new technologies, and the demands of sustainability.
4. Informing: Use visual and verbal communication, to explain and persuade, as appropriate for different audiences.
5. Self development: Carry out independent learning and reflexive evaluation of your work, as well as to plan and implement action, individually or in teams, effectively managing self and others.
6. Contextualisation: Locate your own activity within the multiple contexts of design practice, including the theoretical, professional, cultural, environmental and technological contexts.

MFA in Art & Design, concentration in Design for Responsible Innovation

1. Demonstrate familiarity with the design research literature relevant to their topic.
2. Create prototypes for research purposes.

3. Explain the different epistemological modes of knowledge production.
4. Select research methods appropriate to the thesis topic.

MFA in Art & Design, concentration in Studio Art

1. Demonstrate a practical and theoretical understanding of contemporary art and related practices.
2. Articulate studio and conceptual concerns orally and in writing that makes critical connections between individual works and practices and the larger contexts that inform them.
3. Produce and exhibit a comprehensive body of artwork that demonstrates conceptual rigor and appropriate technical skill.
4. Demonstrate the intention, motivation and skills required to pursue and sustain a career as an artist.
5. Acquire practical pedagogical and technical skills necessary for employment in the field.

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School of Art & Design

School of Art & Design (https://art.illinois.edu/)
Art & Design faculty (https://art.illinois.edu/about/faculty-directory/)
School Director: Brooke White
Director of Graduate Studies: Terri Weissman
Associate Director of Design: Lynne Dearborn
138 Art and Design Building, 408 East Peabody Drive, Champaign, IL 61820
Graduate Office: (217) 333-0642

Graduate Studies Advisors:

MA; PhD in Art History: David O'Brien
MA; EdM; PhD in Art Education: Laura Hetrick
MFA in Studio: Emmy Lingscheit and Conrad Bakker
MFA in Industrial Design: Carlos Aguiar
MFA in Design for Responsible Innovation: Nekita Thomas

College of Fine & Applied Arts

College of Fine & Applied Arts (https://faa.illinois.edu/)

Admissions

Ellen de Waard: edewaard@illinois.edu
Graduate College Admissions Requirements (https://grad.illinois.edu/admissions/apply/)