
General Information

School of Design Graduate Program

The School of Design is dedicated to educating students to be responsible design professionals and citizens in an increasingly complex world of evolving technology.

The School of Design is committed to educating students for life-long practice and service. The school is educating students today to work in local and global markets that respect diversity in the human community and in the environmental communities that sustain the world of design. The School of Design also recognizes new areas of design practice related to recent developments in computer technology. The school provides opportunities for those who wish to integrate new technology as means of advancing design.

The School of Design offers the Master of Design degree through a two-year program intended for students with undergraduate degrees and work experience in digital, fashion, graphic or industrial design. The School faculty support advanced work in each of these disciplines, and interdisciplinary graduate research is also encouraged. The Master of Design is a post-professional terminal degree. There are two focus areas for graduate study:

- Product Development (for people with backgrounds in fashion design or industrial design).
- Visualization (for people with backgrounds in digital design or graphic design).

Interdisciplinary graduate seminars and studios provide an opportunity to explore issues of common concern to all professional design fields, such as sustainable design, universal design, design and identity, design and consumerism.

The Master of Design program prepares people for careers in design research and design management, college-level teaching, or integrative design practice.

Application check list

- University of Cincinnati Application Form
- Application Fee
- School of Design Application Forms
- Statement of Intent
- Résumé or Curriculum Vitae
- Portfolio (slides, CD-ROM, video)
- Self-Addressed Stamped Envelope
..... for returning the Portfolio
- Writing Samples
- Financial Aid Forms
- Academic Transcripts
- Three Recommendation Forms
- GRE (Official Score Report)
- TOEFL (Official Score Report)

School of Design Admission Requirements

The School of Design invites application for admission to the Master of Design program from those who have successfully completed their undergraduate degree in digital, fashion, graphic, or industrial design.

People with other backgrounds may not apply to the Graduate Program in Design. They should apply to, and be accepted into, the undergraduate programs in digital design, fashion design and product development, graphic design, or industrial design. After three years of academic work and professional co-ops, students with exceptional records and exceptional commitment to advanced studies may apply for admission to the Graduate Program in Design for at least another two years of study leading to the degree of M.Des. (Others may remain for two more years in the undergraduate program, completing a total of six co-op quarters and earning the degree of B.S.Des.)

1. Applicants must hold a baccalaureate design degree from an accredited college or university. A 3.0 undergraduate grade point average (in a 4.0 grading system) is required.
2. Applicants should arrange for the transmittal of transcripts and certifications of degrees/diplomas from all previously attended institutions of higher education.
3. Applicants should have at least two years of professional experience in an area of design practice or teaching.
4. Applicants must complete the School of Design and the University application forms.
5. Applicants must include a Statement of Intent that briefly explains educational and professional background and makes a convincing argument for the importance of graduate studies in relation to personal and professional goals and expectations for the future. Also include a résumé or curriculum vitae summarizing accomplishments to date.
6. Applicants must include examples of visual work (slides, laser-printed portfolio, CD-ROM) as an indication of their level of skill development required to pursue graduate studies. Additional undergraduate work may be required if previous academic preparation indicates the need.
7. Applicants must include writing samples, which could be term papers, research reports, or documents from professional work.
8. Applicants should contact at least three personal references who can comment on past performance and future potential in academic and professional efforts.
9. Applicants must have a Graduate Record Examination (GRE) score of 1100 (Verbal + Quantitative) and a very high score in Analytical Writing.
10. Applicants with English as a second language must have a score of 570 (paper-based) or 230 (computer-based) on the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL). Applicants must also have a score of 50 on the Test of Spoken English (TSE).

Early in the first quarter, the student will meet with the Graduate Coordinator to plan his/her curriculum outline. The outline will be reviewed quarterly by the student, the student's academic adviser, and the Graduate Coordinator, for possible modifications.

Graduate Program in Design

Typical Curriculum

First year

AUTUMN	CREDIT HOURS
graduate seminar (23DSGN701)	4
research methods (23ARTH751)	4
graduate studio (23DSGN761)	4
1 elective	4
MINIMUM TOTAL HOURS	12

Second year

AUTUMN	CREDIT HOURS
graduate seminar (23DSGN801)	4
thesis research (23DSGN821)	4
graduate studio (23DSGN861) (optional)	4
1 elective	4
MINIMUM TOTAL HOURS	12

WINTER

graduate seminar (23DSGN702)	4
graduate studio (23DSGN762)	4
2 electives	8
MINIMUM TOTAL HOURS	12

WINTER

graduate seminar (23DSGN802) (optional)	4
thesis research (23DSGN822)	4
thesis research or elective	4
graduate studio (23DSGN862) (optional)	4
MINIMUM TOTAL HOURS	12

SPRING

graduate colloquium (23DSGN711)	4
thesis seminar (23DSGN713)	4
graduate studio (23DSGN763)	4
1 elective	4
end-of-first-year review	—
MINIMUM TOTAL HOURS	12

SPRING

graduate colloquium (23DSGN811)	4
thesis research (23DSGN823)	4
graduate studio (23 DSGN863) (optional)	4
thesis defense	—
MINIMUM TOTAL HOURS	12

SUMMER

Thesis Research/ Other coursework/ Internship

CORE COURSES

THESIS	16 +
ELECTIVES	16 +
MINIMUM TOTAL HOURS REQUIRED	72

Course names in bold represent core graduate curriculum.

Degree Requirements

graduate seminar (23DSGN701/2/3, 801/2/3)	
total credit hours	12
(3 required, @ 4hrs.)	

research methods (23ARTH751)	
total credit hours	4

graduate colloquium (23DSGN711, 811)	
total credit hours	8
(both required, @ 4hrs.)	

graduate studio (23DSGN761/2/3, 861/2/3)	
total credit hours	12
(3 required, @ 4hrs.)	

thesis seminar (23DSGN713)	
total credit hours	4
(1 required, @ 4hrs.)	

thesis research (23DSGN721/2/3, 821/2/3)	
total credit hours	16+

additional elective coursework	
total credit hours	16+

Minimum total required credit hours72