

HUMAN ECOLOGY: DESIGN STUDIES, MFA

REQUIREMENTS

MINIMUM GRADUATE SCHOOL REQUIREMENTS

Review the Graduate School minimum academic progress and degree requirements (<http://guide.wisc.edu/graduate/#policiesandrequirements>), in addition to the program requirements listed below.

NAMED OPTION REQUIREMENTS MODE OF INSTRUCTION

Face to Face	Evening/ Weekend	Online	Hybrid	Accelerated
Yes	No	No	No	No

Mode of Instruction Definitions

Accelerated: Accelerated programs are offered at a fast pace that condenses the time to completion. Students typically take enough credits aimed at completing the program in a year or two.

Evening/Weekend: Courses meet on the UW–Madison campus only in evenings and/or on weekends to accommodate typical business schedules. Students have the advantages of face-to-face courses with the flexibility to keep work and other life commitments.

Face-to-Face: Courses typically meet during weekdays on the UW–Madison Campus.

Hybrid: These programs combine face-to-face and online learning formats. Contact the program for more specific information.

Online: These programs are offered 100% online. Some programs may require an on-campus orientation or residency experience, but the courses will be facilitated in an online format.

CURRICULAR REQUIREMENTS

Requirement Detail	
Minimum Credit Requirement	60 credits
Minimum Residence Credit Requirement	24 credits
Minimum Graduate Coursework Requirement	Half of degree coursework (30 credits out of 60 total credits) must be completed graduate-level coursework; courses with the Graduate Level Coursework attribute are identified and searchable in the university's Course Guide.
Overall Graduate GPA Requirement	3.00 GPA required.

Other Grade Requirements The Graduate School requires an average grade of B or better in all coursework (300 or above, not including research credits) taken as a graduate student unless conditions for probationary status require higher grades. Grades of Incomplete are considered to be unsatisfactory if they are not removed during the next enrolled semester.

Assessments and Examinations Before beginning substantial work on their thesis, all MFA students must receive approval of their thesis proposal from their MFA committee after satisfactorily completing at least three full-time semesters of coursework and passing the MFA Interim Qualifier. The thesis proposal is intended to describe the creative work or project that will be at the core of the thesis, to demonstrate the student's broad knowledge in areas that relate to their thesis, to explain how their work or project relates to the work of other designers and artists, to demonstrate their awareness of relevant theories and methods as reflected in their literature review, to explain their methods and materials, and to outline a detailed schedule for the completion of the thesis.

Upon approval of their thesis proposal, students are expected to register for 9 credits that will represent thesis writing and production. These credits are generally research and thesis credits, independent studies, or required seminars; they must be at the 500 level or above.

All MFA students are required to present their work at least once per academic year in a Group Review Session attended by faculty and the other MFA students. First year students can present their work that they submitted for their application, or work from a course that they have taken. Second year students should present work from their Focus Area student work, or their advanced General Studio work. Third-year students should present their thesis work in progress.

The Group Review Sessions have several goals.

*Enable MFA students to see what other MFA students are working on.

*Enable the MFA faculty as a whole to see what all of the MFA students are working on.

*Enable MFA students to receive constructive review of their work.

*Enable MFA students to gain experience critiquing and receiving critique.

*Enable MFA students to gain experience presenting their work.

All MFA students are required to successfully prepare and present a thesis that includes a studio component, a written component, and an oral defense. These are Research and Thesis credits with the student's advisor.

Language Requirements Contact the program for information on any language requirements.

Doctoral Minor/Breadth Requirements All doctoral students are required to complete a minor.

REQUIRED COURSES

Code	Title	Credits
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Pre-MFA Preparation Courses ¹

Pre-MFA preparation courses vary by area of study and may include, but are not limited to, the following courses:

Textile and Fashion Design

Textile and/or Fashion History

Interior Architecture

DS 241 Visual Communication I

DS 451 Color Theory and Technology

DS 222 Interior Design I

DS 322 Interior Design II

Core Courses ² 18

As much as possible within their first two years, all MFA students will be expected to enroll in 18-21 credits distributed among the following Core Courses:

INTER-HE 801 Special Topics in Human Ecology (Select topic: Theories and Perspectives in Human Ecology)

Methods and Theory in Design and Culture

DS/ANTHRO/ Dimensions of Material Culture

ART HIST/

HISTORY/

LAND ARC 764

Choose at least one additional course. Suggestions include:

DS 642 Taste (Recommended)

ART 700 Introduction to Graduate Studies in Art

ART HIST 703 Curatorial Studies Colloquium

Seminar Courses

DS 920 Seminar in Design Studies

At least one additional seminar course

History and Criticism

ART 508 Colloquium in Art

Choose from among the following courses:

Any Art History or Design Studies course focusing on history, 500 level or above

ART HIST/ Historiography, Theory and Methods
AFROAMER 801 in Visual Culture

ART HIST/ Visual Cultures: Topics in Visual
AFROAMER 802 Cultures

Non-Studio Academic Coursework-Graduate Student Instructor Course ³

General Studio Work ⁴ 9

Required Courses (Interior Architecture concentration only. May be waived for students with substantial portfolios.)

DS 623 Interior Design IV

DS 626 Interior Design V

Recommended courses include:

ART 409 Digital Fabrication Studio

ART 511 Art Performance

ART 521 Installations and Environments

ART 570 Advanced Topics in 4D Art

ART 660

HISTORY 301 History at Work: History Internship Seminar

Other courses at the 500 level or above in Art or Landscape Architecture

Focus Area Studio Work ⁵ 15

Interim MFA Qualifier ⁶ 3

Preparation of Final Thesis 9

Final Thesis 6

Total Credits 60

1

Particularly in the Interior Architecture track, students may have graduated from an undergraduate program that did not comprehensively prepare them for the level of studio work in the MFA program. However, promising applicants who do not have sufficient educational background may be admitted, under the condition that he or she take pre-MFA preparation courses; if the student satisfactorily completes a pre-MFA series of courses with a 3.3 GPA or above, the student may subsequently advance to full MFA student status. Students will work closely with their major faculty advisor to determine appropriate pre-MFA preparation courses.

2

The MFA Core Course curriculum offers an opportunity for all Design Studies students to establish a body of knowledge in theories, creative practices, and seminars relevant to studio based inquiry. The core curriculum also includes specialized training in instruction and pedagogy; this is requisite for graduate teaching assistant duties (often a source of MFA student funding), and useful for students who wish to pursue academic careers. A student who is assigned to a teaching assistantship at the time of admission may take the course(s) during their first semester while fulfilling teaching assistant duties.

3

Choose from: delta.wisc.edu/Courses_and_Programs/courses_and_programs_overview.html (http://www.delta.wisc.edu/Courses_and_Programs/courses_and_programs_overview.html)

4

The general studio work provides students with an overview of studio practices that will be the foundation for their Focus Area Studio work, the Qualifier and the Thesis. Students are encouraged to take courses that are offered both inside and outside the Design Studies Department to develop an interdisciplinary framework for their MFA work. The core curriculum also includes an independent study that will facilitate the production of the Interim MFA Qualifier.

MFA students are expected to develop a strong foundation in studio-based inquiry. Students in the Interior Architecture track are strongly encouraged to take both DS 623 Interior Design IV and DS 626 Interior Design V, with the addition of project components tailored to each student's Focus Area. All students are encouraged to take DS 570 Design and Fashion Event Management.

5

All MFA students, in consultation with their advisor, define a focus area that will help prepare them for their Interim MFA Qualifier and Thesis Proposal. This focus builds on their General Studio Work. Students often do studio work in their focus area as independent studies (DS 699 Independent Study) with appropriate faculty members.

6

The Interim MFA Qualifier (Qualifier) is part of the Core Course requirements for every MFA student, and must be successfully completed prior to receiving final approval of the thesis proposal. The Qualifier provides students with an opportunity to create and present a studio-based project in their area of specialization in preparation for their final thesis. While limited in scope, the project should be comparable to the final thesis in terms of its creative and intellectual tone and quality. The project could be an exhibition that includes some elements that are integrated into a final thesis exhibition (most common for students in the Textile and Fashion Design track), or it could be a presentation and formal dissemination of a pilot design project that serves as a case study for the final thesis (most common for students in the Interior Architecture track). Students are encouraged to disseminate the project broadly, seeking out visibly prominent public venues, incorporating online versions, or presenting at conferences or in design competitions.

The Interim MFA Qualifier may be based on work completed as part of any UW graduate studio course, as well as from independent studies. Students typically enroll in an independent study (DS 699 Independent Study) with their major advisor to complete the Qualifier. The Qualifier must be reviewed and approved by the student's major advisor, in consultation with the student's thesis committee. The project must receive a passing grade in order for the student to receive final approval of their thesis proposal.