

MASTER OF DESIGN

The Master of Design (M.Des.) program is a two-year, 54 credit-hour degree program intended for those seeking professional mastery at the highest level in the field. The program does not require the formal selection of a concentration area or a final thesis project. Students may construct their own curriculum after taking a core of methods courses focused on understanding users, analyzing complex information, and exploring and prototyping alternative solutions. Examples of individual courses of study include communication design, interaction design, product design, strategic planning, user research, design methods research, and systems design.

Residence

The M.Des. program requires continuous full-time study at the Institute of Design for a minimum of four semesters. Students must enroll in at least 13.5 credit hours of coursework each semester.

Curriculum

Minimum Degree Credits	54
Minimum Degree Credits with Foundation Courses	84
Required Courses	(15)
IDN 504	Introduction to Observing Users 3
IDN 530	Introduction to Design Planning 1.5
IDN 556	Communication in the Planning Process 1.5
IDX 504	Prototyping Methods 1.5
IDX 508	Modes of Human Experience 1.5
IDX 542	Analysis + Synthesis in Design 3
IDX 550	Building and Understanding Context 3
Foundation Courses	(0)
These courses are prerequisite for students without an undergraduate degree in industrial or communication design and must be completed prior to proceeding with any other M.Des. requirements.	
IDN 481	Introduction to Design I 3
IDN 482	Introduction to Design II 3
IDN 483	Introduction to Communication Design I 4
IDN 484	Introduction to Communication Design II 4
IDN 485	Introduction to Product Design I 4
IDN 486	Introduction to Product Design II 4
IDN 487	Introduction to Photography 4
IDN 488	Introduction to Digital Media 4
ESP + Design Courses	(0)
These courses are co-requisite for students who require additional fluency in English and design-specific vocabulary.	
IDN 461	Design Reading and Writing Skills I 3
IDN 462	Design Listening and Presentations Skills 3
IDN 463	Cross-Cultural Communication I 2
IDN 464	Cross-Cultural Communication I Laboratory 1
IDN 466	Design Reading and Writing Skills II 3
IDN 467	Design Listening and Presentation II 3
IDN 468	Cross-Cultural Communication II 2
IDN 469	Cross-Cultural Communication II Laboratory 1
Elective Courses	(39)
Select 39 credit hours. See elective course options below. ¹	39
Total Credit Hours	54

¹ Elective Courses

Students select a series of courses to meet the objectives of the student's professional goals. Choices will be made in consultation with the student's adviser and will count for at least 39 credit hours of the required program. Up to 6.0 credits may be taken outside of ID with the approval of the student's adviser. See the list below.

IDN 502	Making the User-Centered Case	1.5
IDN 506	Research Planning and Execution	1.5
IDN 508	Principles and Methods of User Research	3
IDN 510	Research Photography	1.5
IDN 512	Interview Methods	1.5
IDN 514	Experience Modeling	3
IDN 516	Cultural Probes	1.5
IDN 517	Stimulus in Design Research	1.5
IDN 518	Survey Methods	1.5
IDN 520	Co-Design and Participatory Research	1.5
IDN 522	Coding and Analysis	1.5
IDN 526	Online Research Methods	1.5
IDN 532	Business Frameworks and Strategy	1.5
IDN 534	Business Models and Value Webs	1.5
IDN 536	Introduction to Portfolio Planning	1.5
IDN 537	New Venture Design	1.5
IDN 538	Design Planning Workshop	3
IDN 539	Social and Economic Context of Design	1.5
IDN 540	Planning Implementation	1.5
IDN 542	Behavioral Economics	1.5
IDN 543	Communication Strategies	1.5
IDN 544	Diagram Development	1.5
IDN 546	Metaphor and Analogy in Design	1.5
IDN 548	Advanced Diagramming	1.5
IDN 550	Communication Design Workshop	3
IDN 552	Fundamentals of Visual Communication	1.5
IDN 554	Theories of Communication	1.5
IDN 562	Modeling Complexity	1.5
IDN 564	Information Structuring and Management	1.5
IDN 566	Systems Approach to Design	1.5
IDN 568	Service Systems Workshop	3
IDN 570	Structured Planning Workshop	3
IDN 571	Systems and Systems Theory in Design	1.5
IDN 572	Platform-Based Design Strategy	1.5
IDN 574	Design Process and Knowledge	1.5
IDN 576	Systems Modeling and Prototyping	3
IDN 578	Human System Integration	3
IDX 502	New Product Definition	3
IDX 506	Form and Materials	1.5
IDX 510	Design Development and Implementation	1.5
IDX 512	Product Design Workshop	3
IDX 514	Product Architecture and Platforms	1.5
IDX 518	Interaction Design Methods	1.5
IDX 520	History of Interaction Design	1.5
IDX 522	Persuasive Interaction Design	1.5
IDX 524	Interaction Design Workshop	3
IDX 526	Digital Development Workshop	3
IDX 528	Prototyping Interactions	3

IDX 530	Interaction Design for Immersive Systems	1.5
IDX 532	Interaction Design for Embedded Systems	1.5
IDX 533	Engaging Stakeholders in Innovation	1.5
IDX 534	Interactive Space	1.5
IDX 536	Extensions of Media and Technology	1.5
IDX 538	Networked Cities	3
IDX 540	Networked Objects	3
IDX 548	Innovation Methods	3
IDX 552	Managing Interdisciplinary Teams	3
IDX 560	Analysis + Synthesis for Non-Designers	3
IDX 562	Multidisciplinary Prototyping for Entrepreneurs	3
IDX 594	Faculty Research	1-10
IDX 597	Special Topics	1.5-10