

INTERDISCIPLINARY DESIGN

The Bachelor of Arts in Interdisciplinary Design is a 122.5-credit non-professional undergraduate degree program that combines design studios and the liberal arts in a four-year curriculum focused on educating students to use design and critical thinking skills to generate ideas, solve complex problems and be creative and innovative makers. The program focuses on the interdisciplinary nature of design and its methodologies. The core of the degree program is a series of forums, seminars, workshops, and studios intended to connect history, theory, and practice. Students have hands-on experiences grappling with design challenges that vary in complexity and scale. Courses are taught by faculty from multiple design disciplines. Seniors complete a capstone project and a portfolio course in preparation for graduate school or the job market. The program works well with a second major or a minor, can be completed on a part-time schedule, and is transfer-friendly. Students with transfer credit should speak to academic adviser about how these credits can apply to degree requirements.

The curriculum developed out of a shared philosophy across the college's disciplines that designers have the capacity to think strategically and creatively about society's increasing economic, social and environmental challenges. Innovation and entrepreneurship are encouraged and valued. Our graduates pursue a wide range of professional career paths in design practice, digital media and entrepreneurship. Upon completion, students may enter graduate programs in the design professions or other fields in which design thinking, skills in making, and critical analysis are valued.

Curriculum for Bachelor of Arts in interdisciplinary design

Total Degree Requirement: 122.5 cr.

Only 65 cr. from a two-year institution may apply which may include up to 6 cr. in Design History/Theory/Criticism and 6 cr. in Design Skills credit; 16 technical cr.; 21 P-NP cr. of free electives; 2.00 minimum GPA average; completion of all requirements listed below.

International Perspective: 3 cr.

U.S. Diversity: 3 cr.

Communications: 13 cr.

(C or Better in ENGL 150 and ENGL 250)

ENGL 150	Critical Thinking and Communication	3
ENGL 250	Written, Oral, Visual, and Electronic Composition	3
SP CM 212	Fundamentals of Public Speaking	3
LIB 160	Information Literacy	1
3 credits selected from:		3
ENGL 302	Business Communication	

ENGL 309	Proposal and Report Writing	
ENGL 314	Technical Communication	
Total Credits		13

***Mathematics/Physical Sciences/Biological Sciences: 9 cr.**

9 cr. from approved list

***Social Sciences: 9 cr.**

9 cr. from approved list

***Humanities: 9 cr.**

9 cr. from approved list

*At least 3 credits in Mathematics/Physical Sciences/Biological Sciences, Social Sciences, or Humanities must be above 300-level.

Design Core Program: 11.5 cr.

DSN S 102	Design Studio I	4
DSN S 115	Design Collaborative Seminar	0.5
or DSN S 110	Design Exchange Seminar I	
DSN S 131	Design Representation	4
DSN S 183	Design Cultures	3
Total Credits		11.5

Interdisciplinary Design Concentration: 32 cr.

DES 230	Design Thinking	3
DES 241X	Interdisciplinary Foundation Studio I	4
DES 242X	Interdisciplinary Foundation Studio II	4
6 credits:		6
DES 250	Design Forum (*)	2
DES 330	Visual Literacy for Design Critique	3
4 credits:		
DES 340	Design Studio II	4
DES 491	Portfolio and Professional Preparation	4
DES 495	Capstone Experience	4
*2 cr. of DES 250 can be substituted with approved equivalent.		
Total Credits		32

Design Skills: 12 cr.

DSN S 232	Digital Design Communications	3
Select 9 credits from approved list		9
Total Credits		12

Design History/Theory/Criticism: 9 cr.

9 cr. selected from approved list.

Minor and/or Electives: 21 cr.

Interdisciplinary Design, B.A.

First Year

Fall	Credits Spring	Credits
DSN S 102 or 131	4 DSN S 131 or 102	4
DSN S 115 or 110	0.5-1 DSN S 183	3
DSN S 183 or Minor/Elective	3 or Minor/Elective ENGL 150	3
ENGL 150 or General Education	3 or General Education General Education	3
General Education	3 PSYCH 101, PSYCH 230, or SOC 134	3
LIB 160	1	
14.5-15		16

Second Year

Fall	Credits Spring	Credits
DES 230	3 DES 242X	4
DES 241X	4 DES 250	2
DSN S 232	3 ENGL 250	3
General Education	3 History/Theory/Criticism	3
History/Theory/Criticism	3 MATH, PHYS 101, STAT 101, or STAT 104	3-4
16		15-16

Third Year

Fall	Credits Spring	Credits
DES 340	2 DES 250	2
DES 250	2 DES 330	3
SP CM 212	3 DES 340	2
ENGL 302, 309 or 314	3 DES 333X	3
History/Theory/Criticism	3 General Education	6
13		16

Fourth Year

Fall	Credits Spring	Credits
DES 491	4 DES 495	4
Design Skills	3 Design Skills	3
Minor/Elective	9 Minor/Elective	9
16		16

Courses primarily for undergraduates:

DES 230: Design Thinking

(3-0) Cr. 3. F.S.

Introduction to the phenomenon of design thinking as it appears in various design fields, including methodologies of reasoning and problem solving; patterns of creativity and individual style; and the interaction of art, science, and technology.

DES 240: Design Studio I

(0-8) Cr. 2. Repeatable.

Prereq: DSN S 102, DSN S 131 and DSN S 183

Half-semester course. Studio projects develop students' ability to generate ideas and communicate those ideas visually, orally, and through writing. Emphasis on representation and conceptualization of interdisciplinary work.

DES 250: Design Forum

(2-0) Cr. 2. Repeatable, maximum of 6 credits. F.S.SS.

Prereq: DSN S 102, DSN S 131, DSN S 183 and credit or concurrent enrollment in DES 230

Introduction of themes and issues that are relevant to the design fields through theoretical readings, case studies, and visiting lecturers.

DES 259: Design Field Study

Cr. R. Repeatable.

Prereq: Enrollment in or 2 credits of DES 240.

Off-campus tours of areas of interest within the design professions such as design offices, museums, buildings, and neighborhoods. Offered on a satisfactory-fail basis only.

DES 330: Visual Literacy for Design Critique

(3-0) Cr. 3. S.

Prereq: DSN S 102 or DSN S 183 or 3 credits of ART H or equivalent.

Students will learn to interpret, analyze and evaluate visual materials, use images and text effectively to communicate ideas, and understand issues surrounding the creation and use of images and visual media for design critique. Precedent study and critique of sample student design work to understand principles of visual literacy and how to apply them to the presentation of design work. Emphasis on peer-to-peer discussion and in-class participation. Lecture and discussion format.

DES 340: Design Studio II

(0-8) Cr. 2. Repeatable.

Prereq: 4 credits of DES 240 or equivalent.

Half-semester course. Studio projects of increasing complexity requiring interdisciplinary approaches to contemporary challenges and opportunities. Continued development of students' abilities to generate ideas and communicate those ideas visually, orally, and through writing. Field trip.

DES 491: Portfolio and Professional Preparation

(2-4) Cr. 4. F.

Prereq: classification as DES major; 4 credits of DES 240

Preparation of printed and online portfolio of student work and materials for job search and/or graduate school applications. Guidance for interviewing, professional networking, business etiquette, and resume writing. Workshops and lectures.

DES 495: Capstone Experience

(1-6) Cr. 4. S.

Prereq: classification as DES major; 2 credits of DES 340

Individual projects designed by students in consultation with faculty instructor and mentor. Demonstration of student skill sets and knowledge of project planning and development.