

The Master of Fine Arts in Communication Design

Chairperson & Program Coordinator: Prof. Todd McFeely

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Hours: 60

Thesis: Required

The MFA in CD will provide a high quality education at the graduate level to prepare candidates to think innovatively and use in-depth investigation to solve design problems with a focus on advanced preparation within the profession to be qualified to become faculty at regional and national two- and four-year institutions, to be prepared for career redirection or advancement and/or prepare candidates to be creative-business entrepreneurs.

MFA candidates will be able to integrate innovative typography into their creative projects as well as competently present an informative discussion forum to students, clients, or professionals. Each MFA candidate will be able to explore projects of a personal nature and select well-known past or present designers whom he/she is interested in studying further to gain creative inspiration. Lastly, each MFA candidate will write an originally researched thesis in an area of the design-related fields, create a visual final exhibition creatively representing the thesis research findings, create a professional level portfolio to showcase his/her creative work, and exhibit and present this work in a public forum.

The program is a full-time residency program requiring 60 credits to be completed over five semesters — four traditional semesters and the summer in-between. Courses are offered primarily as blended distance (30-79% online) as well as traditional face-to-face and 100% online for some academic courses. A part-time approach may be pursued but will require a longer time period and is space-limited.

NAME:

ID NUMBER:

MASTER OF FINE ARTS: COMMUNICATION DESIGN [CD]

Program Number: GVPACDE

Version Number: 2158

Effective Date: 08/24/2015

Core Studio [18cr]		
Course Name	CR	GR
A. CDE 501 Personal Exploration Seminar	3	
B. CDE 502 Professional Exploration Seminar	3	
C. CDE 503 Grad Sem: Unconventional Type	3	
D. CDE 504 Grad Sem: Design Pioneers	3	
E. CDE 505 Grad Sem: Emerging Media	3	
F. CDE 506 Grad Sem: Contemporary Topics in Design	3	

Thesis [12cr]		
Course Name	CR	GR
A. CDE 511 Thesis I: Research Studies (Academic)	3	
B. CDE 512 Thesis II: Creative Studies	3	
C. CDE 513 Thesis III: Production/Presentation/Exhibitions	6	

Academic Electives [6cr]		
Academic electives may be selected from 500 level courses other than CDE, FAR, CFT or ART.		
Course Name	CR	GR
A. CDH 550 ¹ or Visual Design/Media Elective ²	3	
B. CDH 551 ¹ or Visual Design/Media Elective ²	3	

Studio Electives [24cr min]		
Courses may be selected from 500 level studios with CDE (not studio core or thesis) FAR, CFT, ART or ARU prefixes. Up to six credits of academic courses may be substituted for studios. ³		
Course Name	CR	GR
A.		
B.		
C.		
D.		
E.		
F.		
G.		
H.		
I.		
J.		
K.		

Additional Courses		
Course Name	CR	GR
A.		
B.		

MFA General Information

The MFA in Communication Design is a terminal degree program and requires a minimum of 60 credits to complete. The program is a residency program designed to take five semesters including the summer. Please contact the Communication Design Department for more information regarding the program.

Proposed MFA Course Progression (Full-time)

Fall/1st Semester

Graduate Studio Elective(s)	6cr
Personal Exploration Seminar	3cr
Grad Sem: Contemporary Topics	3cr
Total CR	12

Spring/2nd Semester

Visual Design/Media Elective [†]	3cr
Graduate Studio Elective	6cr
Professional Exploration Seminar	3cr
Grad Sem: Unconventional Type	3cr
Total CR	15

Graduate Performance Review

Summer/3rd Semester

Thesis I: Research Studies (Distance)	3cr
Studio or Visual Design/Media Elective [†]	3cr
Total CR	6

Graduate Thesis Review

Fall/4th Semester

Graduate Studio Elective(s)	6cr
Grad Sem: Design Pioneers	3cr
Grad Sem: Emerging Media	3cr
Thesis II: Creative Studies	3cr
Total CR	15

Graduate Thesis Review

Spring/5th Semester

Graduate Studio Elective(s)	6cr
Thesis III: Production/Presentation/Exhibition	6cr
Total CR	12

Graduate Thesis Review

[†]The order of academic courses is interchangeable based on course availability and student's interests.

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MFA Academic Electives Information

When choosing electives, MFA candidates should consult with their advisor closely to choose courses that best meet the students career goals and research interests. Graduate level courses may exist that may be substituted for those listed on a case by case basis. Substitutions require Dept., College and University approval. The order in which academic electives are taken may vary based on course availability.

¹CDH 550 & CDH 551

Students who have no prior design history should take CDH 550 & CDH 551 to satisfy Visual Design/Media Electives.

Students who have only one prior design history should take CDH 551 to satisfy one Visual Design/Media Elective.

²Visual Design/Media Electives

ARU 515, 517, 536, 556, 570, 575, 576, 581

EDU 517, 543, 591

ELU 520, 591

ENG 557, 560, 576

ITC 520, 536, 553, 570

RAR 5XX (summer only)

TVR 505, 510, 520, 530, 570

³Studio Electives

Any 500 level CDE course other than 501-06 and 511-13. Up to 6 credits of academic electives may be substituted for studio electives. Independent study and Internship may be used for studio electives.