



COLLEGE OF FINE & APPLIED ARTS

School of Art and Design
143 Art & Design Building, MC-590
Champaign, IL 61820-6924

MFA Graphic Design

The University of Illinois MFA is a NASAD (National Association of Schools in Art & Design) accredited program.

It is recommended that MFA Graphic Design students follow the sequenced courses below. Courses and/or sequences are subject to change. The final graduation project will be publicly exhibited or presented, and will include a written component (scholarly paper). The project will need committee approval. Committee consists of (at least) three Art + Design faculty and is chosen at the end of Year 2 in the MFA program. Be sure to check with your program advisor prior to registration each term.

Hours required to complete this degree: 64 hours.

Year 1

Fall

ARTD 595 (MFA Laboratory)4 hrs.
Seminar4 hrs
Elective.....4 hrs.
.....12 hrs.

Spring

ARTD 595 (MFA Laboratory).....4 hrs.
ARTE 501 (Issues in Art Education).....4 hrs.
Elective.....4 hrs.
.....12 hrs.

Year 2

Fall

ARTD 595 (MFA Laboratory)4 hrs.
ARTD 445 (MFA Seminar).....4 hrs.
Elective4 hrs.
.....12 hrs.

Spring

ARTD 595 (MFA Laboratory).....4 hrs.
Elective.....4 hrs.
Elective.....4 hrs.
.....12 hrs.

Year 3

Fall

ARTD 595 (MFA Laboratory)4 hrs.
Elective4 hrs.
.....8 hrs.

Spring

*ARTD 591 (MFA Thesis Completion)..4 hrs.
Elective.....4 hrs.
.....8 hrs.

*Independent study with thesis advisor to write scholarly paper and complete thesis exhibition project

Program Overview

The Graphic Design MFA program at the University of Illinois will provide our graduate students key discipline competencies that “combine and synthesize critical elements associated with advanced, highly skilled, analytically-based studio work in design.” As a land grant, Research One University, we aim to provide a holistic education that helps make you a more critical thinker and citizen.

The program curriculum is loosely structured to best utilize the existing knowledge of other disciplines on campus to inform and infuse your existing design practice and research interests. 65% of the total credits you take will occur in the design studio. Eight of these 64 credit hours must be in seminar courses within FAA (including the course ARTD 445). The remainder of your courses will be electives that relate to your research interest.

Our MFA Laboratory and MFA Seminar courses are designed to help the student better understand research methods, synthesize design history and contexts, create an advanced studio practice, use analytical tools and processes, communicate their design practice and research clearly, and prepare them for the option of teaching design in an academic setting.

Recommended Electives on Campus

The following courses are ones that have been important to past MFA Graphic Design student research and projects. They are divided into different disciplines that could relate to your research interest.

FAA

ARTD 418 Ninth Letter

ARTD 499 Printmaking

ARTD 451 EDGE (Ethics of a Designer in a Global Economy)

ARTD 418 Digital Interaction Sandbox

UP 418, GIS (Geographic Information Systems) for Planners

UP 474, Neighborhood Revitalization

Humanities

ANTH 404, Disability, Culture, and Society

Social Sciences

SPED 517, Disability Issues in SPED

SOC 472, Urban Communities and Public Policy

Computer Science

CS 465, User Interface Design

CS 467, Social Visualization

CS 565, Human Computer Interaction

LIS 590, Web Design and Construction for Organizations

Business/Entrepreneurship

BADM 532 Sustainable Product Design & Enterprise Plan Development I

IS 490, Entrepreneurial IT Design