Date Submitted: 06/24/24 4:42 pm

Viewing: **CDESMDES : Communication Design, Master of Design**

Last approved: 12/21/23 12:15 pm

Last edit: 09/11/24 5:16 pm

Changes proposed by: nrgreen

Catalog Pages Using
this Program
[Communication Design](#)

Submitter: **3429** ~~5753701~~

User ID: nrgreen ~~rcc003~~

Phone:

Program Status	Active
Academic Level	Graduate
Type of proposal	Major/Field of Study

Select a reason for this modification

Making Minor Changes to an Existing Certificate, Degree or Program (including 15 or fewer hours, admission/graduation requirements, Focused Studies or Tracks)

Are you adding a concentration?
   No

Are you adding or modifying a track?
   No

Are you adding or modifying a focused study?
   No

Effective Catalog Year   Fall 2025

College/School Code
   Fulbright College of Arts and Sciences (ARSC)

Department Code
   School of Art (ARTS)

In Workflow

1. **ARSC Dean Initial**
2. **GRAD Dean Initial**
3. **Director of Curriculum Review and Program Assessment**
4. **Registrar Initial**
5. **Institutional Research**
6. **ARTS Chair**
7. **ARSC Curriculum Committee**
8. **ARSC Dean**
9. **Global Campus**
10. **Provost Review**
11. **Graduate Council**
12. **Faculty Senate**
13. Provost Final
14. Registrar Final
15. Catalog Editor Final

Approval Path

1. 06/24/24 4:45 pm
   David McNabb
   (dmcnabb):
   Approved for ARSC
   Dean Initial
2. 06/25/24 1:25 pm
   Ed Bengtson
   (egbengts): Rollback
   to ARSC Dean Initial
   for GRAD Dean
   Initial
3. 06/25/24 4:33 pm
   David McNabb
   (dmcnabb):

Program Code   CDESMDES

Degree   Master of Design

CIP Code

Approved for ARSC Dean Initial

4. 06/25/24 4:34 pm Ed Bengtson (egbengts): Approved for GRAD Dean Initial

5. 08/26/24 5:09 pm Lisa Kulczak (lkulcza): Approved for Director of Curriculum Review and Program Assessment

6. 08/27/24 7:30 am Gina Daugherty (gdaugher): Approved for Registrar Initial

7. 08/27/24 2:19 pm Doug Miles (dmiles): Approved for Institutional Research

8. 08/28/24 2:42 pm Rachel Debuque (rdebuque): Approved for ARTS Chair

9. 09/11/24 3:11 pm Nik Rowan (nrgreen): Approved for ARSC Curriculum Committee

10. 09/11/24 3:38 pm Christopher Schulte (cschulte): Approved for ARSC Dean

11. 09/12/24 4:50 pm Suzanne Kenner

(skenner): Approved for Global Campus

12. 09/12/24 7:55 pm Jim Gigantino (jgiganti): Approved for Provost Review

13. 09/20/24 10:48 am Ed Bengtson (egbengts): Approved for Graduate Council

History

1. Nov 16, 2021 by Ryan Cochran (rcc003)
2. Aug 4, 2022 by Ryan Cochran (rcc003)
3. Dec 21, 2023 by Gina Daugherty (gdaugher)

09.0702 - Digital Communication and Media/Multimedia.

Program Title
Communication Design, Master of Design

Program Delivery
Method
On Campus

Is this program interdisciplinary between two or more colleges or schools?
No

Do the proposed changes impact any specific course(s) from another college or school?
No

What are the total hours needed to complete the program?   60

Program Requirements and Description

Requirements

The graduate degree consists of 60 credit hours within a two-year period. For those applicants who derive from interdisciplinary undergraduate degrees or require a foundational design education prior to entering the Master of Design's two-year sequence, a foundational year will be offered. This single-year non-degree status program enables instruction in the foundational tenets necessary to succeed within the subsequent M.Des. program.

Admission requirements: Admission to the program requires an undergraduate degree in graphic design or a related discipline, or the equivalent in relevant work experience. The application for admission is a two-step process and may require fees associated with its completion. Candidates must be successful in both processes to be admitted to the University of Arkansas and Graduate School, as well as the School of Art and M.Des. graduate program.

Apply to the Graduate School at application.uark.edu.

In addition to the graduate school application, submit the following materials to the School of Art using SlideRoom, web-based system at uarkart.slideroom.com:

A brief statement describing why you are interested in the Master of Design degree.

A one- to two-page autobiographical statement outlining your education, experiences, achievements, and goals for graduate study.

A one-page statement addressing your perspectives on diversity, equity, and inclusion.

Resumé/Curriculum Vitae

A professional portfolio comprising 12 projects captured as digital images and uploaded as directed with appropriate attributions. Consideration should be given to high levels of detail, consistency, and a curated body of work representing your professional and/or research interests.

The uploading of these assets must conform to outlined standards. Physical examples of work will not be accepted nor can a personal website substitute for this component of the application.

A PDF of unofficial transcripts from all previous colleges and universities attended.

Three Letters of Recommendation are required and your application is not considered complete until such are received. All individuals serving as a reference should be from representatives of higher education or professionals who are able to offer insight into the applicant's academic and research ability and potential at the graduate level.

English Proficiency Test Scores (TOEFL, IELTS, or PTE), if necessary. (Refer to Graduate School and International Studies admissions for more information at international-admissions.uark.edu.)

Application deadline is January 15 for Fall admission only. The application portal on Slideroom will close at midnight (Central time) on January 15. It is recommended that you submit your application at least two weeks prior to the deadline to allow your faculty recommenders time to upload their letters.

The Graduate Record Exam (GRE) is not required for applicants to the Master of Design program in the School of Art at the University of Arkansas.

Students who are accepted into the Foundational Year are also conditionally accepted into the M.Des. degree tract concurrently [Foundation Year 1 + M.Des. Year 1 + M.Des. Year 2 = 3 Total Years]. However, at the end of the Foundational Year, students must undergo an extensive academic, research, and grade review. Students whose performance does not meet the assessment criteria could be asked to leave prior to commencing the Master of Design first year. While years 1 and 2 of the M.Des. are funded through the endowment, the Foundational Year is not.

Program Requirements: The program requires 60 graduate credit hours from the following:

Graduate Studios (33 credit hours)

GDES 63006	Design and Communities	6
GDES 63406	Design and Culture	6
GDES 63106	Design and Technology	6
GDES 63606	Thesis Preparation	6
GDES 63909	Design Thesis	9

Graduate Seminars (12 credit hours)

GDES 53303	Design Research Methods	3
GDES 53003	Design Pedagogy and Leadership	3
GDES 53803	Design Writing and Dissemination	3
GDES 53903	Design Theory: Past, Present, and the Future	3

Graduate Special Topics

GDES 63503	Special Topics in Communication Design (Must complete three times for 9 credit hours total)	9

Approved electives	**6**

Requires prior approval from the Graduate Program Director.

Total Hours	60

Are Similar Programs available in the area?	
No	
Estimated Student Demand for Program	14
Scheduled Program Review Date	2025
Program Goals and Objectives	

Program Goals and Objectives
The goal of the Master of Design in Communication Design program in the School of Art at the University of Arkansas is to prepare students to design at the edge of what is possible and what is preferable for the future of communities, culture, and technology. Supported by generous funding, students will undergo a rigorous course of study, which will include a core curriculum of design studio courses emphasizing collaborative and speculative making; seminar courses spanning the broad spectrum of design discourse; and special topics courses addressing contemporary issues in design. This curricular foundation will be enriched by a strong

Program Goals and Objectives
emphasis on interdisciplinary collaboration and community partnerships, as supported by the program's unique positioning within a preeminent art school at a research-one <u>institution.</u> <u>Students in the program will consider and enact systems-level change through collaborative design, discipline-defining inquiry, and transformative research opportunities.</u> ~~institution.~~ ~~Students in the program will consider and enact systems-level change through collaborative design, discipline-defining inquiry, and transformative researchopportunities.~~Enriched by a strong emphasis on methodology, students will engage with research methods from various disciplines and apply those methods to contemporary design practice. Through lectures, discussion, and workshops students will also apply research findings and various design methodologies, theories, and frameworks to develop their <u>final project trajectory.</u> ~~thesis trajectory.~~

Learning Outcomes

Learning Outcomes
After completion of the program, students will have attained: • Ability to understand the relationship between design and communities. • Ability to apply design research methods to contemporary design practices. • Ability to apply pedagogical methods to future careers in academia and professional practice. • Ability to investigate emerging technologies and consider interdisciplinary approaches and potential design outcomes. • Ability to examine the culture of the design discipline, use provocation to further define the discipline, and understand the ways in which practitioners are accountable for design outcomes. • Ability to examine the application of theory and frameworks within the context of design with the goal to develop a design vocabulary and ways of understanding the complexity of the discipline. • Ability to engage in diverse modes of writing in design and explore writing for various outlets such as reviews, journal articles, books, popular culture, and other publishing options. • Ability to develop a written proposal for their <u>final</u> ~~thesis~~ project that demonstrates that the project is viable and has a clear research direction. • Ability to complete a <u>final</u> ~~thesis~~ project that includes a designed system, written research paper, and public presentation demonstrating the ability to address significant design and research challenges.

Description and justification of the request

Description of specific change	Justification for this change
Removed references to a Thesis from Program goals and Learning Outcomes. Replaced with term "final project" to better match the nature of the projects.	After the first graduating class, the program has identified that the thesis process requirements do not really fit the nature of their program. Their students are producing physical objects, not digital documents, and the university thesis

Description of specific change	Justification for this change
GDES 63606 and 63909 also have Title/Course Description updates submitted to remove references to the thesis.	requirements do not align well with the nature of the project.

Upload attachments

Reviewer Comments

    Ed Bengtson (egbengts) (06/25/24 1:25 pm): Rollback: With the changing of language from Thesis to final project, are GDES Thesis Preparation and GDES 63909 Design Thesis still relevant? If these course titles remain the same, would this be a source of confusion?

    Lisa Kulczak (lkulcza) (08/26/24 5:09 pm): ATTENTION REGISTRAR: Please remove Undergraduate Council from the workflow.

    Gina Daugherty (gdaugher) (08/27/24 7:30 am): Undergrad Council removed from workflow.

Key: 781