

DESIGN, BACHELOR OF ARTS

College of Letters & Science

The Department of Design offers a creative, challenging, and flexible approach to the study of design with emphasis on socially responsible, human centered, and sustainable practice.

The Program

Foundation courses: Introduction to Design; Design Drawing or Drafting and Perspective, Form & Color, and Graphic Design & Computer Technology; and one class in Design History/Theory/Criticism from the DES 040 series; are required of all design majors. Additional coursework in the student's area of interest is required for the Preparatory Subject Matter. Depth Subject Matter courses provide: (1) further exploration of design principles and conceptual, formal and technical issues; (2) conceptual and critical development through a series of history and theory classes; (3) in-depth studio experience with projects that demonstrate a research-based, iterative design process. Optional capstone class. A more detailed explanation is available through the Design Advising office in 101 Art Building; 530-752-0890.

Portfolios

Portfolios are not required for admission to the major. However, it is highly recommended that design students maintain an updated portfolio of work for faculty and professional evaluation and consideration for enrollment in specialized courses, including independent study, group study and internship.

Internships, Careers, & Study Abroad

Design students are encouraged to supplement their coursework with internships in design firms, museums, and design-related businesses. Design graduates go directly from this program into further graduate study, or professional work including exhibition, fashion, information, interior architecture & product (lighting & furniture), textiles, visual communications (digital, environmental & print), and sustainable design. In addition, students have become entrepreneurs through freelance and commissioned work in many related areas. The Department of Design encourages students to experience design education abroad through a variety of sponsored programs.

The major requirements below are in addition to meeting University Degree Requirements (<https://catalog.ucdavis.edu/undergraduate-education/university-degree-requirements/>) & College Degree Requirements (<https://catalog.ucdavis.edu/undergraduate-education/college-degree-requirements/>); unless otherwise noted. The minimum number of units required for the Design Bachelor of Arts is 68.

Code	Title	Units
Preparatory Subject Matter		
<i>Design</i>		
DES 001	Introduction to Design (Fall Only)	4
DES 014	Design Drawing	4
or DES 021	Drafting & Perspective	
DES 015	Form & Color	4
DES 016	Graphic Design & Computer Technology	4
<i>University Writing Program</i>		
Choose one:		4
UWP 011	Popular Science & Technology Writing	

UWP 012	Writing & Visual Rhetoric (Preferred)	
UWP 048	Style in the Essay	
UWP 049	Writing Research Papers	
Choose one:		4
DES 040A/ SAS 043	Energy, Materials, & Design Over Time	
DES 040B	Ideologies of Design	
DES 040C	Design for Aesthetics & Experience	
DES 040D	Designed Geographies: Environment, Containment, Sanctuary	
Choose one:		4
ART 012	Beginning Video	
DES 021	Drafting & Perspective (Can only be used for this requirement if not counted above.)	
DES 040A/ SAS 043	Energy, Materials, & Design Over Time (Can only be used for this requirement if not counted above.)	
DES 040B	Ideologies of Design (Can only be used for this requirement if not counted above.)	
DES 040C	Design for Aesthetics & Experience (Can only be used for this requirement if not counted above.)	
DES 040D	Designed Geographies: Environment, Containment, Sanctuary (Can only be used for this requirement if not counted above.)	
DES 050	Introduction to Three-Dimensional Design	
DES 051	Computer-Assisted Drawing for Designers	
DES 070	Introduction to Textile Design Structures	
DES 077	Introduction to Structural Design for Fashion	
Preparatory Subject Matter Subtotal		28
Depth Subject Matter		
<i>List A:</i>		
Choose three from list A:		12
AHI 100	Methods of Art History	
AHI 101	Understanding Museum Practices	
AHI 102	Exhibition Practicum	
AHI 110	Cultural History of Museums	
AHI 120A	Art, Architecture, & Human Rights	
AHI 122	Sex & Space	
AHI 121	Politics of Public Art	
AHI 123	The Museum in the Age of Spectacle	
AHI 130	Landscape, Nature, & Art	
AHI 148	Theory & Criticism: Painting & Sculpture	
AHI 150	Arts of Sub-Saharan Africa	
AHI 151	Arts of the Ancient New World	
AHI 152	Arts of Oceania & Prehistoric Europe	
AHI 153	Hindu Gods & Hindu Symbols	
AHI 154	The Hindu Temple	
AHI 155	The Islamic City	
AHI 156	Arts of the Islamic Book	
AHI 157	Buddhist Art	
AHI 158	Popular Religious Art in India	
AHI 163A	Early Chinese Art	

AHI 163B	Chinese Painting
AHI 163C	Early Modern Chinese Painting
AHI 163D	Art from China 1900 to the Present
AHI 164	The Arts of Japan
AHI 168	Great Cities
AHI 172A	Early Greek Art & Architecture
AHI 172B	Later Greek Art & Architecture
AHI 173	Roman Art & Architecture
AHI 175	Architecture & Urbanism in Mediterranean Antiquity
AHI 184	20th-Century Architecture
AHI 173	Roman Art & Architecture
AHI 175	Architecture & Urbanism in Mediterranean Antiquity
AHI 176A	Art of the Middle Ages: Early Christian & Byzantine Art
AHI 176B	Art of the Middle Ages: Early Medieval & Romanesque Art
AHI 176C	Art of the Middle Ages: Gothic
AHI 177	Northern Renaissance Art
AHI 178B	Early Italian Renaissance Art & Architecture
AHI 178C	High & Late Italian Renaissance Art & Architecture
AHI 179B	Baroque Art
AHI 180	Arts of the Rococo
AHI 181	Latin American Art & Architecture
AHI 182	British Art & Culture (1750-1900)
AHI 183A	Art in the Age of Revolution, 1750-1850
AHI 183B	Impressionism & Post-Impressionism: Manet to 1900
AHI 183C	Modernism in France, 1880-1940
AHI 184	20th-Century Architecture
AHI 185	Avant-Gardism & its Aftermath, 1917-1960
AHI 186	Contemporary Art 1960-Present
AHI 187	Contemporary Architecture
AHI 188A	The American Home
AHI 188B	Architecture of the United States
AHI 188C	American Art to 1910
AHI 189	Photography in History
DES 127A	Sustainable Design
DES 128A	Biodesign Theory & Practice: Biodesign Challenge Part I
DES 138	Materials & Methods in Interior Design
DES 141	Cultural Studies of Fashion
DES 142A	World Textiles: Eastern Hemisphere
DES 142B	World Textiles: Western Hemisphere
DES 143	History of Fashion
DES 144	History of Interior Architecture
DES 145	History of Visual Communication
DES 146	Mobilities
DES 148	Trend Research & Forecasting in Design
or DES 148V	Trend Research & Forecasting in Design
DES 149	Information Design: Principles & Practice

DRA 114	Theatre on Film
DRA/CTS 116	Design on Screen
DRA 150	American Theatre & Drama
DRA 155	Representing Race in Performance
CDM 155	(Pending Approval)
CDM 159	(Pending Approval)
TCS 155	Introduction to Documentary Studies
TCS 159	Media Subcultures
Choose five from lists B & C; one may be a non-Design (DES) course:	
List B:	
DES 107	Advanced Structural Design for Fashion
DES 111	Coding for Designers
DES 112	UI/UX Design: Principles & Practices
DES 113	Photography & Digital Imaging
DES 115	Letterforms & Typography
DES 116	Visual Communication: Graphic Design Studio
DES 117	Interactive Media I
DES 126	Design Ethnography
DES 127B	Studio Practice in Sustainable Design
DES 128B	Biodesign Experimentation & Prototyping: Biodesign Challenge Part II
DES 131	Global Fashion & Product Design
DES 132A	Textile Design: Woven Structures
DES 132B	(Discontinued for spring 2024)
DES 134A	Introduction to Interior Design—Residential
DES 134B	Introduction to Interior Design—Commercial & Technical Spaces
DES 135A	Furniture Design & Detailing
DES 135B	Furniture Design & Prototyping
DES 136A	Lighting Technology & Design
DES 136B	Designing with Light—Industrial Design
DES 137A	Daylighting & Interior Design
DES 137B	Daylighting Design Studio
DES 150	Computer-Assisted Presentations for Interior Architecture
DES 151	Type in Motion
DES 155A	Pattern, Form & Surface
DES 156	Graphitecture: Architecture in the Age of New Media
DES 157A	Interactive Media II
DES 158	Data & Large-Scale Installation
DES 160	Textile Surface Design: Patterns & Resists
DES 161	Textile Surface Design: Screen & Digital Printing
DES 165	Studio Practices in Industrial Design
DES 166	Human Centered Design
DES 167	Prototyping: From Objects to Systems
DES 168	Interactive Objects
DES 169	Textile Soft Product Design
DES 170	Experimental Fashion & Textile Design
DES 171	Fashion Drawing: Technical & Illustration

DES 175	Functional Apparel Design
DES 177	Computer-Assisted Fashion Design
DES 178	Design & Wearable Technology
DES 180A	Advanced Interior Design: Institutional Spaces
DES 185	Exhibition Design
DES 186	Environmental Graphic Design
DES 191A	Workshops in Design
DES 191B	Workshops in Design
DES 191C	Workshops in Design
DES 191D	Workshops in Design

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Course(s) discontinued; see your advisor for course options.

One from the following approved list may count:

ART 110A	Intermediate Photography: Black & White Analog
ART 110B	Intermediate Photography: Digital Imaging
ART 113	Interdisciplinary Art
ART 114A	Intermediate Video: Animation
CDM 100	Experimental Digital Cinema I
CDM 104	Documentary Production
CDM 125	Advanced Sound: Performance & Improvisation
CDM 130	Fundamentals of Computer Graphics
CDM 131	Character Animation
CHI 172	Chicana/o Voice/Poster Silk Screen Workshop
DRA 124A	Principles of Theatrical Design: Scenery
DRA 124B	Principles of Theatrical Design: Scenery
DRA 124C	Principles of Theatrical Design: Lighting
DRA 124D	Principles of Theatrical Design: Costume
DRA/CTS 124E	Costume Design for Film
DRA 128	Principles of Theatre Sound
DRA 130	Approaches to Theatrical Design: Practice & Theory
DRA 170	Media Theatre
LDA 141	Community Participation & Design (Discontinued for winter 2026) **

List C:

Capstone Course Option; these courses are the most advanced in the major and prerequisites are strictly enforced:

DES 154	Visual Communication: Message Campaign Design
DES 159	Design for Understanding
DES 157B	Interactive Media III
DES 179	Fashion Design: Signature Collection
DES 180B	Advanced Interior Architecture
DES 187	Narrative Environments

Choose two from list A, B, or C that have not been previously counted. 8

Note: Substitutions for the listed courses may be allowed under certain circumstances with prior departmental approval.

Depth Subject Matter Subtotal	40
Total Units	68