

1. **Completed application form, application fee, official transcripts of all colleges attended, proof of English proficiency, and proof of funding.** Please see the Office of International Admissions website for detailed information regarding these required materials. Application forms and a complete list of required materials are available from www.international.unt.edu.
2. **Graduate Record Examination (GRE) test scores (if available).** There are no minimum scores to be achieved on the GRE for entry into any of the MFA in Design programs; however, the faculty in the Department of Design consider an applicant's scores on the GRE as another indicator of potential success in the graduate program, and therefore suggest that the test should not be taken lightly. For information regarding locations of testing centers and testing dates, etc., visit the GRE website at www.gre.org. This is a very helpful website that contains study guides and sample test questions.

Scores on the GRE do not need to be submitted during the admission process if the test has not yet been taken. If the scores are not submitted with all other application materials, they must be submitted prior to the end of the student's first semester in the MFA program. If scores are NOT submitted before the end of the first semester of coursework, then the student will not be permitted to register for further semesters until the scores have been received.

International Admissions takes approximately 2-4 weeks to process complete applications and verify the applicant's eligibility to study in the United States. If the application meets the minimum university requirements, the above materials are forwarded to the Department of Design to be reviewed by the faculty with the materials submitted by the applicant directly to the Department (see step 2 below).

APPLICATION STEP 2 - Application to the Department of Design (phone 940-565-3621)

Send the following items to: University of North Texas
College of Visual Arts and Design
Department of Design
1155 Union Circle, # 305100
Denton, TX 76203 design@unt.edu

- a. **Either a portfolio of your work or two to three samples of your writing.** If you choose to submit a portfolio of your work, please provide a CD or DVD that contains a minimum of 10 depictions of artifacts, projects or research endeavors you have completed, or a web URL that contains these. If you choose to submit samples of your writing, include at least one recent research paper along with one to two other samples of professional or scholarly writing.
- b. **A letter/statement of intent.** Please articulate what you hope to achieve by completing the requirements to earn a MA-DES-IS. This document must be between 500 and 800 words.
- c. **A minimum of two (2) letters of recommendation.** These should be from former professors/instructors, professional supervisors or colleagues, or clients with whom you have worked closely. Each letter should address why you would be a viable candidate for the MA-DES-IS program. No specific recommendation form is required, but these letters must be submitted directly to the department by the reference, and they should be written on their scholarly or professional letterhead.
- d. **A professional résumé.** Should list all relevant work experience, affiliations, etc.

Once all required admission materials are received, the faculty will review your application and use it as the basis to formulate an official admission decision.

PROGRAM STRUCTURES AND COMPONENTS

With each course counting as 3 credit hours, each candidate must successfully complete a minimum of 36 semester hours to earn the MA-DES-IS degree. All courses taken to satisfy the curricular objectives of this degree must be numbered 5000-level or higher. The basic program structures are as follows:

Major Required Studies

21 credit hours

Interdisciplinary Elective Studies

9 credit hours

Practicum Courses (Interdisciplinary Team-Based, Independent Study)

6 credit hours

For more information regarding the individual courses that constitute the MA-DES-IS curriculum, please contact Professor Michael R. Gibson at michael.gibson@unt.edu.

MAJOR PROFESSOR

The major professor is the faculty member who guides the graduate student's studies in the program and who supervises the student's MA-DES-IS Practicum in Innovation Studies research project and who chairs his/her Colloquium committee (more information about this is presented in the section titled *MA-DES-IS Practicum and Colloquium*). The student chooses the major professor in consultation with the MA-DES-IS faculty, but the decision depends heavily upon the student's area of focus within the program and consent from the professor.

DEGREE PLAN

The degree plan is an outline of the student's course of study, listing courses already completed, and courses that remain to be taken in order to graduate. The degree plan must be filed with the Graduate School through the Department of Design office. This plan is completed in consultation with the major professor and done after completion of the first semester in the program, but prior to completion of 24 credit hours of graduate work toward the MA-DES-IS.

MA-DES-IS PRACTICUM AND COLLOQUIUM

Each student in the MA-DES-IS program must complete 6 credits in the *Practicum in Innovation Studies*, which entails working on an interdisciplinary team to complete a two-semester-long project. Each team must identify a single contemporary social, technological, economic or environmental problem and then utilize design thinking processes to attempt to resolve it.

The documentation and critical defense of this endeavor is presented in a Colloquium attended by the Major Professors of each student on a particular team, and by a faculty member from a discipline outside of design who possesses knowledge relative to the problem a given team has formulated and addressed. The Colloquium presentations from each team must reveal a high level of conceptual thinking, the exploration and testing of multiple hypotheses, and the implementation of innovative solutions.

An MA-DES-IS student must have completed at least 24 hours of graduate coursework that satisfies the MA-DES-IS degree plan before enrolling in the Practicum in Innovation Studies. Completion and certification of the degree plan is also required to achieve this objective.