

MASTER OF FINE ARTS (MFA) IN DESIGN

CONCENTRATIONS AVAILABLE:

Fashion Design
Innovation Studies (formerly Communication Design)
Interior Design

The Master of Fine Arts program in the Department of Design seeks to create an educational experience that will provide students with an understanding of the pedagogy of teaching and focused research within the academy that supports the burgeoning needs of their profession in a world that is becoming more interconnected and interdependent. The MFA in Design at UNT will not assist students who wish to build a portfolio or enhance their skills. Its mission is to prepare graduates to be effective design researchers, managers and educators while helping them expand their ability to build and apply knowledge in their chosen field.

REQUIRED ACADEMIC BACKGROUND

It is expected that applicants to the MFA in Design hold an accredited Bachelor's degree (minimum 120 semester credit hours) in the same or closely related field, as follows:

Fashion Design – Fashion, Clothing and Textiles, Apparel Manufacturing, etc.
Innovation Studies – Communication Design, Graphic Design, Advertising Art, etc.
Interior Design – Interior Design, Architecture, etc.

It is also expected that applicants have a minimum of 2-3 years of professional experience in the field to which they are applying. Additionally, those applying to the program in Innovation Studies must have a minimum undergraduate GPA of 3.0 (3.5 preferred).

APPLICATION DEADLINES:

February 1 for FALL or SUMMER admission
October 1 for SPRING admission

The above deadlines assure adequate processing time and availability of faculty for application review. Applications that are not complete at the time of faculty review for the intended semester of entry may be pushed to the following semester. The faculty strongly suggests, however, that new students begin their graduate coursework in the fall semester to ensure proper course sequencing.

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

For current information on scholarships, fellowships and assistantships, please visit the CVAD website at www.art.unt.edu. (Please note that Innovation Studies majors may not apply for teaching assistantships until after they have successfully completed 12 graduate-level credit hours.)

The Toulouse School of Graduate Studies grants all new MFA students entering in the Fall semester, and who have taken no more than 12 prior graduate credit hours, an Academic Achievement Scholarship in the amount of \$1000 for

the first year of study. Those granted the award must take a minimum of 15 credit hours over the course of their first Fall and Spring semesters in the program. The scholarship may be renewed for additional years at the discretion of the Graduate School.

Students who are not Texas residents and who receive a minimum financial award of \$1000 (scholarship, fellowship, or assistantship) from the University will be eligible to receive in-state tuition.

APPLICATION PROCEDURES (US RESIDENTS)

The process of applying to the MFA in Design is two-fold. An applicant must apply to both the Toulouse School of Graduate Studies and to the Department of Design, as detailed in Steps 1 and 2 below:

APPLICATION STEP 1 - Application to the Toulouse School of Graduate Studies (phone 940-565-2636)

Send the following items to: University of North Texas
Graduate Admissions
1155 Union Circle, # 305459
Denton, TX 76203 gradsch@unt.edu

1. **Completed application form and any fee required.** Applications are available from the Graduate School or its website at www.tsgs.unt.edu. (The printed application form is available by contacting the Graduate School directly and is significantly shorter and much easier to complete than the online version.)
2. **Official transcripts of all college work.**
3. **Graduate Record Examination (GRE) test scores.** 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.

Graduate Admissions takes approximately 2-4 weeks to process application materials. 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

1. **Portfolio of your work.** May be submitted on CD or DVD, or you may direct the faculty to a web URL that contains examples of your work. A minimum of 20 examples is suggested. If you have previous teaching experience in design education, please submit up to 20 examples of your students' work as well.
2. **Letter/statement of intent.** Details your intended area of concentration (fashion design, interior design or innovation studies), your research interests in the field to which you are applying, and the goals that you hope to achieve by obtaining the degree. Limit to 500-800 words.

3. **At least two (2) letters of recommendation.** Should be from former professors/instructors, design professionals, or clients with whom you have worked closely and should address why you would be a viable candidate for the MFA program to which you are applying. There is no specific recommendation form required. Letters may be submitted directly to the department exclusive of the application packet, or included within the application packet.
4. **Professional résumé.** Should list all relevant work experience, affiliations, etc.

Once all required admission materials are received, each faculty member in the discipline to which you are applying reviews your application. The faculty then meets as a whole 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 60 semester hours to earn the MFA degree. All courses must be numbered 5000-level or higher. The basic program structures are as follows:

FASHION DESIGN or INTERIOR DESIGN

21-30 hours	(7-10 courses) Major concentration
9-15 hours	(3-5 courses) Minor concentration
12 hours	(4 courses) Art History
0-9 hours	(0-3 courses) Electives (depending upon how many major and minor courses are taken)
3 hours	(1 course) Research Methods
6 hours	<u>Problem in Lieu of Thesis (Art 5920 and 5930)</u>
60 hours	TOTAL

INNOVATION STUDIES

18 hours	(6 courses) Prescribed major concentration
12 hours	(4 courses) Prescribed minor concentration
12 hours	(4 courses) Interdisciplinary sequence
12 hours	(4 courses) Art History (one of which must be AEAH 5842)
6 hours	<u>Practicum (ADES 5546 and 5548)</u>
60 hours	TOTAL

It is strongly recommended that each graduate student become familiar with the policies and regulations outlined in the graduate catalog. It is the responsibility of each individual student to meet all of the requirements of the Department of Design, College of Visual Arts and Design and of the Graduate School.

MAJOR PROFESSOR

The major professor is the faculty member who guides the graduate student's studies in the program and who chairs the student's MFA committee. The student chooses the major professor in consultation with the program 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 MFA.

GRADUATE REVIEW

All graduate students are required to present their work for critical evaluation and analysis by their respective faculty during a graduate review. For Fashion Design and Interior Design majors, this will occur at the end of each long semester, beginning at the culmination of their 2nd semester. For Innovation Studies majors, this will occur at the end of each full year in the program. The process is repeated until the Graduate Review Committee recommends that the student be passed and admitted to candidacy, or failed and recommended to leave the program.

MFA COMMITTEE

The candidate, in consultation with the major professor and the Department Chair, chooses his or her MFA Committee. This committee is comprised of a minimum of 3 members: the major professor, a minor professor and at least one other faculty member from the Department of Design. In addition to the three required faculty members who must serve on this committee, additional committee members may include the Department Chair, the Dean of the College, or one of the College's Associate Deans. Faculty from outside the Department or the College who possess knowledge relevant to the candidate's project may also serve on this committee, as long as the major professor and the Department Chair approve.

ADMISSION TO CANDIDACY

Attainment of candidacy must be actively sought and earned. The graduate faculty assists in this endeavor via coursework, individual consultations, and the graduate portfolio review. Although the accumulation of graduate hours with satisfactory grades is an integral part of program requirements, candidacy is not an automatic occurrence.

Before seeking recommendation for admission to candidacy and before beginning work on the creative project, Master's degree students are required to have successfully completed any deficiencies and to have submitted scores on the Graduate Record Examination. In addition, the following specific requirements must be satisfied:

1. Completion of 24 hours of graduate work in art/design at UNT.
2. Written recommendation from the Graduate (Portfolio) Review Committee.
3. Degree Plan approval and certification by the major and minor professors.

ORAL AND WRITTEN EXAMINATIONS

All MFA candidates must pass an oral examination in defense of the Problem in Lieu of Thesis or Practicum.

EXHIBITIONS

Each candidate for an MFA degree must prepare an exhibition of work of a quality suitable for presentation to the public. This project must be completed under the supervision of the candidate's major and minor professors and his or her MFA Committee. Fashion Design and Interior Design students should register for Problem in Lieu of Thesis (Art 5920--Proposal, followed by Art 5930--Descriptive Paper and Exhibition) under the major professor. Innovation Studies students should register for Practicum in Innovation Studies (ADES 5546, followed by ADES 5548).

The College's gallery spaces are available for these exhibitions; however, graduate students have the option of scheduling their MFA show at any reputable exhibition space in the DFW metroplex as long as they have secured prior approval from the major professor and the Department Chair. Please work with the art gallery a semester in advance of your exhibition to arrange a date.

Department of Design **Suggested Graduate Admissions Timeline**

Since admission to Graduate School involves submission of materials not only from the applicant, but testing services (official GRE scores), other colleges and universities (official transcripts), and outside professionals (letters of recommendation), the application process is very time consuming. More time than expected should be allotted to make the departmental application deadline. The following are suggested dates to keep applicants on track:

For entry in the:	Fall or Summer Semester	Spring Semester
Date by which you should submit graduate application form, official printed transcripts, and application fee to the Toulouse School of Graduate Studies (On average, the Graduate School takes one full month to fully process an application and forward it to the department for review by the faculty in the intended major.)	Jan. 1	Sept. 1
Date by which you should have taken the Graduate Record Examination (GRE) to have the official scores received by UNT in time to be included with your application. (The Analytical Writing section is hand-graded, so receipt of scores usually takes a minimum of 2 weeks.)	Jan. 15	Sept. 15
Department of Design Application Deadline (Date by which all required materials must be in your file for review by the faculty in your intended major, including GRE scores and the forwarded application packet from the Graduate School.)	Feb. 1	Oct. 1
Date by which you will likely hear from the Department regarding your admission status.	Mar. 1	Nov. 1
Date by which those who have been accepted into the program should respond in writing regarding their intent to attend.	Apr. 1	Dec. 1

Should your application not be complete by the Departmental deadline and/or by the time the faculty collect the applications to review them, your application may be updated for entry in a following semester, and you will be contacted concerning what materials need to be submitted to complete your application.