

HUMAN ECOLOGY: DESIGN STUDIES, PH.D.

REQUIREMENTS

MINIMUM GRADUATE SCHOOL REQUIREMENTS

Review the Graduate School minimum academic progress and degree requirements (<http://guide.wisc.edu/graduate/#policiesandrequirements>), in addition to the program requirements listed below.

NAMED OPTION REQUIREMENTS MODE OF INSTRUCTION

Face to Face	Evening/ Weekend	Online	Hybrid	Accelerated
Yes	No	No	No	No

Mode of Instruction Definitions

Accelerated: Accelerated programs are offered at a fast pace that condenses the time to completion. Students typically take enough credits aimed at completing the program in a year or two.

Evening/Weekend: Courses meet on the UW–Madison campus only in evenings and/or on weekends to accommodate typical business schedules. Students have the advantages of face-to-face courses with the flexibility to keep work and other life commitments.

Face-to-Face: Courses typically meet during weekdays on the UW–Madison Campus.

Hybrid: These programs combine face-to-face and online learning formats. Contact the program for more specific information.

Online: These programs are offered 100% online. Some programs may require an on-campus orientation or residency experience, but the courses will be facilitated in an online format.

CURRICULAR REQUIREMENTS

Requirement Detail

Minimum Credit Requirement 51 credits

Minimum Residence Credit Requirement 32 credits

Minimum Graduate Coursework Requirement 26 credits must be graduate-level coursework. Details can be found in the Graduate School's Minimum Graduate Coursework (50%) policy (<https://policy.wisc.edu/library/UW-1244>)

Overall Graduate GPA Requirement 3.30 GPA required.

Other Grade Requirements n/a

Assessments and Examinations Qualifying Research Project: The Qualifying Research Project (3 credits) is part of the Core Course requirements for every Ph.D. student, and must be completed prior to preliminary exams. The Qualifying Research Project provides students with an opportunity to conduct independent research in their area of specialization in preparation for their dissertation. While limited in scope, the project should be comparable to the final dissertation in terms of its intellectual tone and quality. The project could be a self-contained research paper that could later be incorporated into one of chapters in the final dissertation, building theoretical model for the dissertation, or proposal and conduct of pilot study for their final dissertation. Students are encouraged to disseminate the project broadly, in the format of conference papers or published journal articles in their respective fields.

The Qualifying Research Project may be based on work completed as part of any UW graduate seminar. Students often enroll in an independent study with their major advisor to complete this project. The project must be submitted to and approved by student's major advisor; the project must receive a passing grade in order for the student to sit for the preliminary examination.

Preliminary Examination: All Ph.D. students sit for a preliminary examination after satisfactorily completing coursework and the Qualifying Research Project. The exam is intended to demonstrate the students' broad knowledge in the field of design, and specialized expertise in both a major and a minor area. Students must pass the preliminary examination before submitting a dissertation proposal, and before advancing to dissertator status.

Research and Thesis: Students with dissertator status are expected to enroll for 3 credits directly related to dissertation research or production. These credits are generally research and thesis credits, independent studies, or required seminars; they must be at the 300 level or above. Three credits is the minimum credit load per semester for dissertators during each of the fall and spring semesters; this is considered a full time load. Dissertators must register for 3 credits each semester until the Ph.D. thesis is filed.

Language Requirements Foreign language proficiency may be required for students in the Design History track; if their major or minor areas or dissertation requires work in a language other than English. Students in EDR Track may be required to fulfill the foreign language requirement if the student's research involves the use of a language other than English. Competency may be acquired independently or through structured coursework and is assessed through examination. Exams must be taken before students advance to dissertator status.

Graduate School Breadth Requirement All doctoral students are required to complete a doctoral minor or Graduate/Professional certificate.

REQUIRED COURSES

Ph.D. students must complete a minimum of 51 credits. Of these, 42 credits will include Core Courses, courses in a Major Area of Specialization (Design History or "DH track"; Environmental Research Design or "EDR track"; or Textile Science or "TS track")¹, courses in a Minor Area of Specialization, and a Qualifying Research Project. The remaining 13 credits may be fulfilled through foreign language competencies, independent studies (i.e. to prepare for qualifying examinations), or Dissertator credits. At least 50% of credits (26 of 51 total credits) applied toward the doctorate degree must be from courses designed for graduate work; courses numbered 700 and above or courses numbered 300–699 that assess graduate students separately from undergraduate students generally satisfy this requirement. Students must maintain a 3.3-grade point average to remain in good standing.

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These tracks are internal to the program and represent different pathways a student can follow to earn this degree. Track names do not appear in the Graduate School admissions application, and they will not appear on the transcript.

Code	Title	Credits
Pre-Doctoral Preparation Courses ¹		
<i>Design History</i>		
	Art / Architecture / Design History Survey (2 courses)	
	Design History or Art History Research Methods (1 course)	
	Design History Research Seminar (1 course)	
<i>Environmental Design Research</i>		
Introductory research methods (2 courses):		
INTER-HE 793	Research Methods	
HDFS 425	Research Methods in Human Development and Family Studies	
SOC/ C&E SOC 357	Methods of Sociological Inquiry	
Introductory statistics course (2 courses):		
STAT 301	Introduction to Statistical Methods	
STAT 302	Accelerated Introduction to Statistical Methods	
STAT 371	Introductory Applied Statistics for the Life Sciences	
Classical Sociological Theory:		
SOC/ C&E SOC 475	Classical Sociological Theory	
<i>Textile Science</i>		
STAT 312	Introduction to Theory and Methods of Mathematical Statistics II	
STAT 333	Applied Regression Analysis	
STAT/M E 424	Statistical Experimental Design	
STAT/MATH 431	Introduction to the Theory of Probability	
Human Ecology Core		3
INTER-HE 801	Special Topics in Human Ecology (Professional Development Seminar)	
INTER-HE 792	Theories and Perspectives in Human Ecology	

Core Courses²

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Prior to doctoral candidacy, all Ph.D. students will be expected to enroll in 15 credits distributed among the following Core Courses:

DS 920	Seminar in Design Studies
<i>Design Studies Seminar (select one as appropriate):</i>	
DS 221	Person and Environment Interactions (EDR track only)
DS 920	Seminar in Design Studies (Topic: Seminar in Design History; DH track only) ³
DS 920	Seminar in Design Studies (Topic: Seminar in New Developments in Textiles; TS track only) ³
<i>Research Design and Methods (select one as appropriate):</i>	
Methods for Design History (select from Dimensions in Material Culture, Architectural History Methods, or Art History Methods) (DH track only)	
DS/F&W ECOL/ URB R PL 955	Practical Research Design and Methods of Empirical Inquiry (EDR track only)
DS 920	Seminar in Design Studies (Topic: Textile Science Research Methods; TS track only)

Graduate Student Instructor Course

Qualifying Research Project

Major Area of Specialization ⁴	15
Minor Area of Specialization (Doctoral Minor) ⁵	9
Qualifying Research Project	3
Qualifying Exam/Preliminary Exam (Non credit)	
Elective Credits	3
Research and Thesis	3
Total Credits	51

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Promising applicants who do not have sufficient educational background may be admitted, under the condition that he or she take pre-doctoral preparation courses; if the student satisfactorily completes a pre-doctoral course with a 3.3 GPA or above, the student may subsequently advance to full doctoral student status. Students will work closely with their major faculty advisor to determine appropriate pre-doctoral preparation courses.

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The Ph.D. Core Course curriculum offers an opportunity for all Design Studies students to establish a foundational knowledge of theories, research methods, and seminars relevant to design research. The core curriculum also includes specialized training in instruction and pedagogy; this is requisite for graduate teaching assistant duties (often a source of doctoral funding), and useful for students who wish to pursue academic careers. The core curriculum also includes an independent study that will facilitate the production of the Qualifying Research Project.

3

Or independent study; topics may vary.

4

The major area of specialization provides students with an overview of the knowledgebase and seminal research in their concentration field; coursework in the major area will serve as a foundation for the preliminary exam and dissertation. Students are encouraged to take course that are offered both inside and outside the Design Studies department to develop an interdisciplinary framework for their doctoral research. Students may also benefit from courses offered through CIC (Committee on Institutional Cooperation) traveling scholar program, the academic consortium of twelve major teaching and research universities in the Midwest designed to share specialized courses and resources.

Ph.D. students are expected to develop a strong foundation in research methods. Students in the DH track must take at least one advanced methods courses in applicable areas, such as art history or material culture. Students in the EDR track are encouraged to take advanced research methods courses (e.g., advanced qualitative/quantitative, ethnography, GIS) and advanced statistics courses as their dissertation topic requires. Students in the TS track are expected to develop a strong foundation in chemistry, the fundamentals of plasma chemistry, and plasma processing. Technology and chemistry are an important part of textile science track.

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All Ph.D. students select a minor area of specialization outside their major area of specialization. The minor area should be distinctive but complementary to student's major area. The UW-Madison Graduate School policy outlines two possible options regarding minor area of specialization:

- Option A: requires a minimum of 10 credits in a single disciplinary program (e.g., Art History, Landscape Architecture). Fulfillment of this option requires the approval of the minor program.
- Option B: requires a minimum of 9 credits in one or more programs forming a coherent topic, and can include course work in the program (e.g., technology-focused virtual reality). Fulfillment of this option requires the approval of the Design Studies program. The distribution of other credits will be approved by the individual student's Ph.D. committee.

VR Technology Focused Minor

The Design Studies program offers a unique minor area of specialization in Virtual Reality¹. Students in both the DH and EDR tracks may minor in this field. The minor provides a technology-focused approach for students looking to develop new Virtual Reality technologies or to utilize Virtual Reality technologies in their research. The School of Human Ecology houses a newly developed Virtual Reality system to which students undertaking this minor will have full access. Additionally, students will have the opportunity to work with other Virtual Reality and simulation environments around the UW-Madison campus. Students looking to undertake the VR technology minor should be familiar with concepts of computer programming and programming languages.

Students in the TS Track should develop expertise in both technology and chemistry. Students have the opportunity to develop a minor in the emerging field of technical textiles. If a distributed minor is desired, students must take a minimum of 6 credits in technology and 6 credits in chemistry (12 credits total).

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Note: This is taken by the student as a distributed doctoral minor (Option B). The name "Virtual Reality" does not appear on the transcript or anywhere in the student record.

Code	Title	Credits
Required during the first semester:		
DS/COMP SCI 579	Virtual Reality	3
Electives:		
PSYCH/COMP SCI/ ED PSYCH 770	Human-Computer Interaction	3
DS/COMP SCI/ I SY E 518	Wearable Technology	3
COMP SCI 559	Computer Graphics	3
COMP SCI 838	Topics in Computing (Topic: Advanced Modeling and Simulation)	1-3
COMP SCI 838	Topics in Computing (Topic: Advanced Graphics)	1-3
COMP SCI 838	Topics in Computing (Topic: Visualization)	1-3

Read more about the minor here (<https://blogs.discovery.wisc.edu/kponto/dscvr/>).