

HUMAN ECOLOGY: DESIGN STUDIES, PHD

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. Refer to the Graduate School: Minimum Graduate Coursework (50%) Requirement policy: https://policy.wisc.edu/library/UW-1244 (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 PhD student, and must be completed prior to preliminary exams. The Qualifying Research Project provides students with an opportunity to conduct independent research in their pathway 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 and approved by the student's major advisor. The project must receive a passing grade to sit for the preliminary examination.

Preliminary Examination: All PhD 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 in coursework numbered 300 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 PhD thesis is filed.

Language Requirements Foreign language proficiency may be required for students in the Design History pathway; if their major or minor areas or dissertation requires work in a language other than English. Students in Environmental Research Design pathway 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. Refer to the Graduate School: Breadth Requirement in Doctoral Training policy: https://policy.wisc.edu/library/UW-1200 (https://policy.wisc.edu/library/UW-1200/).
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REQUIRED COURSES

Students choose a pathway:

- Design History (DH)
- Environmental Research Design (EDR)

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

Code	Title	Credits
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Human Ecology Core

Students must complete the following courses.

INTER-HE 801	Special Topics in Human Ecology (Professional Development Seminar)	1
INTER-HE 792	Theories and Perspectives in Human Ecology	2

Core Courses 15

Students must complete 15 credits from the following courses, including DS 920.

DS 920	Seminar in Design Studies
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Design Studies Seminar

Students must select one of the following seminar courses based on their selected pathway.

DS 221	Person and Environment Interactions (Environmental Research Design Pathway)
DS 920	Seminar in Design Studies (Topic: Seminar in Design History; Design History Pathway)

Research Design and Methods

Students must select one of the following courses in this category based on their pathway.

Design History Pathway: Students must select a Methods for Design History course chosen in consultation with faculty advisor (Dimensions in Material Culture, Architectural History or Art History)

DS/F&W ECOL/ URB R PL 955	Practical Research Design and Methods of Empirical Inquiry (Environmental Research Design Pathway)
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Graduate Student Instructor Course

Students must select a course that focuses on teaching, learning and instructional pedagogy chosen in consultation with faculty advisor.

Pathway (Design History or Environmental Research Design) 15

Students must complete 15 credits of coursework in their pathway chosen in consultation with faculty advisor.

Breadth 9

Research and Thesis 6

Students must enroll in one of the following courses or other graduate seminar as determined in consultation with faculty advisor.

DS 990	Research and Thesis
or DS 999	Independent Study

Electives 3

Total Credits 51

Core Courses

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

Pathways

Coursework in the major area serves as a foundation for the preliminary exam and dissertation. Students are encouraged to take courses offered inside and outside the Design Studies department to develop an interdisciplinary framework for their doctoral research. Students may also benefit from courses offered through the Committee on Institutional Cooperation (CIC) traveling scholar program, the academic consortium of twelve major teaching and research universities in the Midwest designed to share specialized courses and resources.

Students are expected to develop a strong foundation in research methods based on their selected pathway:

1. **Design History Pathway:** Complete at least one advanced methods courses in applicable areas, such as art history or material culture.
2. **Environmental Research Design Pathway:** Encouraged to complete advanced research methods courses (e.g., advanced qualitative/quantitative, ethnography, GIS) and advanced statistics courses as their dissertation topic requires.

Breadth

Students may fulfill the breadth requirement with the Virtual Reality (VR) Technology Focused minor offered by the Design Studies program. Students in the Design History and Environmental Research Design pathways may pursue this minor. Contact the program for more information.