



Graduate Study in Design and Environmental Analysis

Master of Arts in DESIGN Concentration: INTERIOR DESIGN

Two-Year Graduate Program

AREA OF STUDY: Special Populations

There are many segments of the population that differ from the norm due to stage in human development, injury, disease, congenital condition, or genetic abnormalities. People in these special populations can be relegated to low levels of functionality or made highly functional depending in part on the supportiveness of the settings in which they live. Effective support is achieved through good design—*design that has the capacity to accommodate functional needs and the potential to lift the human spirit above the mundane.*

The area of study, *Design for Special Populations*, invites critical examination of interior design as both process and product for accommodating specialized needs. Populations being addressed include frail elderly, people with Alzheimer’s or related dementias, and pre school aged children. Research approaches being taken include preparation and evaluation of design guidelines for a specific population, critical assessment of a design process for responding to specialized needs, and conception, imaging, and testing of a design for a special population.

CAREERS

Graduate study in *Design for Special Populations* connects to a number of valuable employment opportunities and career paths. With this research specialization graduates are prepared for professional practice in an area of design specialty. Examples include healthcare design, design of residential settings for the elderly including assisted living facilities and nursing homes, or design for child daycare. For graduates planning for a career in higher education, this specialization can set direction for scholarship subsumed in an academic appointment.

M.A. REQUIREMENTS

DEA field courses required or recommended:			
DEA 1110	Making a Difference By Design	<i>Recommended</i>	3 credits (audit)
DEA 1200	Art+Science: Sustainability, Multiculturalism, and Transdisciplinarity	<i>Recommended</i>	3 credits (audit)
DEA 1500	Introduction to Environmental Psychology	<i>Recommended</i>	3 credits (audit)
DEA 6100	Studies in Design Thinking	<i>Required</i>	3 credits
DEA 6200	Studies in Human-Environment Relations	<i>Required</i>	3 credits
DEA 7100	DEA Graduate Pro Seminar	<i>Required</i>	*1 credit (*each semester)

Research & Design Methods courses: (choose 2: 1 research method and 1 design method)		
DEA 6500	Problem-Seeking through Programming (design method)	4 credits
DEA 6560	Research Methods in Social Sciences (research method)	4 credits
EDUC 6940	Case Study Methodology: Designs, Methods & Inferences (research method)	3 credits
Various	Qualitative Methods (research method)	4 credits
Various	Historiography (research method)	4 credits
Various	Methods of Observation/Analysis of Behavior (research method)	4 credits
Behavior & social responsibility courses: (choose 1 course)		
DEA 4220	Ecological Literacy and Design	3 credits
DEA 6510	Ergonomics-Anthropometrics	4 credits
DEA 6520	The Ambient Environment	4 credits

DEA 6550	Healthcare Innovations	3 credits
DEA 6610	Environments & Health	3 credits

Studio-based courses: (choose 1 course)		
DEA 4210	Interactive and Adaptive Environments	4 credits
DEA 6000	Special Problems for Grads (project-based)	varies
DEA 5540	Workplace Strategies Studio	4 credits

History, Theory & Criticism course:		
Various	Architectural/Art History/Anthropology ¹	4 credits

Thesis course:		
DEA 8990	Master's Thesis	8-12 credits

Summary of Curriculum	Number of Courses	Total Credits
Required DEA field courses	6	10 (6 +1/ semester)
Research & Design Methods Required Courses	2	7-8
Behavior & Social Responsibility Courses	1	3-4
Studio-based Courses	1	varies
History, Theory & Criticism Course	1	4
Master's Thesis *	1-2	8-12
Additional Courses (if not TA)	1-3	3-9
Total Courses: 13-16		Total Credits: 35-47

NOTE: A minimum grade of B- is required for courses taken within the major
All courses are subject to change. Consult the online Courses of Study for current offerings.

* Thesis credits are determined at the discretion of the thesis committee; the number of courses and credits listed merely indicate typical range.

SUGGESTED COURSEWORK

Referring to the Summary of Curriculum at the end of this information sheet, courses taken to fulfill the 3-4 course requirements for the research specialization, *Design for Special Populations*, vary depending on the special population being addressed. These courses are selected through consultation with your graduate thesis committee. Examples of possible courses related to Older Adults, Children and People with Disabilities are shown here.

HD 2510	Social Gerontology: Aging and the Life Course (also SOC 251)
HD 4180	Aging: Contemporary Issues
PAM 4570	Innovation and Entrepreneurship in the Health Care Industry
PAM 2350	The U.S. Health Care System
PSYCH 4310	Effects of Aging on Sensory and Perceptual Systems
HD 3460	The Role and Meaning of Play
DEA 4100	Diversity and Facility Design
ILRLR 1200	Intro to Disability Studies
ILRLR 4023	Disability and Employment Policy

For other or more specific special populations you work with your graduate thesis committee to determine an appropriate set of courses in this requirement category.

¹ ANTHR 6401 Material Theory I: Landscape and Place
 ANTHR 6402 Material Theory II: Assemblage and Object
 ANTHR 6452 Evidence: Ethnography and Historical Method
 ARCH 5301 Theories and Analyses of Architecture I
 ARCH 5302 Theories and Analyses of Architecture II
 ARCH 6305 Theory and Criticism in Architecture
 ART 6000 Graduate Seminar: Contemporary Theory and Art
 LA 5900 Theoretical Foundations

PMA 6610 Theorizing Media and Performance
 PMA 6835 Performance Studies: Theories and Methods