

Master of Fine Arts (MFA) Industrial Design Concentration ID Program Guide

The degree of Master of Fine Arts (MFA) with specialization in Industrial Design prepares you for a professional career in design practice, management and higher education. The program of study is highly individualized in order to help you achieve professional excellence by matching your interests, skills, and career goals with the challenge of higher-level study in design, also acknowledging the range of opportunities for interdisciplinary study at the University. The program is international in scope and stresses the development of design solutions that are human-centered and culturally appropriate. Two or three year study options are available.

The two-year study option is for those with undergraduate degrees in industrial design or one of the allied arts (architecture, graphic design and the like) and who have appropriate professional design experience in industry. This program requires full-time enrollment on campus for four regular semesters. The three-year program prepares graduates for university teaching positions. Enrollment for the three-year program is full-time on campus for six regular semesters. A limited number of teaching assistantships and/or scholarships are available for three-year MFA students. Teaching assistantships are not available for two-year MFA students.

The Industrial Design graduate studios have individual studio spaces in Noble Hall for graduate students, conference and display facilities and access to workshop facilities. The electronic technologies laboratories located in the Art and Design Building provide the opportunity to work with a full range of sophisticated photographic, graphic arts, and computer technology. Workshop laboratories located in Flagg Hall are also available to you. Access to other specialized facilities across the university may be possible including the Beckman Institute and the Ford Concurrent Manufacturing Laboratory.

Relevant people and titles

Suresh Sethi, Professor, Graduate Coordinator for Industrial Design

William Bullock, Professor and Chair, Industrial Design Program

Stephen Cartwright, Associate Director, School of Art and Design

Melissa Pokorny, Associate director, School of Art and Design

Ellen de Waard, Coordinator of Graduate Academic Affairs, School of Art and Design

David Akins is the School Facilities Director

Yunling Man, Accountant I, School of Art and Design

Members of the ID Graduate Faculty: **William Bullock, Deana McDonagh, Kevin Reeder, Cliff Shin, Suresh Sethi, Simrun Sethi, Joyce Thomas** and **David Weightman**.

Alan Mette, Director, School of Art and Design

Program philosophy

Industrial Design is the creative activity that determines the nature of products, services and experiences produced by industry. This includes the external form of products, but also the structured and functional relationships that surround those products while emphasizing the needs of the user and manufacturer. This involves creating and developing concepts and specifications that optimize the function, value and appearance of products and systems. Industrial designers typically are concerned with the formal qualities to determine what the finished product will look like including a shape, form and color. Industrial designers champion design thinking, a user-centered approach that places the user in the center of the innovation process.

The MFA Industrial Design Program strives to educate you about the issues, theories and history of Industrial Design as well as developing your abilities as a designer. The program is committed to a broad educational approach coupled with in-depth professional studies, to expand your knowledge about design through research, and to enable you to function as a designer in many diverse situations. The program is also a recognized qualification to teach Industrial design at University level and so includes the opportunity to assist faculty and to teach courses to undergraduate students

Course Credits and degree requirements

The Master of Fine Arts (MFA) degree concentration in industrial design offers a two or three year program of study. The two-year program is for those with undergraduate degrees in industrial design or one of the allied arts (architecture, graphic design and the like) and who have professional design experience in industry. This program is full-time enrollment on campus for

four regular semesters. The three-year program prepares students for a career in teaching. Students on the three-year program are eligible for teaching assistantships and/or scholarships. Enrollment for this program is full-time on campus for six regular semesters.

The MFA in industrial design requires 64 hours of graduate credit for both the two and three year MFA study options distributed as follows:

Studio courses in Industrial Design (2 or 3 year program)	36 hours
<u>3 year program</u> : 6 credit ID studio courses - ARTD 501, 502, 503, 504, 505 & 506 are required.	
<u>2 year program</u> : 6 credit ID studio courses - ARTD 501, 503, 505 & 506 are required for this program; an additional 12 design elective courses are required in ID, GD, ARCH, ARTD 591 (approved by the graduate coordinator).	
Elective courses (8 hours must be from outside School of Art and Design)	16
Seminar courses	8
Thesis documentation (must enroll in ARTD 599 twice for 2 credits each)	<u>4</u>
TOTAL hours for MFA in industrial design	64

The ID Graduate Coordinator will advise you from the outset to develop a plan of study including elective and seminar courses. This plan will be a working document updated as you go through your graduate studies following periodic meetings and reviews with the Graduate advisor. Examples of a typical 2 and 3 year study patterns are show in APPENDIX “A” and “B”. Not everyone expected to be on exactly the same track to his or her degree

MFA program of study (general guidelines; subject to change by the program faculty)

A 2-year and 3-year MFA study option is available to students who qualify.

The 2-year program of study is for self-funded full time students (See APPENDIX “A” for the typical 2-year plan of study. This program is typically for those not interested in a teaching or other career in academia. Enrollment is full time averaging 16 credits per semester. Students register in ARTD 501 and 502 in year 1 and 505 and 506 in year 2. Additionally, a 4-credit design elective course (in ID, GD, ARCH, ARTD 591 or similar course approved by the graduate coordinator) is required each semester. Refer to the Graduate Coordinator for approved design graduate electives. .You

will also need to register for ARTD 599 (2 credits) Thesis document preparation in both of the final two semesters.

The 3-year program is for those with graduate teaching assistantships interested in teaching or a related career in academia. Students are required to register in ARTD 501 and 502 in the first year, 503 and 504 in the second year, and 505 and 506 in the third year. Students also register for ARTD 599 Thesis document preparation in both of the final two semesters (normally when enrolled in ARTD 505 and 506). You must register for 12 hours of credit each semester to maintain fulltime student status (particularly important for visa status) but a quick calculation will indicate that this would result in 72 hours of credits over the 3-year period of the program. As only 64 hours are required for the MFA degree, the final semester can be less than 12 hours so you can fully concentrate on your thesis work. Requests for part time status must be made the semester before the semester needed by contacting Ellen de Waard in the School of Art and Design graduate admissions office.

Elective and Seminar Courses

Electives expand your knowledge, and enable you to exploit the resources of the School, College and University including business, art and design, and technology courses. Eight hours of electives must be from programs outside the School of Art and Design. There are a number of electives in the School available each year, which may be of interest to you depending on your plan of study and special areas of interest.

Courses that count toward the MFA graduate requirements must be at the 400 or 500 level. Courses taught only for undergraduate credit, while they may be taken, may not count toward MFA graduation requirements. Some Undergraduate Art and Design courses are available for graduate students to do additional work for graduate credit. Courses may be restricted or require prerequisites but talking directly to the appropriate departmental advisor or course instructor can often result in admission. It is also possible to enroll in ARTD 591 Special Problems in Design (2-8 credits) where you study independently with a faculty.

Eight hours of Seminar Courses are required. Seminar courses typically are non-making classes offered periodically in industrial design and in various other programs in the School of Art and Design. Check with the ID Graduate advisor or the A+D Graduate Office during registration for

available seminar courses. If a seminar class is not available, an elective class can substituted. Look for interesting topics - for example, graphic design sometimes runs a graduate seminar course under the ARTD 445 number with particular relevance for students in ID and GD.

Reviews and evaluation of progress

Faculty provide assessment requirements for courses. Faculty review of studio coursework occurs at mid- semester and again at the end of the semester. These reviews may involve all ID faculty plus other faculty as appropriate. Your attendance and participation in review sessions is mandatory. Failure to attend or participate may result in a lowered grade, dismissal from the program or withholding the degree. Some of these reviews may also involve the ID Visiting Critic who comes in twice annually (usually at the end of each semester) to provide an external view of the program

These reviews will relate to the assessments for the ID Studio courses 501-506. Reviews may include presentations of work you are doing on other courses but this work is not assessed. You should expect discussions about your general progress and your study plans for the upcoming semesters. If your progress on the ID studio course is not satisfactory, you may be asked to do additional work for resubmission, or in extreme cases to repeat the course or leave the program. If it occurs, such an outcome is subject to the normal procedures of the School for appeal and resolution

MFA Thesis project

Each graduate student in the Industrial design MFA program is required to complete a Thesis project to fulfill the degree requirements. This normally takes the last year of study with ARTD 599 Thesis, 505 and 506. The ARTD 599 thesis courses are document preparation (4 credits in all) and are taken concurrently with the 505/506 courses. A thesis committee and thesis topic are determined in the latter half of the 504 semester with completion in the thesis accomplished in 505 and 506. A final written thesis describing the project must approved and signed by the thesis committee and presented to the School of Art and Design and the Graduate School for cataloging for on line access by the University library.

Objectives of the Thesis project

To enable you to study an area of design in depth and independently which relates to your professional development as a designer and/or educator

To synthesize the knowledge and skills acquired during the early semesters of the graduate program, particularly in research, synthesis and design execution.

To demonstrate mastery in the preparation and conduct of a major project at a professional level

To engage in reflexive appraisal of your own practice, evidenced in the thesis document

A Thesis project is not just another design studio project. A Thesis reflects an area of specialization. It includes evaluation, investigation and demonstration of a research proposition. The project will begin with a documented survey of appropriate prior designs, with existing research findings that will form the basis for design innovation. The thesis project will normally have a design outcome demonstrated in the form of drawings, models, prototypes etc. The special knowledge area investigated will serve as the basis for your career development as a professional designer or educator. The Thesis project is an opportunity to take on a design challenge at a significantly higher level than your undergraduate projects, with much higher expectations about depth, rigor, innovation and execution. As it will involve you in at least a year of concentrated work, you should pick the topic carefully and the faculty will assist in that process. As a guide though, we advise you to identify a design problem or opportunity rather than just take on a re-design of an existing product or service.

An important part of the Thesis project is the Thesis document. This will describe your research and design investigations and the outcomes of that that can include video and other media. You can refer to cataloged theses in the University on-line library, particularly those in industrial design and architecture, for examples of suitable formats. In a Thesis project, it is required that the work is original and innovative, and that the Thesis project and its documentation be of value to others in furthering work in the particular subject area.

Thesis assessment criteria...your thesis work should demonstrate

A Research: Evidence of exploration, research, analysis and insight

B Methodology : Evidence of a coherent and effective design approach

C Design : Evidence of creative and innovative thinking from development of ideas to detailed design resolution

D Presentation : Communication of ideas, concepts and design proposals

E Reflection : Considered self evaluation of project and process

Thesis approval procedures

By the end of the semester before your thesis work commences), you will need to....

Select a thesis topic.

In the semester preceding your Thesis semesters, all thesis students make a short presentation to the ID faculty on their proposed thesis topic. Following this presentation and discussion, the ID faculty work together with you to define this topic and to form an appropriate committee. You negotiate the exact nature of the Thesis with your Thesis committee via the process outlined below.

Identify a Thesis Committee Chair

The Thesis Committee Chair is your Principal academic advisor, responsible for working closely with you throughout the entire project, providing appropriate direction and advice to you on a regular basis. This includes being the primary contact for review of the written thesis document. Thesis chairs will also be your instructor and award grades for ARTD 505 and 505 your last year of study. The ID faculty can serve as Thesis Committees chairs on up to two committees. Some faculty with heavy teaching or research loads may not be able to do this and it may not always be possible for you to secure your first choice of Thesis Committee Chair. Selection of a thesis project or topic, securing agreement from a faculty for a Thesis Committee Chair, and the other committee members is your responsibility, working with the ID faculty.

Define the Thesis Project.

Working with the Thesis Committee Chair, you work to define the thesis project that will be undertaken. The Chair will advise on the selection of the other faculty members appropriate to the thesis research. You then prepare a final proposal of the project/thesis and a detailed work plan complete with an estimated timeline for completion of the various steps of the thesis. The Committee Chair has to approve the Project topic.

Form a thesis committee

At least three faculty serve on the thesis committee, including the Chair. The other two members of the student's committee will normally play lesser roles but typically attend progress presentations and review and approve advanced copies of the written thesis. The Chair of the Thesis Committee and one member of the committee must be Industrial design program faculty. The third committee member can be an ID faculty member but more often is an outside expert whose background and experience provides special knowledge supporting the thesis work. Additional committee members sometimes serve, however, the larger the committee, the more difficult it is to schedule meetings and reviews that all can attend. The full committee will review and approve the proposal and work plan. Approval is before the end of the semester preceding the initial thesis semester.

You will meet with your committee every four weeks or so, throughout the thesis semesters, and those meetings should ideally be with the whole committee, not just with individual members. Consultation with Committee members during the summer period will be subject to special arrangements depending on faculty availability and can prove problematic.

Complete a Thesis Proposal Form (Appendix C) & Thesis Committee Form (App D)

You complete a Thesis Proposal Form at the end of the semester prior to the initial thesis semester final year of study. This involves preparing a thesis title (maximum of 10 words), a short thesis statement (maximum of 50 words) and a description of the project and methodology to be used (maximum of 500 words). The proposal should be completed and returned to your thesis Committee Chair who approves your thesis topic. Return the completed Thesis Proposal Form (Appendix D) to Ellen de Waard, Graduate Studies Coordinator in the School of Art and Design. Failure to meet this deadline can adversely affect your thesis completion and graduation schedule.

Enroll in ARTD 599 twice during the thesis semesters (ARTD 505 & 506)

You must enroll in ARTD 599 for 2 thesis semesters in addition to the normal graduate studios ARTD 505 and 506. Grades for both ARTD 599 courses are deferred until the thesis is completed and cataloged in the University library. You will need to complete and submit the document by the end of the sixth semester of the program. Thesis deposit deadlines and formatting guidelines are set by the Thesis Office at the Graduate College, and should be followed.

Final assessment of the thesis project

A formal presentation of the final thesis project to the ID program faculty is required. This is scheduled by the Graduate Coordinator and will normally include a Visiting Critic, invited by the program in order to give feedback on the thesis and provide an external view on the program. All faculty and Thesis Committee Members and guests are invited. You should be aware of time constraints at this time of year and the difficulties of arranging review meetings.

Towards the end of the final thesis semester, you will undergo a final review of your work at a meeting of your thesis chair and committee and a final grade determined. Prior to that review, you should have produced the final draft of your Thesis document. This should be at least four weeks before the Thesis document-filing dates published each semester by the Graduate College. You should submit complete unbound copies of the document to each member of your committee (that means all material to be included in the document) Prior to this review, you should also have discussed and shown your document to your committee at your regular meetings.

Review presentations must be adequate to allow the committee to judge the project or thesis for grade and acceptability. After this review, and after considering the views of faculty, your Thesis Committee approves or otherwise the award of the degree, subject to the final deposition of your Thesis document. The committee will need to all sign the Thesis deposit form (Appendix C) before you can actually deposit your thesis document. In addition, you are require to exhibit your work in the School Graduate Exhibition at the Krannert Art Museum

The Thesis document must be deposited at the Graduate College according to the schedule published by the University. This requires two bound copies of the final thesis document. One copy is catalogued in the University Library for public access and the other will be returned to the School. It is both a courtesy and a welcome gesture to give the Chair and committee members bound copies of the Thesis document after completion.

If the thesis deposit deadline is missed, graduation is delayed until the next semester. For the procedures and forms for thesis preparation refer to, "Instructions for Preparation of Theses: How to Deposit a Thesis with the Graduate College and Keep Your Sanity," published by the Graduate College. A copy may be picked up at the Graduate College Thesis Office, located in 218 Coble Hall, 801 S. Wright St., Champaign, IL 61820; 217-333-6278. The thesis office operates on a first-come, first-served basis. Hours are usually 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday.

We do need to point out that all expenses associated with the Thesis project and the document, e.g., exhibition material, models, drawing material, electronic copies, film, typing, photocopying, telephone, travel, photography, etc., are borne by you.

See Appendix A and B for copies of the Thesis Proposal Form and Thesis Committee Form.

General information

Transfer of Credit

Credit earned at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign or from another institution prior to admission to the graduate degree program will be accepted for transfer towards the graduate Industrial Design degree subject to review by the Graduate Coordinator and/or Industrial Design Faculty.

Enrollment

Enrollment for the Fall Semester is conducted at mid-semester of the previous Spring Semester; advance enrollment for the Spring Semester is conducted at mid-semester of the previous Fall

semester. You will need to arrange an appointment with the ID Graduate Advisor during the advance enrollment period.

Financial Aid

The School of Art + Design encourages domestic applicants to apply for financial aid through the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) for possible Federal Work Study (FWS) Graduate Assistantships. To be considered for this financial aid, applicants should file a FAFSA application electronically using the FAFSA website: www.fafsa.edu.gov. Additional information regarding this financial aid can be found on the University of Illinois Office of Student Financial Aid (OSFA) website: www.osfa.illinois.edu The OSFA will notify applicants electronically if they are eligible for a FWS Graduate Assistantship. There are three types of financial support: Fellowships, Assistantships and Tuition/Fee Waivers.

Fellowships

All candidates are considered for financial aid including fellowships who check apply for financial aid. A competitive award granted to degree candidates who have demonstrated high scholar and merit and awards. The Graduate Review Committee in the School of Art + Design and the University of Illinois Graduate College determines the candidates for all fellowship awards. A fellowship does not require service and the stipends range from \$10,000 to \$25,000 for the academic year. All fellowships include a waiver of tuition and a partial waiver of university student fees. All students who hold fellowships must enroll for a minimum course load of 12 credit hours in each semester.

A list of the available fellowships, including the Anthony Petullo Design Fellowship will be sent to you by the School.

Assistantships

The University offers several types of assistantships to enrolled graduate students in exchange for work - Teaching Assistants are appointed to teach courses or to assist faculty in the delivery of courses and Research Assistants perform lab duties, work as designers in university offices, or perform various duties as required by the faculty or program.

As teaching assistants, Industrial Design graduate students assist the faculty in teaching large industrial design studio and lecture classes, introductory 100 and 200 level classes involving basic visual communication and model making skills and courses to non-majors. You will usually be asked to assist a faculty member for course credit before being allowed to teach a course on your own. During this course, you will be asked to write a syllabus, be responsible for attending all class meetings and provide at least one lecture or assignment in preparation for the possibility of teaching in the future. If assigned to teach a course, you will be provided with an appropriate curriculum outline and be mentored by a faculty member with experience of delivering that course. This experience (whilst challenging for the first time) is an essential preparation for the level of teaching that the MFA qualifies you for after graduation.

Assistantship appointments depend upon percentages of full time appointments. The basic assistantship appointment is 25% and the maximum assistantship appointment is 50%. Assistantship appointments carry with them tuition and fee waivers for the full academic year. To hold assistantship appointments, you must be enrolled in the University for at least 12 hours of credit in the semester of the assistantship

Assistantships are awarded competitively based upon merit. Students who are appointed to assistantships are expected to responsibly and diligently fulfill their obligations to the particular supervisor for whom they work. Failure to honor this commitment may result in termination of the appointment.

Teaching assistantship assignments will be determined in consultation with the Program Chair and the Graduate Advisor and the course instructor if applicable. When assisting faculty with a class, you will be required to attend all class meetings, consult regularly with the faculty member and assist with presentations, critiques, etc. TA's report to an assigned faculty supervisor who they report to regularly and provide oversight and advice regarding TA duties.

Tuition/Fee Waivers

Waivers of tuition and fees offered by the University are awarded on a semester-by-semester basis and do not necessarily extend throughout the academic year. All students who are the

recipients of Tuition and Fee waivers must enroll for a minimum of 12 hours in each semester the waiver is held. Waivers cover most but not all of the costs of enrollment. You should consult with the Coordinator of Graduate Academic Affairs on which costs are covered and which are your responsibility.

Other funding

In addition, the School of Art and Design's Research Fund provides small grants to support innovative projects proposed by graduate students. There are also travel grants from various sources within the University that you can apply.

APPENDIX A

ID Graduate Program– 2 Year MFA Program

Year 1

Fall Semester, Year 1

ARTD 501 Industrial Design	6 hrs.
ARTD 400/500 design elective	4 hrs. (ID, GD, ARCH, 591 design course approved by the Graduate Coordinator).
400-500 Elective	4 hrs.
400-500 Seminar/Independent Study	<u>2 hrs.</u> (or 400-500 level elective if seminar not available)
	16 credits

Spring Semester, Year 1

ARTD 502 Industrial Design II	6 hrs.
ARTD 400/500 design elect.	4 hrs. (ID, GD, ARCH, 591 design course approved by the Graduate Coordinator).
400-500 Elective	4 hrs.
400-500 Seminar/Independent Study	<u>2 hrs.</u> (or elective if seminar not available)
	16 credit

Year 2

Fall Semester, Year 2

ARTD 505 Industrial Design	6 hrs.
ARTD 400-500 design	4 hrs. (ID, GD, ARCH, 591 design course approved by the Graduate Coordinator).
400-500 Seminar/Independent Study	4 hrs. (or 400-500 level elective if seminar not available)
599 Thesis	<u>2 hrs.</u>
	16

Spring Semester, Year 2

ARTD 506 Industrial Design	6 hrs.
ARTD 400-500 design	4 hrs. (ID, GD, ARCH, 591 design course approved by the Graduate Coordinator).
Elective	4 hrs. (ID, GD, ARTD 591 independent study)
599 thesis	<u>2 hrs.</u>
	16 credits

**Note: if seminar is not taught, an elective course may be substituted.*

MFA Graduation Requirements

Industrial Design /Design Studio (design)	36 hours (24 in ID; 12 in Design, ID, GD, AR, ENG or other)
Electives	16 hours
Seminar	8 hours (elective substitute if seminar not available)
Thesis	<u>4 hours</u>
Graduation Total	64 hours

2 year program- 64/4 semesters = 16 hrs./semester

APPENDIX B

ID Graduate Program– 3 Year MFA Program

Year 1

Fall Semester, Year 1

ARTD 501 Industrial Design I	6 hrs.
Elective	4 hrs.
400-500 Seminar	<u>2 hrs.</u> (ID, GD, ARTD 591 independent study)
	12 credits

Spring Semester, Year 2

502 Industrial Design II	6 hrs.
Elective	4 hrs.
400-500 Seminar	<u>2 hrs.</u> (ID, GD, ARTD 591 independent study)
	12 credits

**Note: if seminar is not taught, elective hours may be substituted.*

Year 2

Fall Semester, Year 2

ARTD 503 Industrial Design III	6 hrs.
Elective	4 hrs.
400-500 Seminar /Independent Study	<u>2 hrs.</u> (ID, GD, other graduate level course, ARTD 591 independent study)
	12 credits

Spring Semester, Year 2

ARTD 504 Industrial Design IV	6 hrs.
Elective	4 hrs.
400-500 Seminar/Independent study	<u>2 hrs.</u> (ID, GD, other graduate level course, ARTD 591 independent study)
	12 credits

**Note: if seminar is not taught, elective hours may be substituted.*

Year 3

Fall Semester

ARTD 505 Industrial Design VI	6 hrs.
Elective	4 hrs.
Thesis	<u>2 hrs.</u>
	12 credits

Spring Semester

ARTD 506 Industrial Design VII	6 hrs.
Thesis	<u>2 hrs.</u>
	* 8-12 hrs.

MFA Graduation Requirements

Industrial Design /Design Studio	36 hours (24 in ID; 12 in Design, ID, GD, AR, ENG or other (design))
Electives	16 hours
Seminar	8 hours (elective substitute if seminar not available)
Thesis	<u>4</u> hours
Graduation Total	64 hours

3 year program- 64/4 semesters = 12 hrs./semester.

* Students who do not have graduate assistantships and with only 8 credits remaining their final semester may qualify to enroll part time for the final 8 hours of credit. 12 hours or more qualifies as full time. Contact the Coordinator of Graduate Academic Affairs, Ellen de Waard if you feel you qualify for part time enrollment. Students with assistantships/scholarship normally must be enrolled for 12 hour or more (full time).

**APPENDIX D
THESIS COMMITTEE FORM**

A signed copy of this completed form must be taken by the thesis student to the School of Art and Design Coordinator of Graduate Academic Affairs Office 138 Art and Design (Ellen DeWaard, Coordinator of Graduate Academic Affairs (edewaard@illinois.edu). It is the student's responsibility to see that this signed form is on deposit in this office the semester prior to the last year of graduate study.

THESIS COMMITTEE APPROVAL FORM

COLLEGE OF FINE AND APPLIED ARTS
SCHOOL OF ART + DESIGN
GRADUATE PROGRAMS

The appointment of the MFA Thesis Committee

Print student name

The following faculty members have agreed to serve as Thesis Committee Members for the above MFA degree candidate.

Name	Signature	date
1. _____ Thesis Committee Chair	_____	_____
2. _____ Committee Member	_____	_____
3. _____ Committee Member	_____	_____

All signatures must appear on the MFA Candidate's final thesis.