

**CHANGES IN THE MFA DEGREE PROGRAM
DESIGN PROGRAM
Department of Environmental Design - HARCS**

**GRADUATE COUNCIL REVIEW SUBMISSION
Approved by Graduate Council on April 21, 2006**

1. Date and Manner of Approval for the Proposed Changes to the Master of Fine Arts in Textile Arts and Costume Design.

The number of original faculty in the MFA in Textile Arts and Costume Design program has drastically diminished since its inception in 1990. Of the original 5 faculty in the program, (Professors Hethorn, Laky, Rivers, Shawcroft and Stabb), only one faculty member, Victoria Rivers, is active in the day-to day function of the degree program. Professor Hawthorn took another position after failing to obtain tenure. Within the past 3 years, Professors Stabb retired, followed by Professor Laky in July, 2005. About 6 years ago, Professor Gotelli, (who retired in July, 2005), and Professor Sylva (who remains in the program), became actively engaged in teaching seminars and mentoring students, to reflect the expanding boundaries of the field. Professor Shawcroft remains on the faculty, but is relatively inactive in program activities.

Over the past two years, the Design Program has renewed its permanent faculty with 5 new hires. The current number of ladder faculty is 10 and there is an on-going search for two additional faculty. In the process of reviewing the changes in the major overall and the temporary suspension for the MFA in Textile Arts and Costume Design Program, the faculty agreed wholeheartedly that an "across-the-major" MFA program should be instituted to expand the current program. In a faculty meeting in June of 2005, the faculty agreed to the concept and began planning for the new approach. It was decided that the structure of the existing MFA degree program would be maintained, but that the coursework options would be broadened to include all of the basic disciplinary programs and better encompass all areas of faculty research expertise in the Design Program. These areas include Visual Communication, Interior Architecture and Lighting Design, and Textile Arts and Fashion Design. Subsequent to that agreement, the faculty participated in planning the revised program and the following proposal represents that consensus of efforts. A separate proposal to change the name of the program from MFA in Textile Arts and Costume Design to MFA in Design will be submitted with this action. On February 10, 2006 the Design Faculty unanimously approved the program set forth in these documents and the Graduate Program By-Laws submitted separately.

2. Summary of the Revisions and Rationale for the Proposed Changes

The basic changes and rationales included in this submission are the following:

a. Change the name of the MFA Program from Textile Arts and Costume Design to MFA in Design. The new name will address the across-the-major approach to the graduate studies program. This will be a simple name change with no associated fundamental change in the nature of the degree program nor any need for substantial new resources.

b. Revise the faculty participation in the MFA in Design from its emphasis on the faculty in textiles and costume design to include faculty from all disciplines of the Design Program.

Original Faculty

Janet Hethorn (no longer employed)
JoAnn Stabb (retired)
Gyongy Laky (retired)
Dolph Gotelli (retired)
Barbara Shawcroft (leave)
Victoria Rivers

Proposed Design MFA Faculty

Susan Avila
Glenda Drew
Patricia Harrison
Tim McNeil
Danh Nguyen
Kosta Papamichael
Victoria Rivers
Ann Savageau
Michael Siminovitch
Kathi Sylva

+ Two faculty by Fall, 2006

- c. Change the curriculum of the program to include all of the represented areas of design taught in the program and open up special studies opportunities to all faculty.
- d. Address the space issues in the last Program Review. This is discussed in the next item.

3. Changes in Response to Recommendations of the Recent PRC Report

The Program Review of 2000 that resulted in the suspension of admissions to the MFA in Textile Arts and Costume Design focused on two key elements:

- a. The space allotted to the program was inadequate.

The Design Program has gained new space that can be dedicated to the MFA Program in both the short and long term. This topic is discussed in detail in the attached Appendix A. The Design Program proposes to admit students in a gradual manner over the next 3-4 years and space allotments will to expand to address the greater number of graduate students satisfactorily.

- b. The faculty support and cooperation with the program was inadequate.

This was a reasonable complaint although faculty in the MFA Program attempted to address problems in several ways. Although there was a reduction in faculty engaged in the program, new faculty were added to the group in advisory roles, particularly in the areas of critique of work, and exhibition planning. Emily DuBois, a 3 year, term-appointed lecturer was also hired to mentor graduate students for a period of time.

The second, more contentious issue was harder to address and has resolved itself through retirements. The overall climate in Design has been greatly improved. The present faculty of the Design Program has been built around the concept of collaboration and cooperation. Our new faculty members are collaborating in teaching and research and are most eager to work with graduate students in highly cooperative, cross-disciplinary efforts.

- 4. The original documents for the MFA in Textile Arts and Costume Design are no longer available in computer format. Therefore, a copy of the original document has been provided with this material. The new program is essentially the same as the old, but in the following document, changes from the original are underlined for your review.

DEGREE REQUIREMENTS FOR THE MFA IN DESIGN

January 2006, Revised April 11, 2006

Approved by Graduate Council on April 21, 2006

Master's Degree Requirements

1. **Admission Requirements.** Applicants to the MFA in Design must hold undergraduate degrees in design or related fields such as art, art history, architecture or industrial design. They must demonstrate breadth in foundation courses such as two-and-three-dimensional composition, drawing, media, computer graphics, design and art history, and related social sciences. Undergraduate studies should include 48 units of upper division design or topics related to the emphasis areas of design taught in this program. Some flexibility in the stated requirements is essential to incorporate candidates with broad experiential backgrounds.

Students who are deficient in background academic preparation but are otherwise well-qualified may be admitted but will be required to complete appropriate undergraduate courses at UCD to provide the necessary background for success with graduate studies in Design. These courses must be completed within the first year of enrollment in the Design MFA program.

Entrance Application. The entrance application will consist of a portfolio of not more than 20 slides, photographs or digital images of creative work demonstrating the applicant's level of conceptual thinking and technical design skills. A statement of purpose letter, transcripts of schools attended, and three letters of recommendation must also be included in the application. GRE scores are not required.

2. **Master's Degree Offered:** MFA in Design, Plan I. The thesis may be substituted with an exhibition of substantial creative work in combination with a report documenting processes and theoretical exploration. The thesis project will be approved by the graduate advisors in terms of content and expected body of work. The MFA in Design is a two-year program with a 72-unit requirement of acceptable graduate, upper division, and professional courses.

3. **Course Requirements - Core and Electives**

CORE COURSES - MFA IN DESIGN

The following courses will be required of all Design graduate students, regardless of their emphasis area. Course content will bridge issues of individual disciplines in design and develop interdisciplinary understanding of the field: its theory, practice, and challenges.

Design 221: Theory and Issues in Design

(4 units - 3 hours of seminar/week) Required each year. The content will vary each year to present a timely perspective on the design professions.

Topics may include:

- Sustainability: environmental, cultural, historical
- New Technology: implications, issues, new materials and potential
- Form and Meaning: changing form as result of meaning/technology
- Gestalt Principles in design
- Interdisciplinary issues in design
- Feminist and/or Gender theory
- Material culture and its benefits and consequences

Format:

Readings, discussion, lectures, short papers, and student presentations.

Design 222: Research Methods and Critical Writing

(4 units - 3 hours of seminar/week) May be repeated once. Course content will focus on research interests of students in conjunction with research methodology.

Topics may include:

- Research sources and methods in design topics
- Case studies

Original and secondary sources
Critical reviews (book or exhibition)

Format:

Readings, discussion, writing exercises. Expectation of a paper of a professional standard suitable for publication from each student at end of course.

Design 223: Professional Practice

(4 units - 3 hours of seminar/week)

Topics include:

Professional ethics
Diversity in professional practice
Professional practices, contracts, business operations
Professional organizations
Professional responsibilities: social and personal
Entering academia, the corporate environment, or starting a business or studio
Advancing the field

Format:

Readings, discussion, lectures, field trips.

Design 224: Seminar in Design Research

(4 units --1 hour seminar/week, 4 hours lecture/week) May be repeated once. Cannot be substituted for 221, 222, 223. Content for graduate student research will be pertinent to the undergraduate course associated with the course. See below.

Topics include:

Research methodologies for gathering, developing and analyzing information
Formulating the inquiry
Compiling, managing data
Citations and references
Preparing abstracts
Submitting papers for peer review
Presentation of a paper

Format:

Research in selected topic under guidance by a faculty member. Students will be expected to attend concurrent lectures in a relevant undergraduate design history courses such as Design 136A, 137A, 142A, 142B, 143, 144, or 145. These are undergraduate design history courses and will offer graduate students experience in the teaching of theory/history. Expectation of a paper of a professional standard suitable for publication from each student at end of course.

ADDITIONAL COURSES

Core courses will be taken by all Design graduate students. Additional courses as noted below will be focused on a specific design discipline or combination of disciplines. The student with the assistance of the advisory committee will select topics for research. It is through these courses that the student will engage in advanced studies to explore an emphasis area and related disciplines. Work should build the body of knowledge that will frame the final exhibition or thesis.

Design 290: Topic Seminar (Emphasis area)

(4-8 units)

Specialized research seminars focusing on emphasis area with interest in technological, social, or other influences that promote creative changes. Courses may be repeated with different subject matter.

Topics might include:

New forms & concepts in textiles & fashion
New forms & concepts in visual communication
New forms & concepts in interior design

New forms & concepts in furniture design
New forms & concepts in exhibition design
Critique of visual culture
Surface Design & Pattern
Text & Image
New Media

Format:

Readings, discussion, lectures, writing exercises, verbal critiques, field trips.

Design 292: Practicum

Students may also elect to enroll in Design 292 practicum (internship) for a maximum of 12 units as a part of the elective requirements.

Design 299: Research Projects (Emphasis area)
(4-8 units)

Individualized program of study. Topics to be chosen by student with approval of instructor. Contract with faculty member for scope of project, experimentation, and anticipated outcomes.

Design 299D: Thesis Project/Research Paper
(up to 12 units, final quarter) Approval of the Advisory Committee.

Elective Courses from Other Campus Departments

MFA students may take a maximum of six upper division or graduate courses (24 units) outside of the Design Program. These courses must supplement their degree studies in a substantive manner and must be approved by the Graduate Advisory Committee. Students may appeal this requirement.

4. Special Requirements: None

5. Committees:

a. Admissions Committee

The faculty of the Design MFA Program will constitute the Admissions Committee. The Graduate Advisor for the MFA Design Program will be the Committee Chair.

The committee will function in the following manner:

Faculty will screen initial applications and select candidates for a required interview.

Faculty will determine the number of students to be admitted to each emphasis area and compare the study interests of applicants across the major to select a cohesive class group. Faculty will then review final applications and vote on recommended admits. Graduate Studies will approve and notify selected students by March 15. A preliminary offer of block grant funds, non-resident tuition, academic appointments, and scholarships will be addressed in the initial letter to the applicant.

Students will be expected to sign and return a statement of intent to register. Applicants will be ranked and the number of applicants to be accepted will be notified of the opportunity to enter the program. Students who were not accepted and students in a "wait list" category will be notified at the same time. This should be accomplished by the end of March annually.

b. Advising and Thesis Committees

Incoming graduate students will be introduced to the entire faculty and research interests will be shared and discussed. Each student will be appointed a faculty advisor to assist with his/her initial program development and written study plan upon entry to the program. At the end of the second quarter each student will select an Advisory Committee composed of three faculty members. The student selects the committee chair from the Design faculty as the individual to sign for completion of degree requirements and the culmination of the program. Each committee must have two Design faculty, but the third committee member may come from another campus unit. The committee will work with the student to review, modify, and finalize the program of

study. The initial study plan and any committee approved revisions will be kept on file in the advising office.

Any student may request a review at any time with the committee and invited others. Each student is subject to two formal reviews:

1) For first year students a progress review is held late in spring quarter of the first year. After this review, the student will be informed if he or she will be permitted to continue to the second year.

2) For second year students the review is held early-to-mid winter quarter. The student shall meet with the Advisory Committee to evaluate the student progress in the program. The result of this review is permission to advance to candidacy and to begin work on the Design 299D (exhibition or thesis project) course in spring quarter.

6. Advising Structure and Mentoring

The Graduate Advisor shall be appointed by the Associate Dean of Graduate Studies for a three year term. The Graduate Advisor will be responsible for management of all matters related to the graduate program including advertising, admissions, funding, curriculum, development, mentoring and advising, and thesis exhibitions. The Graduate Advisor will consult with the chair on program funding, space and equipment needs, and other issues related to the successful delivery of the MFA program. Any disputes between graduates students and committees shall be mediated by the Graduate Advisor. External mediation sources may be sought in difficult cases.

The Design MFA Program will follow the Mentoring Guidelines created by the Graduate Council. Before a student begins selection of his/her committee, the Graduate Advisor will discuss the mentoring process with graduate students and they will be provided with a copy of the guidelines. When the student selects the Advisory Committee a meeting between student and committee will again address the goals of the mentoring process and refer to the guidelines as the key for mentoring activities.

7. Advancement to Candidacy

Second year students are required to undergo a second-year review with the Advisory Committee early-to-mid winter quarter. The result of this review is permission to advance to candidacy and to begin work on the Design 299D (exhibition or thesis project) course in spring quarter. Should the student not be prepared for advancement to candidacy, a clear outline of deficiencies will be provided to the student along with a timeline for rectification of deficiencies in the graduate work. If the student is unable to meet the timeline, he/she will be subject to disqualification from the program if they do not address deficiencies in the first year.

8. Typical Timeline and Sequence of Events

Students with deficiencies in preparation for admission to the MFA in Design Program will be encouraged to make up the deficiencies prior to admission to the graduate program. Students with minor deficiencies that could be addressed with one or two courses, but whose academic and creative record is otherwise strong, may be admitted with the condition that the deficiencies be made up within the first year of the MFA program. Students will not be permitted to advance to the second year without meeting this condition and will be subject to disqualification from the program.

The annual report to the Office of Graduate Studies regarding student progress will also be an opportunity for an in-depth evaluation of the student's progress by the advisory committee. Students who are not progressing in a satisfactory manner may be placed on probation and monitored closely for remedial efforts. If a student appears to be unsuitable for continued work, the advisory committee will confer with the student on options for withdrawal or transfer to another discipline.

9. Sources of Funding

The Design MFA Program has no external funding sources for students at this time. Funding will be departmental, from L&S, or the Office of Graduate Studies. The faculty is eager to develop external support for research activities, and hope that graduate funding will be

developed in coming years. In the program's reconstituted format and with greater faculty participation, new funding sources will be more readily developed.

10. PELP and Filing Fee Status

Office of Graduate Studies and Graduate Council policies regarding PELPs and Filing Fee Status will be adhered to by the Design MFA Program. Special circumstances for extended PELP will be discussed with students and a firm deadline for returning to studies may be instituted.

11. Thesis Requirements

The MFA in Design will require a thesis project. The thesis project will encompass a minimum of 12 units of work. The work may be the presentation a body of creative work accompanied by substantial written and visual documentation of the design process underlying the concepts of the work. This project might take several forms depending on the graduate student 's emphasis area: a) a collection of original apparel or textiles, b) a series of graphic work in print or digital media, c) an exhibition based on a research topic, d) or an interior architecture project presented in visual form. All thesis projects and documentation will be the result of original research and creative activities conducted by the student.

12. Comprehensive Examination

Not applicable.

MFA IN DESIGN**DEGREE REQUIREMENTS CHECKLIST**

1 January 2006

Student Name: _____

Campus Address: _____

Permanent Address: _____

Telephone(s): _____(h) _____(c) _____(w)

Email Address: _____

Previous Degrees, Major Concentration, and College/University:

Training at Time of Admission (Academic and Professional):

_____**MFA Coursework - First Year (36 units required)**

1st Quarter: Fall

2nd Quarter: Winter

3rd Quarter: Spring

Des 221 (4)

Design 222 (4)

Design 223 (4)

Advisory Committee:

_____Chair

First Year Review: (summary notes entered by Advisory Committee Chair)

Date: _____ Advisor: _____

MFA Coursework - Second Year (36 units required)

1st Quarter: Fall	2nd Quarter: Winter	3rd Quarter: Spring
Design 224 (4) in fall or winter term		Design 299D (12)

Second Year Review and Commencement of Thesis Project: (summary notes entered by
Advisory Committee Chair)

Date: _____ Advisor: _____

Thesis Approval by Graduate Studies: _____