Department Mission

The mission of the communication design master of fine arts (M.F.A.), a nontraditional, online, terminal degree program, is to educate a communication designer through advanced critical thinking methods, the analysis and the synthesis of communication design history and criticism, improvement of writing skills, advanced discipline research methods and the study and application of emerging visual communication theory to professional practice. The strength of the program lies in the breadth and flexibility of the students’ experience and the continual focus on creative problem solving.

Between the workshops with professional designers, opportunities for travel and the dedicated attention I received from my professors, I came away amply prepared for a great career and confident in my design sensibilities.

– Patrick Gosnell, M.F.A. ’15, Assistant Professor of Graphic Design at Austin Peay State University

The internationally recognized M.F.A. program provides students with advanced skills needed in the evolving world of communication design.

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How to Apply
For information regarding admission requirements and submission instructions, please visit: gradcollege.txstate.edu/apply

*International applicants can view specific deadlines and requirements at: gradcollege.txstate.edu/international

Important Deadlines*
Admissions
Fall: March 31
Spring: October 31
Summer: No admission
Funding: Scholarships, Fellowships and Assistantships
The deadlines to apply for scholarship, fellowship and assistantship consideration may be earlier. View our web page for more details: gradcollege.txstate.edu/funding

Why choose Texas State?
Texas State’s revolutionary approach puts the needs of working designers on equal footing with full-time students. The program favors next-generation technologies for e-learning over traditional methods to teach advanced problem-solving methodologies, updated technological advancement relating to communication design and examination of historical events within the discipline and theoretical constructs.

Working professionals benefit from the program’s convenient course-delivery systems, which include online instruction, directed study, blended evening courses, weekend and international summer seminars.

Course Work
The degree will require a minimum of 60 credit hours: 18 credit hours of core curriculum, 30 credit hours of prescribed communication design studio electives, six credit hours of free electives and six credit hours of thesis. The formal thesis will represent students’ research, creation, design and documentation of an original hypothesis in communication design. The exchange of ideas on an international basis is an important component of the program. Students may enroll in studio course electives that include field trips to destinations important to the world of communication design.

Faculty
M.F.A. faculty demonstrate sustained activity in peer-reviewed forums, as well as through extensive commissions, invited talks, lectures, presentations and internal and external grant awards. Recognition and publication of faculty design work is evident in published books from Graphis and Rockport and prestigious national journals such as Print and How. Faculty research topics include brand identity, typography, book design, typeface design, interactive design, the use of technology in design, student engagement, entrepreneurial ventures, design for social impact and international perspectives in design.

Career Options
The M.F.A. program provides the strategic integration of technology and insight required to innovate and thrive in the evolving field of communication design. For students seeking a career in higher education, the program provides the appropriate academic credential and the terminal degree in the discipline of visual communication design: the M.F.A. degree.