Our Mission
Committed to innovative research, design, and strategic planning of the built environment to improve people’s lives.

Program Highlights
• Design Strategy
• Sustainable Futures
• Health & Well-Being

Program Strengths
• Studio-based training in creative process and innovation.
• Research-based training for understanding human-centered design.
• Liberal Arts foundation for intellectual breadth to inform design process, thinking and decision-making.

Creating a sustainable and healthy future through design innovation and research.

Design and Environmental Analysis (DEA) combines innovative design thinking with insightful design research to understand how the built environment impacts our daily lives. Through multi-disciplinary training in human-centered design, environmental psychology, ergonomics, and facility strategy and management we tackle problems from a systems view – people, process, and place – to create strategic, sustainable, and healthy futures by design.

Design is about making things happen, not just making things.
Good design requires knowledge and imagination; it emanates from a well-rounded education grounded in the social sciences and the design arts. We believe good design is a force for social change – and we see our DEA students as future change agents.

DEA students explore human-centered design + analysis on multiple levels – people, process, and place – with the goal to create strategic, healthy, and sustainable futures by design.

People. Good design responds to human need. It is socially responsible, responsive, and ambitious. Through scholarly, effective listening good designers transform problems into opportunities for people to live and perform optimally. Our students study human-centered design, a focus that crosses design disciplines by placing human experience and engagement at the center of creative problem-solving.

Process. DEA blends studio-based training with scholarly research to inform creative process. This dual focus gives students a unique foundation for practice because they understand design from a systems perspective – individual needs in the context of broader social, technical, and global influences.

Place. DEA students learn that ‘place’ represents a continuum of experience that crosses multiple design disciplines and scales. For example, graphic, interior, and product design express values and choreograph behaviors; ergonomics, facility planning and interface design manage interactions with users and technology; and policy and community...
Design + Analysis
A unique blend of creative exploration and analytical rigor which develops innovative and effective professionals.
- Design Thinking | Analytical Thinking
- Design Methods | Research Methods
- Problem Seeking | Problem Solving
- Exploration | Research
- Visual | Verbal Communication
- Introspection | Outreach
- Theory | Application
- Precedent | Invention

Requirements in the Major

Foundation Courses (14 Credits)
- Making a Difference by Design
- Introduction to Environmental Psychology
- Career Explorations
- Design Graphics and Visualization
- Visual Literacy and Design Studio

Core Courses (13 Credits)
- Problem Seeking and Programming
- History of Design Futures
- Design Methods
- Research Methods
- Professional Practice, Ethics, Entrepreneurship
- Professional Communication and Portfolio

Theme Focus Courses (30-36 Credits)
Selection of 2000-4000 level DEA lecture and studio courses

Electives (24+ Credits)
Choice of campus-wide courses

Selected Graduates

Design Strategy
Strategic Planner, IA Interior Architects
Creative Strategist, Facebook
Store Planner, Louis Vuitton
Workplace Strategist, Gensler
Hospitality Designer, Tony Chi + Associates
Interior Designer, STUDIOS Architecture
Workplace Planner, Google
Design Strategist, Continuum
Analyst, Deloitte Consulting
Research Fellow, Herman Miller Inc.

Sustainable Futures
LEED-Certified Designer, Leo A. Daly
Development Coordinator, Urban Green Council
Facility Planner, Perkins+Will
Sustainability Designer, HOK Architects
Event Planner, U.S. Green Building Council
Lighting Designer, Theo Kondos and Associates
Entrepreneur, Agrowculture
Sustainability Consultant, Cosentini
Construction
Researcher, Clean Energy Business Council

Health + Well-Being
Ergonomics Designer, Apple
Space Analyst, Brigham and Women’s Hospital
Physician, Clinical Research for Medical Devices
UX Designer/Ergonomist, Cleveland Clinic
Ergonomist, Humanscale
Product Designer, IDEO
Interaction Designer, Palm
Usability Specialist, MedCareers.com
Healthcare Designer, CAMA Inc.

Graduates develop expertise in their chosen area and interface with students and faculty who have expertise in the other two areas through collaborative studios and interdisciplinary project teams. Working with faculty from a broad range of disciplines, they combine academic course work, field experience, and applied research to solve problems. DEA students also take advantage of multiple international exchange study opportunities.

Facilities
Students learn in the classroom but also through hands-on experiential learning, building, and making. Students have access to excellent studio space, research labs, computer facilities, and fabrication shops including 3-D printing, laser cutters, and assembly space.

Careers
DEA students and alumni are part designer, psychologist, researcher, and business strategist. The breadth and depth of their unique education coupled with their practical experiences result in careers that span a range of professional opportunities. Many also pursue advanced degrees including a 4+1 fast track Masters degree through the department for qualified DEA undergraduates. Visit the department website for more information.

Graduates of the program are highly sought after and valued for their intellectual range, their systems approach to problem solving, and their strong analytical skills. They are collaborative, responsive leaders who bring innovation and social responsibility to practice.

For More Information
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