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.

**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.

**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**
- Design Strategy, IA Interior Architects
- Creative Strategist, Facebook
- Store Strategist, Louis Vuitton
- Workplace Strategist, Gensler
- Hospitality Strategist, Tony Chi + Associates
- Interior Strategist, STUDIO Architects
- Workplace Strategist, Google
- Design Strategist, Continuum
- Analyst, Deloitte Consulting
- Research Fellow, Herman Miller Inc.

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

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

**Curriculum**
DEA offers an integrative, flexible curriculum that is student-centric. Students complete common foundation courses and then build expertise within a focus area utilizing electives from the broad course offerings within Human Ecology and at Cornell to support their individual goals. Students can also elect to complete a minor, honor’s thesis, or pursue an off-campus study experience. The curriculum is organized around the following three primary themes:

**Design Strategy**
- Human-centered design
- Creative design process and methods
- Brand identity and positioning
- Workplace strategy
- Organizational culture
- Strategic business planning

**Sustainable Futures**
- Regenerative and resilient design
- Life-cycle evaluation and LEED
- Triple bottom line: E3
- Sustainable construction management
- Green ergonomics
- Sustainable materials and processes

**Health and Well-Being**
- Human health and wellness
- Healing and healthcare design
- Understanding environmental stressors
- Inclusive design
- Design across the life-course
- Design for human potential

Students 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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