Design

At the College of Design, NC State University, the mission of the Doctoral Programs in Design (comprising both the Ph.D. and D.Des. programs) is to improve the human condition through design research and scholarship. This mission is built in equal parts on the recognition of a fertile common ground among the design disciplines and on the need for specificity and depth within them.

The Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) in Design program values a broad range of research interests. The aim of the Ph.D. in Design is to prepare students holding previous degrees in design disciplines to conduct research in the areas of: design for health and well-being; design for learning; design for sustainability; design and technology; design and the urban context; design methods; and design history and criticism.

The Doctor of Design (D.Des.) program provides distance-education opportunities for established design professionals to conduct original investigations using design practices, cases, and methods. D.Des. students pursue practice-based design research in support of professions creating the artifacts, communications, environments, and organizing systems of the future.

Both programs provide a forum for connecting design research to the needs of society, by promoting the application of new knowledge in design and addressing design impacts on larger systems.

Doctoral Degree Requirements

Both programs of study require a minimum of 54 credit hours of graduate work beyond the Master’s degree.

More Information

Design Program Website (https://design.ncsu.edu/admissions/graduate-admissions/)

Admission Requirements

For admission to both the Ph.D. and D.Des. programs, submit official transcripts from each earned undergraduate and graduate degrees (required); three letters of reference; TOEFL scores (for international students); residency statement (US residents only); College of Design personal data form; statement of research intent; and portfolio. GRE scores are not required for Ph.D. in Design applicants. If reasoning and writing ability is clearly demonstrated through previous graduate degrees, or professional or academic work products and impact, D.Des. applicants may ask for a waiver of GRE scores.

Applicant Information

Design (PhD)
- Delivery Method: On Campus
- Entrance Exam: None
- Interview Required: None

Design (DDes)
- Delivery Method: On-Campus, Online, Hybrid
- Entrance Exam: None
- Interview Required: None

Application Deadlines

Fall: January 15 (for PhD program); March 1 (for DDes program)

Degrees

- Design (PhD) (http://catalog.ncsu.edu/graduate/design/design/design-phd/)
- Design (DDes) (http://catalog.ncsu.edu/graduate/design/design/design-ddes/)

Faculty

Full Professors
Robin Fran Abrams
Helen Saunders Armstrong
Thomas M. Barrie
Bryan Bell Jr.
Kofi Malik Boone
Soolyeon Cho
Chandra D. Cox
Margaret Elen Deming
Andrew Alan Fox
Dana Kathleen Gulling
David Brian Hill
Mark Elison Hoversten
Sharon Melissa Bennett Joines
Robin C. Moore
Wayne Place
J. Mark Scearce
Gavin Paul Smith

Associate Professors
Tania Leigh Allen
Timothy W. Buie
George Elvin
Burak Erdim
Patrick J. Fitzgerald
Russell Alan Flinchum
Carolina Gill
Derek Allen Ham
Jianxin Hu
Deborah K. Littlejohn
Fernando H. Magallanes
Patricia E Morgado
Celen Pasalar
Matthew O. Peterson
Sara Glee Queen
Traci Rose Rider
Kristen J. Schaffer
Kelly Ann Umstead

Assistant Professors
Todd Michael Berreth
Renae N. Mantooth
Lesley-Ann Melanie Noel

Emeritus Faculty
Eugene H Bressler
Denise Gonzales Crisp
Meredith Joy Davis
Haig Khachatoorian
Bryan W. Laffitte
Arthur R Rice
Kathleen Callahan Rieder
Paul Tesar

Practice/Research/Teaching Professors
Nilda Graciela Cosco
Emily Ryan McCoy
Marshall E. Purnell