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.

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 required for all Ph.D. 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.

Doctoral Degree Requirements

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

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
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