Industrial Design

Industrial Design is the professional service of creating and developing concepts and specifications that optimize the value, function and appearance of products and product systems to the mutual benefit of both user and manufacturer. This service is often provided in the context of a cooperative working relationship with other members of a development group.

Typical groups include management, marketing, engineering and manufacturing specialists. Industrial designers place special emphasis on human characteristics, needs and interests. These require particular understanding of visual, tactile, safety and convenience criteria. Industrial designers combine these considerations with practical concern for technical processes and requirements for manufacture; marketing opportunities and economic constraints; and distribution, sales and servicing arrangements. Industrial designers are guided by the awareness of their obligations to protect and promote public safety and well-being; to respect the environment; and to observe ethical business practices. Augmenting transdisciplinary practices, emerging areas of industrial design include design research and experience design.

Graduates with a Master of Industrial Design have career opportunities in four general areas; corporate design offices in manufacturing companies, design consulting firms, governmental agencies and educational institutions.

Admissions Requirements

Students must make application to the Department of Graphic Design and Industrial Design by January 5. In addition to Graduate School requirements, the Department requires department personal data forms, a digital portfolio of design work, resume, and a statement of intent. The GRE is required for students whose first degree is not in Industrial Design.

Master’s Requirements

The Master of Industrial Design degree requires a minimum of

- 48 credit hours for applications with a Bachelor's degree in Industrial Design (Track II), or
- 78 credit hours for applications with Bachelor's degrees in an area other than Industrial Design (Track III).

The program generally does not accept transfer credits in lieu of required coursework at NC State. Studio credits presented for elective transfer must be accompanied by a portfolio of work from the courses under consideration.

Student Financial Support

The Department has limited provisions for tuition remission and assistantships. Assistantships are awarded on the basis of student and departmental needs. Assistantship requests should be made to the Department of Graphic Design and Industrial Design and should be submitted with the application for admission (for incoming students) or by advertised deadline (for continuing students).