

School of Design

Contact Information:

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Administration:

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 Associate Director Graphic Design: Sharon Oiga
 Associate Director Industrial Design: Sung Jang
 Associate Director Design Studies: Robert Zolna

Grounded in studio-based instruction and deeply concerned with the human experience, UIC Design programs are organized to reflect and to advance developments in the field. Students develop formal, conceptual, and technical skills necessary to engage in contemporary design practice. Advanced students are provided opportunities to work collaboratively in interdisciplinary teams, often engaging with partners in community or industry. Through exposure to design practices, exhibitions, and critical observation, students experience Chicago as a global design center.

The School offers two undergraduate degrees: Bachelor of Design (BDes) and Bachelor of Arts in Design Studies (BA in Design Studies). The four-year BDes offers focused professional education in a specific discipline, either Graphic Design or Industrial Design. The BA in Design Studies offers a hands-on education in design practices that range from typographic forms and systems to design research methods, and the design requirements for the degree can be completed in three years. Curricula for both programs focus on critical contemporary challenges in the field and prepare students to engage the complex demands of a rapidly changing professional environment.

All UIC Design students participate in the Foundations Program. Students interested in pursuing the Bachelor of Design must complete the full Foundations Program, comprising six studio courses that introduce various techniques in two- and three-dimensional form-making and conceptual visualization in preparation for advanced design studies. Students in the Bachelor of Arts in Design Studies program participate partially in the Foundations Program, taking four studio courses that explore color theory and the use of analog and digital methods in design visualization.

Bachelor of Design

The UIC Bachelor of Design (BDes) offers a focused, studio-intensive professional education that prepares students for direct entry into professional practice in graphic design or industrial design and the related outgrowths of these disciplines in an expanding job market. Upon completion of the full Foundations Program students undergo a portfolio review in consideration for acceptance into a major area of study: Graphic Design or Industrial Design.

Graphic Design

Graphic design makes ideas visible. Instruction combines the art of typography with the skillful rendering of signs, symbols, and images. The practice of graphic design serves to communicate, distinguish,

characterize, clarify, brand, instruct, guide, promote, and inform. Students learn to communicate visually—and compellingly—across print and digital media in the service of community, industry, and the greater good.

Industrial Design

Industrial design makes ideas tangible. Instruction combines conceptual and material articulation and fabrication of usable objects and systems. The practice of industrial design serves human needs and interests, in the form of user-centered, making-oriented, or conceptually motivated designs. Students learn to think critically about their intent to create an artifact or an experience, and are asked to understand and account for its potential consequences toward a lasting and positive effect on the world at large.

Bachelor of Arts in Design Studies

The Bachelor of Arts in Design Studies (BA in Design Studies) offers a hands-on education in a range of design practices. Centered on a sequence of core studio courses, the BA in Design Studies integrates skills and methods from graphic design, industrial design, design history and theory, and design research within the context of a research university in order to foster exploration across the sciences and humanities. The BA in Design Studies is ideal for students looking to study widely across the university while earning a foundational education in the material methods and practices of design as well as those learning to earn a second degree that will complement an education in the liberal arts and sciences. It is also well-suited for those who are seeking a design degree after already completing several semesters of higher education. Students interested in pursuing the BA in Design Studies participate partially in the Foundations Program and can apply directly to the degree program.

Degree Programs

- [BDes in Graphic Design](#)
- [BDes in Industrial Design](#)
- [BA in Design Studies](#)