Design a new future

The goal of our MA and MFA in Interdisciplinary Design programs is to prepare students to face the changing role of today’s designers and embrace new creative opportunities as they arise. At the core of this program is the ability to develop critical connections between the designer, the designed, and the end-user. The MAID and MFAID also bridge creativity with spatial planning, environmental graphics, and story-telling through branded identities.

The MA is a three-term, 30 credit-hour program that can be completed in one year. Students who wish to earn the MFA in Interdisciplinary Design can continue for an additional year (36 credit hours).

chatham.edu/design
The MA/MFA in Interdisciplinary Design is a program within Chatham University’s SCHOOL OF ARTS, SCIENCE, AND BUSINESS. Programs in the School of Arts, Science, and Business leverage Chatham’s strengths in the liberal arts, business, communications, and the arts, and complement them with professional preparation that helps students prepare for their futures and the next steps in their professional and academic careers.

**PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS**

- These programs uniquely integrate elements of visual communication design; film and digital technology; and interior architecture to prepare versatile designers who are able to respond to creative challenges in a range of media.
- Students will build traditional design skills in visual communication (branding, packaging, typography) while exploring specialized fields of sustainable design; film and video; and interactive design.
- A hands-on, industry-ready approach, combined with small, intimate classes allows you to customize your activities according to your interests and areas of specialization.
- The curriculum offers concentration tracks in video and interactive media as well as specialized courses in spatial planning and retail environment taught by our cohort in interior architecture.
- Students can take advantage of Pittsburgh’s professional design resources and organizations such as AIGA PGH, the Professional Association for Design, Pittsburgh Filmmakers, Artist Image Resource, and TechShop Pittsburgh.

“Because of the rapidly changing nature of these fields, responsiveness and adaptability are at least as important as any specific skill. The best thing we can do for our students is teach them to teach themselves, which is what they will need to do as technology continues to evolve.”

— PRAJNA PARASHER, PH.D., professor and chair of Arts, Design, and Communication; program director of film and digital technology program
**SAMPLE COURSES**

**VCD 610 Sustainable Graphic Design**
Students will explore the concept of sustainable design within the context of graphic design. Through studio projects and exercises, students will develop an understanding of green graphic design standards: material health/selection, production techniques, eco-labeling/packaging, and green branding. Strategies will address environmental, social and cultural implications within core graphic design practices.

**VCD 620 Digital Illustration Methods**
Digital illustration tools and methods are explored within the context of publication and branding. The contemporary illustrator becomes a conceptual interpreter of content through the potential mixing of primary graphic assets and secondary collected and manipulated graphic assets from digital archives and resources. Methods of information gathering are developed from photography, library and archival research. This course includes a foundation to Wacom drawing tablet capabilities. Processes and techniques from printmaking, painting, 2-D design, photography and drawing are mediated through digital software and hardware.

**FDT 676 Media Project IV: Visual Effects and Animation Modes**
Extends to visual effects, animation modes, and compositing. The class focuses on motion graphics and visual effects modes of animation. Students will learn the basics of key frame animation and visual effects processes and the technical attributes of animation and effects. Assignments will assist students in discovering practical uses of the technology and aesthetic reasoning for using effects and motion graphics over other types of media. Individual project grades will be based on technical proficiency, depth of content, experimentation, innovation, ambition, effort, and final portfolio submission.

**FUNDING**
Save big on your tuition bill. Chatham offers a 20% tuition reduction through its partnership with selected employers. Before you apply, visit chatham.edu/extendedbenefits to find out if you could qualify for this special offer.

**LEARN MORE**
chatham.edu/design/curriculum.cfm
APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

• Possession of a bachelor’s degree in media arts, graphic design, photography, film, visual arts, communication, or a closely-related discipline from an accredited college or university.
• Overall undergraduate grade point average (GPA) of 3.0 or above on a 4.0 scale. (Probationary admission may be granted for applicants with a GPA of less than a 3.0 who show extreme promise through their other achievements.)
• Completed application for admission, including:
  – Official transcripts from all colleges and universities attended
  – Online application
  – Resume and/or additional supporting information on professional or volunteer activities
  – One to two page essay detailing your reasons for wanting to pursue a master’s degree in interdisciplinary design. Please also indicate if you have proficiency in each of the individual software applications: photoshop, illustrator, indesign, dreamweaver
  – Portfolio or other examples of your work in various forms of media; please provide a wide array of two-dimensional works: drawing, painting, printmaking, photography, graphics, etc.
  – Two letters of recommendation

APPLICATION DEADLINES

• Fall Deadline: July 1
• Spring Deadline: November 1

Apply online at chatham.edu/apply