The Department of Design advances the professional work of thoughtful, creative, and meaningful design to delight, inspire, and serve the needs of people. Design is the planning that lays the basis for creation and development of every object or system people use. Design programs train students to be problem solvers who consider the aesthetic, functional, and user-focused aspects of an object or a process. This requires considerable integrative research, thought, modeling, interactive adjustments, and redesign.

The M.A in Design with a concentration in Design Management and Strategy explores in depth the design function in business as an important integrative, and often interdisciplinary, area. The curriculum couples a rigorous, practical understanding of business with design's natural capacity for handling diverse input, creative problem-solving, and human-centered understanding.

The Design Management and Strategy program is for prospective students who already hold design-related baccalaureate degrees and are seeking specialized study in management. Applicants should have at least 2 years of full-time professional work experience in design or a design-related field.

The master’s student in design management and strategy should demonstrate an advanced ability to solve design problems, manage teams and processes, communicate clearly, and produce excellent artifacts. This requires considerable integrative research, thought, modeling, interactive adjustments, and redesign.

A complete application for admission consists of the following materials:

1. Graduate application (http://www.graduat.ku.edu/) and application fee (See Admission in the Graduate Studies (http://catalog.ku.edu/graduate-studies/) section of the online catalog for further information);
2. 1 unofficial copy of the transcript from all colleges or universities attended, showing receipt of a bachelor’s degree, and 1 unofficial copy of the transcript showing any graduate degree or credit earned;
3. 3 letters of recommendation from people in a position to comment on your abilities and performance;
4. Statement of design philosophy and approach;
5. A portfolio of your design work, or if your previous degree was not in a design related discipline, samples of written work or other creative artifacts you have produced. Portfolio should represent the scope of your experience, knowledge, skills, and abilities to date. Please include documentation of each project: the challenge it was intended to address, the process involved, your role and the role of others in its execution. Please upload your portfolio digitally under “other documents” during the online application process. The portfolio is limited to 10 megabytes (not zipped) in PDF format;
6. For international students, a financial statement showing minimum financial support for the first year of study (see the Admissions page on the school’s website (http://www.sadp.ku.edu/)).
7. Evidence of language proficiency if the native tongue is not English.
8. Graduate Record Examination (GRE) test results (preferred).

Submit your graduate application and application materials online (http://www.graduat.ku.edu/). Please contact the Admissions Coordinator if you have any questions:

The University of Kansas Department of Design
Admissions Coordinator
1465 Jayhawk Blvd., Room 205
Lawrence, KS 66045
785-864-3167
jweaver@ku.edu
Master of Arts in Design with Concentration in Design Management

Prerequisites

REQUIRED COURSES (16 credit hours)
- ADS 712
- ADS 714
- ADS 750
- ADS 751
- ADS 760
- Research (1 credit hour) *
- ADS 861 Thesis Research Seminar

*All online course

ELECTIVE COURSES (12 credit hours)
- Design Electives 6 hours (choose two)
- ADS 710
- ADS 740
- ADS 765
- Outside Design Department
- Electives (6 hours)
- 500-level and above numbered courses
- PRACTICUM (3 credit hours at least)
- ADS 890

Course and Credit Distribution Requirements

Total Credit Hours 31

CORE COURSES (12 credit hours)
- ADS 750 Design Management (3)
- ADS 712 Design Strategies & Methods (3)
- ADS 760 Strategic Design Innovation (3)
- ADS 714 Designing Business Services & Consumer Services (3)

RESEARCH
- ADS 860 Graduate Synthesis & Applications Seminar 1 x 2 (2)
- ADS 861 Thesis Research Seminar (1)

PRACTICA
- ADS 890 Thesis (1-8 cr) (3)

ELECTIVES IN DESIGN (9)
Select 3 or more from the following:
- ADS 751 Creating Design Scenarios & Simulations (3)
- ADS 765 Interaction Design (3)
- ADS 745 Branding & Design (3)
- ADS 770 Design Cognition (3)
- ADS 710 Advanced Human Factors in Design (3)
- ADS 540 History & Philosophy of Design (3)
- ADS 560 Topics in Design (1-3)
- ADS 740 Special Problems in Design (1-6)
- VISC 815 Graphics (2-6)

ELECTIVES OUTSIDE OF ART AND DESIGN (5)