Master of Design in Sustainable Environments

The Master of Design in Sustainable Environments (MDesSE) at Iowa State University is a graduate degree that focuses on sustainable design strategies, systems and materials for environmental and product design. The program addresses ways to envision, make and remake landscapes, communities, buildings, objects and images that conserve resources, ameliorate ecological problems and promote social, political and economic justice.

This three-semester, 35-credit graduate course of study offers opportunities to work on a variety of faculty-directed projects that may include funded research, community-based design work and theoretical investigations. The program addresses sustainable design at multiple scales, engaging both systems and artifacts.

Through this degree program, students will:
• gain awareness of individual professional roles and responsibilities for new practices, technologies and methods of design for sustainability,
• learn to engage in critical reflection in a team-based, interdisciplinary design process, and
• acquire new knowledge and skills in sustainable design that support entrepreneurship and professional leadership in the development of opportunities and markets for artists and designers.

The interdisciplinary MDesSE is geared toward students who hold professional degrees in art, architecture, landscape architecture, interior design, graphic design, industrial design, planning, and/or engineering.

How to Apply
The Master of Design in Sustainable Environments graduate program is accepting applications for consideration for fall 2016 admission. Please apply by February 1 for fall semester admission and to be fully considered for a graduate assistantship. Applications received after February 1 will continue to be reviewed as resources permit or until the cohort is full.

Application requirements include:
• ISU Graduate Admission Application
• Application fee ($60 for US residents, $100 for international applicants)
• Official academic transcripts
• Statement of Purpose
• Three letters of recommendation
• Official GRE scores
• Digital portfolio
• Resume
• Additional requirements for international applicants:
  ○ Official TOEFL or IELTS score
  ○ Financial Statement

For more information, contact:
Meredith Foley  Marwan Ghandour
Program Coordinator  Director
(515) 294-0816  (515) 294-3543
merfoley@iastate.edu  marwang@iastate.edu

www.design.iastate.edu
Study Plan (option 1)

Fall (15 credits)
SUS E 511. Sustainable Design Colloquium I. (Cr. 3)
SUS E 521. Foundations of Sustainable Design. (Cr. 3)
Case Studies in Sustainability. (Cr. 3)
Electives (Cr. 6)

Spring (15 credits)
SUS E 501. Sustainable Design Studio I (Cr. 5)
SUS E 512. Sustainable Design Colloquium II (Cr. 1)
SUS E 531. Human Dimensions of Sustainability (Cr. 3)
Research Methods. (Cr. 3)
Electives (Cr. 3)

Summer (5 credits)
SUS E 502. Sustainable Design Studio II (Cr. 5)

Study Plan (option 2)

Fall (12 credits)
SUS E 511. Sustainable Design Colloquium I. (Cr. 3)
SUS E 521. Foundations of Sustainable Design. (Cr. 3)
Case Studies in Sustainability. (Cr. 3)
Electives (Cr. 3)

Spring (12 credits)
SUS E 501. Sustainable Design Studio I (Cr. 5)
SUS E 512. Sustainable Design Colloquium II (Cr. 1)
SUS E 531. Human Dimensions of Sustainability (Cr. 3)
Research Methods. (Cr. 3)

Summer
Possible internship

Fall (11 credits)
SUS E 502. Sustainable Design Studio II (Cr. 5)
Electives (Cr. 6)

Course Descriptions

For the 2015-16 Catalog

SUS E 501. Sustainable Design Studio I
(0-10) Cr. 5. S. Prereq: 521
Addressing sustainable design at multiple scales of constructed and natural systems and artifacts, this studio engages multidisciplinary graduate students in a team-oriented, project-based learning environment. Faculty-directed projects will include theoretical investigations and applications of an interdisciplinary design process through brief readings and discussions.

SUS E 502. Sustainable Design Studio II
(0-10) Cr. 5. SS. Prereq: 501, 512, 531
This advanced studio provides a community-based context for an interdisciplinary design team to work on a variety of faculty-directed projects including funded, basic and applied research. Coursework addresses sustainable design at multiple scales, engaging both systems and artifacts. Field trips.

SUS E 511. Sustainable Design Colloquium I
(3-0) Cr. 3. F. Prereq: Admission to MDSE program
Study and discuss practices of sustainable design and design research. Investigate responsibilities, roles, technologies and methods for studying and advancing the art and science of designing sustainable environments.

SUS E 512. Sustainable Design Colloquium II
(1-0) Cr. 1. S. Prereq: 511
A graduate student-led seminar designed to foster the knowledge and skills to support innovation, entrepreneurship and leadership in the field of sustainable design. Invitation of outside speakers.

SUS E 521. Foundations of Sustainable Design
(3-0) Cr. 3. F. Prereq: Graduate standing; senior classification with instructor permission
Introduction to the broad frameworks and tools for implementing sustainability among a variety of environments, industries and enterprises. Investigates the role and opportunity for sustainable design strategies.

SUS E 531. Human Dimensions of Sustainability
(3-0) Cr. 3. S. Prereq: Graduate standing; senior classification with instructor permission
This seminar provides students from multiple disciplines with a grounding in designers’ interactions with clients, consumers, communities, cultures and biospheres. Through a review of literature and the production of new case studies in sustainable design, students discover and represent conditions in which products of design operate across scales, markets, social conditions, geographic domains, academic disciplines and zones of professional responsibility.

Electives
9 graduate credits total are required, at least 3 credits should be chosen in the area of sustainable design.