

USER EXPERIENCE DESIGN - M.S.

College of Communication and Information
 School of Information
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Description

The Master of Science degree in User Experience Design prepares students for careers that require them to apply a solid understanding of usability, content strategy, information architecture and user research.

The user experience designer engages in a variety of design activities that help produce usable interfaces and help organizations meet business goals. User experience design addresses the structural, informational, psychological and emotional aspects of what makes a successful user interface, whether it is Web, mobile, tablet or any other device.

At Kent State University, user experience design is thought of as a process where students learn, understand, imagine, evaluate and inform. The design team begins by gathering data/information about users, clients, the organizational culture, common tasks and work environments. After sufficient data/information is gathered, the team seeks to understand the context in which the project will be undertaken. This phase is the bridge between data collection and design. Design in the imagine phase involves brainstorming, iterative prototyping and critiquing. The design team needs to constantly evaluate their designs to see if they work in the real world. This may involve activities such as paper prototyping, high-fidelity interactive prototyping and usability testing. The results of design must be communicated to appropriate audiences. This informing process involves giving presentations to clients and stakeholders, report writing and other forms of communication.

Fully Offered At:

- Online

Admission Requirements

- Bachelor's degree from an accredited college or university for unconditional admission
- Minimum 3.000 undergraduate GPA on a 4.000 point scale for unconditional admission
- Official transcript(s)
- Résumé
- Goal statement
- Three letters of recommendation
- English language proficiency - all international students must provide proof of English language proficiency (unless they meet specific exceptions) by earning one of the following:
 - Minimum 587 TOEFL PBT score (paper-based version)
 - Minimum 94 TOEFL IBT score (Internet-based version)

- Minimum 82 MELAB score
- Minimum 7.0 IELTS score
- Minimum 65 PTE score

For more information about graduate admissions, please visit the Graduate Studies website. For more information on international admission, visit the Office of Global Education website.

Program Learning Outcomes

Graduates of the program will be able to:

- Create a portfolio as a means to demonstrate competencies.
- Design and conduct research in a variety of ways necessary to understand users, stakeholders and competitors.
- Apply user experience research and design techniques to solve for user needs.
- Create and evaluate structures to support information and content organization.
- Test and critique existing designs and prototypes by employing usability-testing methods.
- Communicate design ideas in a variety of ways to design teams, stakeholders and developers.
- Demonstrate ability to manage user experience activities to align UX activities to organizational goals.

Program Requirements

Major Requirements

Code	Title	Credit Hours
Major Requirements		
UXD 60001	USER EXPERIENCE DESIGN PRINCIPLES AND CONCEPTS	3
UXD 60002	USER EXPERIENCE DESIGN IN PRACTICE	3
UXD 60101	INFORMATION ARCHITECTURE I	3
UXD 60102	PRINCIPLES OF INTERACTION	3
UXD 60103	RESEARCHING THE USER EXPERIENCE I	3
UXD 60104	USABILITY I	3
UXD 60106	CONTENT STRATEGY I	3
Major Electives, choose from the following:		12
HI 60414	HUMAN FACTORS AND USABILITY IN HEALTH INFORMATICS	
LIS 60636	KNOWLEDGE ORGANIZATION STRUCTURES, SYSTEMS AND SERVICES	
UXD 60111	INFORMATION ARCHITECTURE II	
UXD 60112	INTERACTION IN PRACTICE	
UXD 60113	RESEARCHING USER EXPERIENCE II	
UXD 60114	USABILITY II	
UXD 60117	USER EXPERIENCE DESIGN LEADERSHIP	
UXD 60691	SEMINAR IN USER EXPERIENCE DESIGN	
UXD 60792	ELECTIVE INTERNSHIP IN USER EXPERIENCE DESIGN	
UXD 61095	SPECIAL TOPICS IN USER EXPERIENCE DESIGN	
Heath Informatics (HI) Courses ¹		
Knowledge Management (KM) Courses ¹		
Library and Information Science (LIS) Courses ¹		
User Experience Design (UXD) Courses		
Culminating Requirement, choose from the following:		3-6

UXD 66080	PROFESSIONAL PORTFOLIO DESIGN AND ASSESSMENT	
UXD 66092	MASTER'S INTERNSHIP IN USER EXPERIENCE DESIGN	
UXD 66098	MASTERS PROJECT IN USER EXPERIENCE DESIGN	
UXD 66198	MASTER'S RESEARCH PAPER IN USER EXPERIENCE DESIGN	
UXD 66199	THESIS I	
Minimum Total Credit Hours:		36

¹ Students may take a maximum 6 credit hours of HI, KM and/or LIS courses.