**VISUAL COMMUNICATION DESIGN - M.F.A.**

College of Communication and Information  
School of Visual Communication Design  
241 Taylor Hall  
Kent Campus  
330-672-7856  
vcd@kent.edu  
www.kent.edu/vcd

**Description**  
The Master of Fine Arts degree in Visual Communication Design is a terminal degree and recommended for students with undergraduate degrees in design or related fields who wish to enter a career in higher education instruction as well as to advance their studio skills in one or more of the following: print design, illustration, web design, 3-D design, motion graphics, interactive design, corporate identity, information architecture, interaction design or information graphics. The degree program offers graduate teaching and research assistantships, individual plans of study, experiential learning, design history and research. Interdisciplinary study is encouraged.

**Fully Offered At:**  
• Kent Campus

**Accreditation**  
National Association of Schools of Art and Design

**Admission Requirements**  
• Bachelor’s degree from an accredited college or university for unconditional admission  
• Undergraduate degree in design or closely related program for unconditional admission  
• Minimum 3.000 undergraduate major GPA on a 4.000 point scale for unconditional admission  
• Official transcript(s)  
• Résumé  
• Goal statement  
• Autobiographical statement (250 words)  
• Portfolio¹  
• 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 admission website. For more information on international admission, visit the Office of Global Education’s admission website.

¹ For applicants without a visual communication design undergraduate degree, a portfolio may be defined as any creative, problem-solving endeavor. It may include drawing, painting, illustration, photography, web related solutions, interactions, writing or other types of solutions not listed here.

**Program Learning Outcomes**  
Graduates of this program will be able to:

1. Develop a body of creative work at a level appropriate for a graduate designer/illustrator/photographer.

**Program Requirements**

**Major Requirements**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credit Hours</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>VCD 60009</td>
<td>CANDIDACY REVIEW/GRAPHIC DESIGN AND ILLUSTRATION¹</td>
<td>1</td>
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<tr>
<td>VCD 60020</td>
<td>GRADUATE STUDIO IN VISUAL COMMUNICATION DESIGN</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>VCD 60091</td>
<td>GRADUATE SEMINAR IN VISUAL COMMUNICATION DESIGN</td>
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<td>COLLEGE TEACHING IN VISUAL COMMUNICATION DESIGN</td>
<td>3</td>
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<td>VCD 69199</td>
<td>M.F.A. THESIS ²</td>
<td>6</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Personal Focus</td>
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Minimum Total Credit Hours: 60

² The thesis is a significant project or body of work done independently of other coursework. Students are expected to demonstrate the ability to conduct research or produce an original project in a discriminating and disciplined manner. The thesis topic should be one that will further the student’s knowledge and ability in the specialty by demonstrating skill as a researcher or professional designer/illustrator. The outcome should be an effort that serves as a foundation for the pursuit of independent work when the graduate program is completed. At this stage, students are expected to work in close consultation with their thesis advisor.

**Graduation Requirements**

• The Master of Fine Arts program requires the successful completion of 60 credit hours of graduate credit and requires a thesis.  
• The final examination is at the completion of the studio or research thesis. The final examination is the presentation and defense of the thesis and is also an examination of the graduate student's general comprehension of visual communication design. Graduate students are expected to follow the university schedule of deadlines for taking the final examination and presenting thesis materials.