As a PhD student,
I chose the University of Minnesota’s Design Graduate Program’s Graphic Design Track specifically because it encourages graduate students to research and practice design interchangeably.

With a wide range of design researchers and design practitioners on the faculty, I am constantly challenged to find new and innovative ways to investigate the relationship between practice and research. I am also fortunate to have opportunities to work closely with the faculty in both research and teaching as I pursue my degree. Such opportunities are powerful transitions to working in academia.

— Sarah Alfalah
EXPLORE the relationships between humans and their designed environments with internationally recognized faculty and your graduate student peers! The opportunities and resources available at a major research university located in a vibrant urban setting are further enhanced by cultural amenities and economic opportunities. The Walker Art Center, the Goldstein Museum of Design, the Minnesota Center for Book Arts, the Textile Center and the AIGA–Minnesota offer design exhibits, lectures, workshops and other exciting programs.

The College of Design, home of the Graphic Design Track in the Design Graduate Program, also has areas of study in architecture, apparel design, housing studies, interior design, landscape architecture, product design and retail merchandising. The College has impressive technology resources (traditional and digital fabrication), and letterpress, surface design and screen-printing facilities. All graphic design graduate students are provided with dedicated studio space.

“RESEARCH - AND - PRACTICE DESIGN INTERCHANGEABLY”

– Sarah Alfalah
STUDENTS PURSUING MFA degrees complete a creative thesis project and paper; those doing an MA or MS can decide between a project or paper; those pursuing the PhD write a dissertation. Coursework in related areas gives students a cognate that complements their major program.

Graduates of our graduate program have gone on to become design faculty at universities and colleges nationwide, have taken their knowledge into professional practice, and have had success with sponsorships, grants and fellowships that facilitate further creative work and research.

Emphases in Graphic Design and Interactive Design are offered.

THE FOCUS IN Interactive Design provides students with experience in designing for the digital and actual environments. The program integrates theory with practice in the application of emergent and established technologies to design solutions that might be experiential, performative and social.

The emphasis in Graphic Design focuses on design theory, process, and methods related to design practice and research. Potential areas of study include multicultural communication, visual representation of information, human interaction with designed objects, social and cultural implications of design, color systems and perception, design history, and design education.

Students develop designed objects and information resources that will enhance people's lives.

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University of Minnesota
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612 626-1219

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Charleen Klarquist
612 626-1219
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Application deadline is January 15 for Master's, MFA, and PhD degrees.

USEFUL WEB SITES:
Design Graduate Program
http://dha.design.umn.edu/programs/grad/graphicdesigntrack.html

University of Minnesota Graduate School
Home Page
ggrad.umn.edu/

Prospective Students
ggrad.umn.edu/prospective_students/

Graduate School Catalog
catalogs.umn.edu/grad/

Application Site
ggrad.umn.edu/prospective_students/apply_online

Graduate Record Examination (GRE)
Home Page
ets.org/gre

Test Preparation
ets.org/gre/general/prepare

Test Centers
ets.org/gre/general/register/centers_dates

Designed by students Ryan Doro and Kevin Fluegel, GDES 3351 Text & Image, under the instruction of Prof. Steven McCarthy
This publication is available in alternative formats upon request. Direct requests to Char Klarquist at 612 626-1219 or dhagrad@umn.edu.
Printed on recycled and recyclable paper with at least 10 percent postconsumer waste material.
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Typography

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Scholarly Interests:
Design and Identity
Consumerism and Consumer Culture
GDes 4131 (4 cr)
History of Visual Communication
Historical analysis of visual communication with an emphasis on the technological, cultural, and aesthetic influences on graphic design. Examination of how historical events are communicated and perceived through graphic presentation and imagery.

GDes 4330 (4 cr)
Surface Fabric Design Workshop
Studio experience in the development and production of surface design. Screen printing, batik, resist dying, shibori, cyanotypes, and dye transfers are included.

GDes 4343 (3 cr)
Data Visualization I
Visual articulation of data. Expansive research, meticulous gathering of data, analysis. Develop cohesive graphical narratives and build solid foundation in craft of presenting data.

GDes 4345 (4 cr)
Advanced Typography
Expressive visual communication of words. Fundamental legibility of ‘the invisible art’ and overt expression through type will be addressed. Students complete an extended typographic project.

GDes 4352 (3 cr)
Design Process: Bookmaking
Construction of traditional and non-traditional book forms. Emphasizes the material aspects of handmade books.

GDes 4312 (3 cr)
Advanced Graphic Design Print Projects
Opportunity for students to propose, design, and produce printed graphic design products while expanding upon their experience in surface design and printing.

ApSt 5123 (3 cr)
Living in a Consumer Society
Consumerism and commodification of US society, including health care, education, the production of news, and the commercialization of public space and culture. What drives consumer society? How is meaning manufactured?

GDes 5341 (3 cr)
Interactive Design
Design of interactive multi-media projects. Experience developing interactive presentations and electronic publishing. Software includes hypermedia, scripting, digital output.

GDes 5342 (3 cr)
Web and Interface Design
Introduction to usability of interface between humans and technology. Evaluation of visual elements that control/organize dealings with computers that are used to direct work. Students develop designs, evaluate their effectiveness through usability testing.

GDes 5343 (3 cr)
Data Visualization II
Skills and tools necessary to process large quantities of information/present them through interactive mediums. Create data visualizations for web utilizing Javascript libraries. Linear and non-linear data-driven narratives.

GDes 8361 (3 cr)
Color, Design, and Human Perception
Perceptual and psychological aspects of color and design. Human factors of color variables and design strategies that can enhance human experience of, and interaction with, color.

GDes 5383 (3 cr)
Animation Design
Animation in time-based electronic design. Introduction to three-dimensional modeling.

GDes 5386 (3 cr)
Fundamentals of Game Design

GDes 5388 (3 cr)
Graphic Design Research
Preliminary research, including theoretical, applied, and legal aspects. Planning and developmental models. Design prototyping, testing, and analysis.

GDes 5399 (3 cr)
Theory of Electronic Design
Theories, methodologies, histories of electronic design, its impact on visual communications. Digital artifacts, processes, paradigms.

DES 8102 (3 cr)
Quantitative Research Methods
Quantitative research methods for issues related to humans, their behaviors, and everyday living in the designed environment.

DES 8103 (3 cr)
Qualitative and Mixed Methods Research
Assessment of field research methods relevant to research regarding material culture. Relationship of selected research problem (and its theoretical framework) to practical problems of fieldwork. Rationale and plan for appropriate field methods of data collection.

DES 8112 (3 cr)
Design Theory and Criticism
Students establish a framework for criticism by examining various theories used in design disciplines, study existing designed environments to explain the designer’s purpose, identify problem solving processes, and describe interaction between humans and design.

DES 8113 (4 cr)
Education and Evaluation in Design
Educational processes/methods used in design studio/lecture courses. Learning styles, best practices for grading, alternative methods of critique, interacting with students, active learning strategies, teaching with technology.

DES 8114 (4 cr)
Design Studio
Advanced problem analysis and design solution. Studio production and critique.

DES 8164 (3 cr)
Innovation Theory and Analysis
Theories and factors that influence adoption and diffusion of designed products. Methodologies used in analysis of diffusion process.

DES 8181 (1 cr)
Research Ethics
Overview of ethical concerns/questions in conducting/disseminating research. Mentoring relationships, use of human subjects, data handling, plagiarism, authorship, publishing, research funding, social responsibility of researchers, code of conduct.

GDes 8362 (3 cr)
The Nature of Representation in Visual Communication
Relationship of images to the design communication process. Aspects of representation and pictorial information modes. Human interaction with images and their role in increasing understanding, enhancing learning, and positively affecting human experience.

CLASS LIST
(Other courses possible in consultation with graduate advisor)