

Information Design and Data Visualization, MFA

The first Master of Fine Arts program entirely dedicated to information design and visualization is designed to train students in harnessing visual languages to support discovery and communicate information across a range of socially relevant issues. Successful graduates will be professional information designers and data visualization experts able to collaborate effectively in this dynamic and burgeoning field of practice and research. They will be prepared to work in design agencies, research institutions, companies, and public institutions. The program intends to produce professionals skilled in design principles and practices needed to assume leadership roles in an evolving interdisciplinary field. Students will also be well-positioned to pursue PhDs and academic careers. Our students have the unique advantage of studying at a major research university known for interdisciplinary collaboration located in Boston—a global center for technology, science, and education and a hot spot for information design and data visualization.

Students have an opportunity to gain an understanding of translating data and information into visual languages and to learn to integrate theoretical, visual, and technical aspects of visualizations that engage a broad range of audiences. The curriculum is built upon an established undergraduate program in graphic, information, and interaction design and seeks applicants from diverse fields of study who are interested in exploring data, visual and auditory design, perception, and creative inquiry. Practicing professionals and recent undergraduates in a variety of fields (architecture, graphic design, journalism, communications, business, the humanities, and sciences) who desire a fluency in information design should apply.

To learn more visit Visualization (<https://www.northeastern.edu/visualization/>) and Information Design and Visualization (<http://catalog.northeastern.edu/graduate/arts-media-design/art-design/information-design-data-visualization-mfa/camd.northeastern.edu/program/information-design-and-visualization/>) portals.

Program Requirements

Complete all courses and requirements listed below unless otherwise indicated.

Core Requirements

Code	Title	Hours
Studio		
ARTG 5100	Information Design Studio 1: Principles	4
ARTG 6100	Information Design Studio 2: Dynamic Mapping and Models	4
ARTG 6200	Information Design Studio 3: Synthesis	4
Theory and Research Methods		
ARTG 5310	Visual Cognition	4
ARTG 5320	Statistics Basics for Designers	4
ARTG 5330	Visualization Technologies 1: Fundamentals	4
ARTG 6110	Information Design Theory and Critical Thinking	4
Design and History		
ARTG 5110	Information Design History	4
ARTG 5130	Visual Communication for Information Design	4
Thesis		

ARTG 7100	Thesis Seminar for Design	4
ARTG 7990	Thesis	8

Electives

Code **Title** **Hours**
 In consultation with faculty adviser, complete three courses from the following (one of the electives can be chosen from all Northeastern graduate courses):

ARTG 5120	Research Methods for Design	
ARTG 5150 and ARTG 5151	Information Visualization Principles and Practices and Information Design Critique Seminar	
ARTG 5310	Visual Cognition	
ARTG 5320	Statistics Basics for Designers	
ARTG 5620	Notational Systems for Experience	
ARTG 5430	Visualization Technologies 2: Advanced Practices	
ARTG 5640	Prototyping for Experience Design	
ARTG 6310	Design for Behavior and Experience	
ARTG 6320	Design of Information-Rich Environments	
ARTG 6330	Information Design Mapping Strategies	
ARTG 6900	Special Topics in Design	
ARTE 5901	Special Topics in Art and Design Studio	
JRNL 6341	Telling Your Story with Data	

Program Credit/GPA Requirements

60 total semester hours required
 Minimum 3.000 GPA required

Plan of Study

Sample Two Years, One Optional Co-op Plan of Study

Year 1					
Fall	Hours	Spring	Hours	Summer Full Semester	Hours
ARTG 5100	4	ARTG 5310	4	Co-op or vacation	
ARTG 5130	4	ARTG 5320	4		
ARTG 5330	4	ARTG 6100	4		
Elective	4	ARTG 6110	4		
		16	16		0
Year 2					
Fall	Hours	Spring	Hours		
ARTG 6200	4	ARTG 7990	8		
ARTG 7100	4	Elective	4		
ARTG 5110	4				
Elective	4				
		16	12		
Total Hours: 60					