

**MFA**  
**Information**  
**Design &**  
**Visualization**

**Apply**

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Northeastern University  
College of Arts, Media and Design

## About the Degree

The MFA in Information Design and Visualization is a two-year interdisciplinary graduate program focused on the analytical and visual communication of information. Students gain an understanding of the principles of translating data and information into visual, physical and virtual forms. They learn to integrate theoretical, visual and technical aspects of structuring and representing data to offer diverse audiences increased access to socially relevant issues.

The curriculum is built upon an established undergraduate program in graphic, information and interaction design. Participants have the unique advantage of study at a major research university known for interdisciplinary collaboration that is situated in Boston, a global center for biotech, financial, public policy, educational, technological, scientific, and social science applications of information design and data visualization.

## Curriculum Plan

60 semester hours and residency of two academic years is required. A thesis project exhibition and an accompanying written thesis are expected. The program offers studio courses, lectures and seminars in design, strategy, theory, research methodologies, and historical and cultural literacy.

## Courses

Term One

**Information Design Studio 1**  
**Information Design History**  
**Information Design Research Methodologies**  
**Visual Communication for Information Design**

Term Two

**Information Design Studio 2**  
**Information Design Theory and Critical Thinking**  
**Information Design Elective**  
**Information Design Elective**

Term Three

**Information Design Studio 3**  
**Information Design Thesis Seminar**  
**Information Design Elective**  
**Open Elective**

Term Four

**Thesis**  
**Information Design Elective**

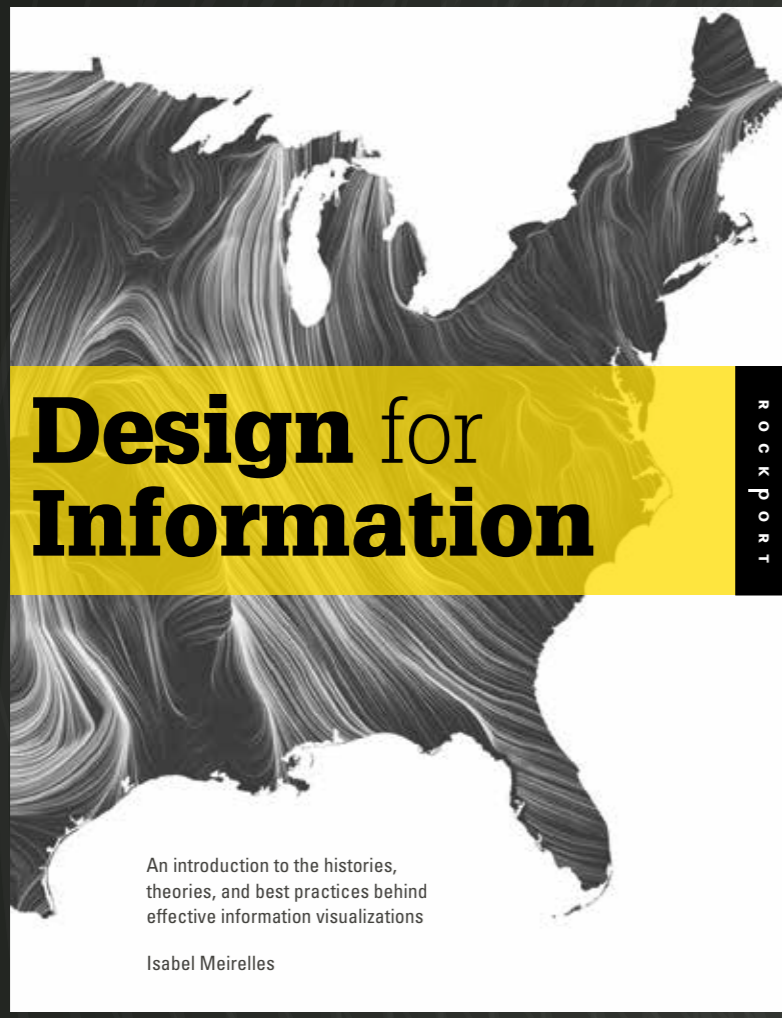
## Electives

Select five courses from the following list:

**Visual Cognition**  
**Statistics Basics for Designers**  
**Visualization Technologies**  
**Design for Behavior and Experience**  
**Design of Information-Rich Environments**  
**Information Design Mapping Strategies**  
**Contemporary Visual Culture**  
**Art and New Media: History and Theory**  
**Special Topics in Information Design**  
**Thesis Continuation**

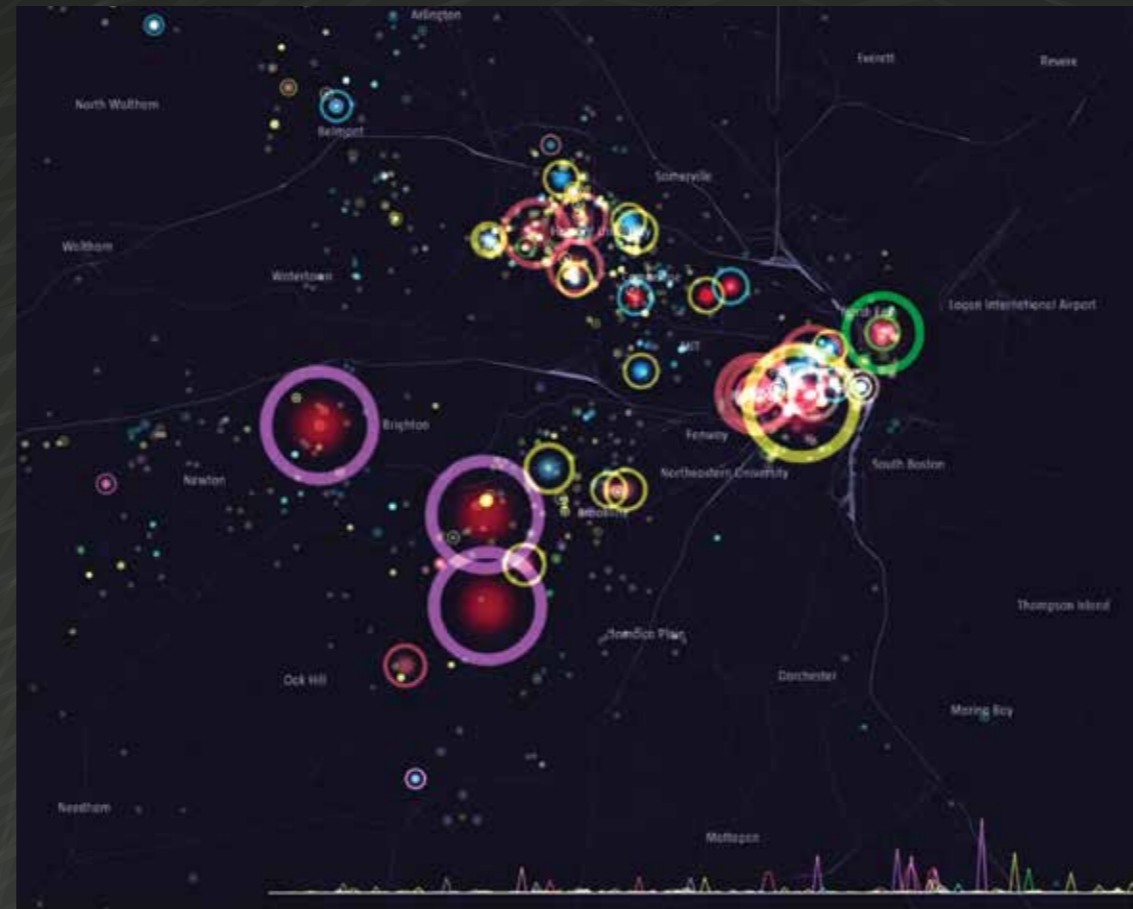
## Outcomes

Graduates will be professional information designers able to collaborate effectively in this dynamic and burgeoning field of practice and research. They will be prepared to work in design firms, research firms, corporations and institutions and government and urban agencies. 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.



### Design for Information

by Associate Professor Isabel Meirelles, published by Rockport



### Boston MoneyBombs

Research project on the geographic distribution of political donations by the LazerLAB. <http://www.vispolitics.com>



### Information Design and Data Visualization: Boston 2013

The symposium convened at Northeastern's College of Arts, Media, and Design. Twenty six of the leading thinkers and practitioners presented ideas from a wide range of fields—from science and journalism to computer science and social entrepreneurship.



### Swiss Style Reboot

Presented by Northeastern Center for the Arts, Gallery 360, and Swissnex Boston

The exhibition showed both historical and contemporary graphic and information design examples characterized by clear, functional, and highly crafted visual communication.



### Accountability Technologies

edited by Assistant Professor Dietmar Offenhuber and Katje Schechtner, published by Ambra



### Richard Saul Wurman

The information design pioneer and founder of the TED Conferences is Northeastern's Distinguished Professor of the Practice at the College of Arts, Media and Design.



### Northeastern University

Located in the center of Boston's cultural, financial, medical, and educational organizations, the university offers a wide array of work opportunities, exhibitions, lectures, concerts, and events.

### Digital Media Commons

Northeastern University's Snell Library provides a comprehensive facility for audio and visual creation and multimedia projects, and includes extensive data-analysis capabilities and GIS/Mapping and CAD tools.

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