Information Design and Visualization

GRADUATE PROGRAMS

Northeastern University
Over the past five years, interactive data visualization has grown to play an increasingly important role in the professional and research world. While visualization used to be regarded as a discipline for specialists dealing with problems of limited scope, it has now developed into a complex field that major global companies – from Google to IBM – are recognizing as a key to growth and success in today’s competitive market. While there is a sustained demand for dedicated data visualization experts, there is also an increasing need for professionals and experts from diverse backgrounds who have a competency in information design and visualization.

“Data collection, analysis and interpretation are increasingly important perspectives for making sense of our world. Information design and data visualization are the languages in which this discourse takes place.”

–Dietmar Offenhuber, Assistant Professor, Art + Design
IDV – MFA

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

The first MFA program entirely dedicated to Information Design and Visualization trains students in harnessing visual languages to support discovery and communicate information across a range of socially relevant issues. 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 hotspot for information design and data visualization.

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 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.

We seek applicants from diverse backgrounds who are interested in exploring data, visual and auditory design, perception and creative inquiry. The degree requires 60 credit hours over two academic years, with an option to engage in Northeastern’s renowned cooperative education (co-op) program. A thesis project and an accompanying written thesis are required. The program offers studio courses and seminars in design, data analysis, programming, research methodologies and historical and cultural literacy plus lectures from visiting artists and researchers.

IDV – Graduate Certificate

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

The graduate certificate is intended for practitioners and students from related fields – media, design, communications, data science, and more – who would like to acquire competencies in information design and data visualization to complement their skills and address their professional needs. Embedded in the course offering of the Master of Fine Arts in Information Design and Visualization program, students in the certificate program will have the opportunity to join MFA students for guest lectures and workshops.

Throughout the course of the certificate, students master how to think visually, while also learning how to produce effective, meaningful visual information from various sources of data. Graduates are professionals who are prepared to tackle new information communication challenges and communicate and collaborate with researchers in a variety of fields, as well as stakeholders and the public.

The graduate certificate consists of 16 credit hours and can be completed in two to four semesters. Students take two core courses and two electives.

CURRICULUM

ARTG 5100 Visual Communication for Information Design 04
ARTG 5330 Visualization Techniques 04
Elective 04
Elective 04
TOTAL CREDIT HOURS 16
Scholarships + Financial Support

Northeastern University and the College of Arts, Media and Design offer students a range of financial resources including competitively awarded scholarships and assistantships.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION AND FINANCIAL RESOURCES
northeastern.edu/camd/graduate/tuition

Apply

ADMISSIONS REQUIREMENTS AND DEADLINES
northeastern.edu/camd/graduate/admissions

APPLICATION DEADLINES

FEB 01  Priority deadline for scholarship consideration
MAY 01  All international applicants
AUG 01  All domestic applicants

Northeastern University
College of Arts, Media and Design

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