

DESIGN + INNOVATION, MS

The Master of Science in Design + Innovation (MD+I) program at the University of Wisconsin–Madison is a unique, interdisciplinary degree that equips students with the skills and perspectives to address complex challenges through innovative solutions. As a collaboration between five UW–Madison schools and colleges—Engineering, Human Ecology, Business, Art Department, and the iSchool – MD+I integrates diverse disciplines into a one-year intensive curriculum.

The MD+I program aims to cultivate designers equipped with the skills and mindsets necessary to address complex, real-world problems. We prioritize inclusive design, ensuring that diverse perspectives are integral to the design process, and we promote socially engaged innovation that aligns with the Wisconsin Idea—extending the benefits of the university's work to the broader community. Our commitment to transdisciplinary collaboration involves breaking down traditional disciplinary silos to foster holistic and integrative approaches to design challenges.

The program emphasizes hands-on learning and real-world impact, teaching students to navigate complex systems and design life-centered solutions that benefit both human and more-than-human stakeholders. Students engage with community and industry partners while honing skills in engineering, business strategy, user experience, and creative problem-solving.

The MD+I program is dedicated to shaping the future of design through inclusive, collaborative, and socially engaged practice. We strive to empower our students to become innovative leaders who are capable of addressing the world's most pressing issues with empathy, creativity, and a commitment to making a positive impact on society.

The Master of Science in Design + Innovation program is not a STEM-OPT program, CIP code: 30.9999 Multi-/Interdisciplinary Studies, Other.