USC University of Southern California

PROGRESSIVE MASTER'S DEGREE PROGRAM COURSE PLAN

USC SCHOOL	Gayle Garner Roski School of Art and Design
ACADEMIC DEPARTMENT	Design
GRADUATE PROGRAM	MFA Design
POST CODE	1693
TERM EFFECTIVE DATE	Fall 2026
HOW TO APPLY	Apply HERE

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

A brief description of the graduate program.

A five-term program administered in collaboration with the Graduate School, the Master of Fine Arts in Design is a professional degree in the practice of design. A progressive degree option is available on a competitive basis to current Roski undergraduate students. With a faculty of influential design professionals and an expansive, retrofitted building in the downtown arts district, the MFA Design program seeks to be an ambitious and far-reaching addition to educational design community in Southern California.

In addition to mentored relationships with the design faculty, students participate in regular seminars, discussions and studio visits with leading visiting designers, writers and theorists from around the world. The Roski School's partnership and affiliation with the contemporary design community in Los Angeles, such as American Institute of Graphic Arts (AIGA), is a critical component of the MFA Design program.

COMMON BACHELOR DEGREE PROGRAM PATHWAYS

A list of common bachelor's degrees that undergraduate students pursue in advance of pursuing a progressive degree option with this graduate program. Some programs are restricted to certain majors while others are open to all students.

Open to all USC majors	
Roski BA/BFA majors and Roski minors receive priority consideration	

PREPARATORY UNDERGRADUATE COURSES

A list of courses at the undergraduate level that prepare students for the graduate program. Required coursework is listed first, followed by recommended courses. If there are none, that is specified instead.

Dept. Prefix - Course #	Course Title	Required or Recommended	Units

UNDERGRADUATE COURSES USED TO REDUCE GRADUATE LEVEL UNITS

A list of undergraduate level courses that may be used to reduce the number of graduate level units required for the graduate program. If there are none, that is specified instead.

Dept. Prefix - Course #	Course Title	Units
	See below, NOTES FROM THE DEPARTMENT	

CORE GRADUATE PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS (# units required)

A list of all required graduate courses for the graduate program. None of these courses may be used toward satisfying undergraduate degree requirements.

If special exceptions for any of these courses are made by the academic department, the course # is marked with an asterisk (*) and the exception is explained in the "Department Notes" section at the end of this course plan template.

Dept. Prefix - Course #	Course Title	Units
DES-503		4
DES-513		2
DES-514		2
DES-520		2, 2, 2, 2
DES-523		4
DES-535		2, 2
DES-550		2
DES-594A		2
DES-594B		2

PRE-APPROVED ELECTIVE COURSEWORK

Elective coursework is approved at the discretion of the academic department. Note the following details about the total number and units required of elective coursework.

VARIES	**TOTAL ELECTIVE COURSES REQUIRED FOR THE TRADITIONAL GRADUATE DEGREE**
26*	**TOTAL ELECTIVE UNITS REQUIRED FOR THE TRADITIONAL GRADUATE DEGREE**

TOTAL UNIT COUNTS AND REQUIRED GRADUATE UNITS

56	**TOTAL UNITS REQUIRED FOR THE TRADITIONAL GRADUATE DEGREE**
18*	**TOTAL GRADUATE UNITS THAT MAY BE WAIVED (IF ANY)**
30	**MINIMUM NUMBER OF GRADUATE UNITS THAT MUST BE AT THE 500 LEVEL OR ABOVE**

NOTES FROM THE DEPARTMENT

This section highlights any unique considerations, exceptions, or requirements for the graduate program. If a program has specific restrictions (courses, majors, etc.), they are detailed below.

*PDP students are required to complete all core courses from the stand-alone degree (30 units) and an additional 8 units of pre-approved elective courses as listed in the USC Catalogue, as well as those pre-approved in consultation with the Graduate Program Director.

Haven Lin-Kirk

Name of Authorizing Master's Program Dean

05/29/2026

Date Approved

Dean

Authorizing Dean's Title