

Graduate Certificate in Healthcare Design Integration (HDI)

issued: 12/16/2025

Contact Information

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Graduate certificate in Healthcare Design Integration

The University of Florida College of Design Construction and Planning offers a graduate certificate in Healthcare Design Integration at our main campus and CityLabs: CityLab-Orlando and CityLab-Jacksonville.

The certificate aims to fill a gap identified by the healthcare design industry which seeks interdisciplinary team members to imagine, plan, and evaluate future health care environments utilizing evidence-based methods. While this is a graduate certificate offered through the school of architecture, it anticipates interdisciplinary cohorts. The certificate provides applicants that have attained previous degrees in architecture, landscape architecture, interior design, construction, engineering, health professions, and health sciences, with specialized knowledge in healthcare facilities design. Graduates of this program are team leaders who will draw methodically from knowledge of the history, developments, current practice, and innovations in healthcare environments to propose evidence-based and assessable designs to meet goals and improve outcomes – and add new knowledge.

Overview

Healthcare Design Integration offers students a credential toward a career in healthcare environment design. The certificate requires a minimum of 19 credits. Students with previous degrees in architecture, landscape architecture, interior design, construction, engineering, health professions, health sciences, will gain specialized knowledge in collaborative evidence-based design for healthcare environments.

The certificate curriculum is the result of University and healthcare design industry collaboration, and instruction will include lectures, workshops, design projects and informal conversations among students and leading healthcare design professionals that ensures content relevance and an understanding of prevailing and cutting-edge practices in the industry. Upon completion of the certificate students will be prepared to take the Center for Health Design, Evidence-Based Design Certification (EDAC) exam.

The graduate certificate requires a minimum of 19 credits and is normally completed in one year (2 academic year semesters and a 12-week summer semester) and consists of the following coursework, or alongside Master of Architecture degree tracks.

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Courses required for the Graduate Certificate in Healthcare Design Integration

ARC 5381: Introduction to Healthcare Environments (3 credits, letter-graded)

ARC5993: Integration Practices for the Built Environment (3 credits, letter-graded)

ARC6242: Research Methods (3 credits, letter-graded)

ARC 6386: Planning and Design for Healthcare Environments (3 credits, letter-graded)

ARC 6388: Healthcare Design Practice (3 credits, letter-graded)

ARC 6389: Codesign Lab for Healthcare Environments (4 credits, letter-graded)

Course Descriptions

ARC 5381 Introduction to Healthcare Environments (3 credits, letter-graded)

This course is an overview of four core areas in healthcare design: history, research, planning/design, and practice. It examines the social, technological, and anthropological history of placemaking for wellness and healing. It examines applications of evidence-based design in improving healthcare environments. It identifies programmatic elements and relationships in healthcare facilities design. It exposes healthcare facilities systems: organizations, construction, and administration.

ARC 5043 Integration Practices for Built Environments (3 credits, letter-graded)

An active immersion into practices of creativity and innovation enhanced through integration. Collaboration, a precondition, is furthered with the application of integration methods - sharing decision-making knowledge. In this project-based learning course, students create individual works, perform group projects, map integrative practices, and measure team performance outcomes. The course investigates the effect of collaboration in defining and redefining organizations and environments and culminates with an exploration of current integrative design-thinking methods.

ARC 6242 Research Methods (3 credits, letter-graded)

The application of methodical inquiry, research, makes design an academic discipline. Introducing a range of methods makes creative, human-centric, evidence-based design (EBD) possible – and opens students to a community of research. Students identify problems, define goals and objectives, locate quality sources of relevant evidence, critically interpret and synthesize the evidence, and finish a rigorous literature review and research proposal.

ARC 6386 Planning and Design for Healthcare Environments (3 credits, letter-graded)

Examine the components and system of environments for health ranging from wellness to acute care environments. We analyze major planning and design strategies enabling students to critique the functional and formal relationships in healthcare environments. Students will differentiate types of healthcare facilities and the programmatic elements of outpatient and inpatient facilities. Students will identify problems, ideate with evidence to develop design proposals. This course builds on knowledge gained in Introduction to Healthcare Design. Course content provides knowledge in support of Co-Design Lab for Healthcare Environments.

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ARC 6388 Healthcare Design Practice (3 credits, letter-graded)

Examination of the context where architects and designers must act with expertise. Healthcare design takes place in an interwoven system of laws, business strategies, community needs, evidence, construction constraints, that influence design decisions. We design spaces for healing while maintaining functionality for healthcare professionals. Students will identify an innovation, evaluate efficacy, then propose an iteration tested among their peers and experts. This course builds on knowledge gained in Introduction to Healthcare Design. Course content provides knowledge in support of Co-Design Lab for Healthcare Environments.

ARC 6389 Codesign Lab for Healthcare Environments (4 credits, letter-graded)

A project-based application of integrative design thinking methods for healthcare. Students identify a challenge in healthcare environments. Students apply creative processes guided by evidence toward meaningful design concepts and projects that meet constraints and are assessable. Students iterate and evaluate solutions using metrics and expert input. The Co-design Lab for Healthcare Environments is the final course in the curriculum for the proposed Graduate Certificate in Healthcare Design Integration (GC-HDI). This course builds on knowledge gained in Introduction to Healthcare Design, Integration Practices for the Built Environment, Research Methods, Planning and Design for Healthcare Environments, and Healthcare Design Practice. Students use the core knowledge to approach an open, complex, dynamic, and networked healthcare problem that can be solved through implementing evidence-based design.

Graduate Certificate in Healthcare Design Integration Program of Study

Graduate Certificate in Healthcare Design Integration

The graduate certificate requires a minimum of 19 credits and is normally completed in one year (2 academic year semesters and a 12-week summer semester).

Recommended Program of Study

19 credits, 3 semesters – 12 months

Fall Semester (9 credits)

Introduction to Healthcare Environments (3 credits)

Integration Practices (3 credits)

Research Methods (3 credits)

Spring Semester (6 credits)

Planning and Design for Healthcare Environments (3 credits)

Healthcare Design Practice (3 credits)

Summer Semester (4 credits)

Codesign Lab for Healthcare Environments (4 credits)

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Graduate Certificate in Healthcare Design Integration with Master of Architecture (MArch+HDI)

The certificate shares 15 credit hours with the Master of Architecture degree. It adds 4 credit hours, and one semester to a Track One (Advanced Program) Master of Architecture Degree. The Graduate Certificate in Healthcare Design Integration when stacked with the MArch degree requires that the Thesis or PILOT required for the MArch degree be focused on a healthcare topic.

Recommended Program of Study

Year 1 (25 credits)

Fall Semester (12 credits)

Introduction to Healthcare Environments (3 credits) (H/T option)

Integration Practices (3 credits)

Adv Graduate Studio 1 (6 credits)

Spring Semester (13 credits)

Planning and Design for Healthcare Environments (3 credits)

Adv Graduate Studio 2 (6 credits)

Adv IBT (4 credits)

Summer Semester (0 credits)

Recommended internship in healthcare architecture firm (not a degree requirement)

Year 2 (23 credits)

Fall Semester (9 credits)

Research Methods (3 credits)

Adv Graduate Studio 3 (6 credits)

Spring Semester (9 credits)

Healthcare Design Practice (3 credits)

Professional Practice (3 credits)

Thesis/MRP Research Preparation (3 credits)

Summer Semester (4 credits)

Codesign Lab for Healthcare Environments (4 credits)

Year 3 (6 credits)

Fall Semester (6 credits)

Thesis or PILOT with healthcare topic (6 credits)

Program Operation

This program is directed from the CityLabs (CityLab-Orlando and CityLab-Jacksonville) the academic program is year-round, (12 Months), consisting of a 16-week fall and spring semester and a 12-week summer semester. Main campus students will have access to these through the CityLabs.

Application Process

Applicants for the Graduate Certificate must apply to the University of Florida Graduate School and complete the online application. A Graduate Certificate is an academic credential granted by the University of Florida. As such, all Graduate Certificates must follow the requirements of admission,

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successful completion of approved graduate level coursework Information regarding the Graduate School admission process is located at

<http://gradcatalog.ufl.edu/content.php?catoid=11&navoid=2485> Information regarding the School of Architecture admission process is located at

<https://dcp.ufl.edu/architecture/graduateschool/admissions/how-to-apply/>

If you have questions regarding the process contact Maggie Hayes, Maggie.cooper@dcp.ufl.edu the Citylab-Orlando program administrative assistant.

Portfolio

Applicants for the Graduate Certificate in HDI are not required to submit a portfolio.

GPA Requirement

The University of Florida general requirement is that an applicant has earned an undergraduate GPA of 3.0/4.0, or equivalent in their final 60 hours of their bachelor's degree to be considered for admission.

Transcripts

Applicants must have each university or college attended send official transcripts directly to the Graduate School Office of Admissions. International applicants must submit official copies of each transcript, mark sheet, and diploma/degree certificate from each university or college attended in the native language, and a certified, literal (exact) English translation for all documents not originally issued in English. Information for international applicants may be found here

<http://www.admissions.ufl.edu/apply/international/>

Graduate Record Exam (GRE)

GRE General Test is no longer required by the School of Architecture for admissions.

Test of English Proficiency

International applicants whose first language is not English must take a test of English proficiency, the TOEFL, IELTS, and MELAB tests are acceptable. See

<http://www.admissions.ufl.edu/apply/graduate/> for minimum acceptable scores and exemptions).

Test results must be sent directly from the testing agency to the University. Applications will not be reviewed by the graduate school until the results of the Test of English Proficiency is received.

Cost of Attendance

Cost of attendance varies by location. Detailed information on cost is provided at the application webpage, <https://dcp.ufl.edu/architecture/graduate-program-application/>

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This is a breakdown of the per credit hour amount of a student's tuition for a Florida resident and Citylab student during the academic year

		Main Campus Florida Resident	Main Campus Non- Resident	Citylabs* Florida Resident Non-Resident International
Tuition	\$	539.49	539.49	750
<i>Fees</i>				
<i>Capital Improvement Trust Fund</i>	\$	6.76	6.76	6.76
<i>Student Financial Aid</i>	\$	26.97	26.97	26.97
<i>Technology Fee</i>	\$	6.26	6.26	6.56
<i>Activity and Service Fee</i>	\$	19.06	19.06	0
<i>Athletic Fee</i>	\$	1.90	1.90	0
<i>Health Fee</i>	\$	15.81	15.81	0
<i>Transportation Access</i>	\$	9.44	9.44	0
<i>Non-Resident Fee</i>	\$	-	690.21	0
<i>Non-Resident Student Financial Aid</i>	\$	-	34.51	0
<i>Total Fees</i>	\$	86.20	810.92	40.29
Total Tuition + Fees	\$	625.69	1,350.41	790.29

*CityLabs are market-rate tuition programs and receive no State of Florida funding. All operating costs are covered by tuition and donations. Tuition is based on actual and projected operation costs. Unlike the tuition structure on the University of Florida main campus all students attending CityLabs pay the same tuition and fees. The 2023-24 tuition and University fees are \$790.29/ credit (\$750 tuition + \$40.29 University fees). Both tuition and University fees are subject to change annually.

CITYLABS, INCLUDING CITYLAB-ORLANDO AND CITYLAB-JACKSONVILLE, ARE OFF-CAMPUS PROGRAMS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA SCHOOL OF ARCHITECTURE, COLLEGE OF DESIGN CONSTRUCTION AND PLANNING.