School of Arts, Technology, and Emerging Communication

Graduate Programs in Arts, Technology, and Emerging Communication

The program leading to the MA in Arts, Technology, and Emerging Communication is designed both for individuals engaged in professional practice wishing to enhance their knowledge and skills and for students intending to pursue a doctorate in a related field. It offers advanced studies in digital media studies, interactive media, and computer-based arts that emphasize the fusion of creative with critical thinking and theory with practice. Students must complete thirty-six semester credit hours of coursework, including a thesis.

Master of Arts in Arts, Technology, and Emerging Communication: Interaction Design Pathway

36 semester credit hours minimum

Faculty

Professors: Anne Balsamo, Paul Fishwick, Roger Malina, Mihai Nadin, Marilyn Waligore
Clinical Professor: Tim Christopher
Associate Professors: Christine (xtine) Burrough, Monica Evans, Eric Farrar, Todd Fechter, Midori Kitagawa, Kim Knight, Maximilian Schich, Andrew Scott, Dean Terry, hxc176430
Clinical Associate Professor: Cassini Nazir
Assistant Professors: Olivia Banner, Angela M. Lee, Juan Llamas Rodriguez, Sean McComber, Josef Nguyen, Wendy Sung, Hong An Wu

Required Major Core Courses: 9 semester credit hours

ATCM 6000 ATEC Dean's Colloquium
ATCM 6300 Approaches to Arts, Technology, and Emerging Communication
ATCM 6302 Theories and Histories of Semiotics
ATCM 6361 Design Research Methods

Students are expected to complete ATCM 6300 in their first semester and the remainder of these courses within the first 18 semester credit hours in their degree plan.

Prescribed Electives within Pathway: 15 semester credit hours
Choose five courses from the following courses:

ATCM 6301 Aesthetics of Interactive Arts
ATCM 6304 Computer Processing for Arts, Technology, and Emerging Communication
ATCM 6322 Experimental Interactive Media
ATCM 6326 Research in Sound Design
ATCM 6345 Interactive Narrative
ATCM 6360 History of Interactive Media
ATCM 6365 Design Principles
ATCM 6366 Information Architecture and Design
ATCM 6367 Human Computer Interaction
ATCM 6368 Usability Testing
ATCM 6369 Media Analytics
ATCM 6370 Computational Design
ATCM 6371 Visualization Research
ATCM 6372 Pervasive Computing and Interaction Design
ATCM 6373 Interactive Environments
ATCM 6374 Special Topics in Interaction Design
ATCM 6375 Critical Approaches to Networked Cultures
ATCM 6377 Creativity as Social Practice
ATCM 6380 Histories of Emerging Media
ATCM 6381 Media, Culture, and Economy
ATCM 6383 Digital Culture
ATCM 6384 Digital Publics and Counterpublics
ATCM 6387 Emerging Media Studio
ATCM 6390 Social Science Research Methods in Emerging Communication
ATCM 6391 Theories of Media Psychology

Free Electives: 9 semester credit hours
Nine semester credit hours of electives in any organized 6000-level courses in ATEC or offered by the School of Arts and Humanities, Erik Jonsson School of Engineering and Computer Science, School of Behavioral and Brain Sciences, Naveen Jindal School of Management, School of Economic, Political and Policy Sciences, School of Natural Sciences and Mathematics, or School of Interdisciplinary Studies. All free electives are subject to approval by the Graduate Advisor.

Thesis: 3 semester credit hours
Having completed at least 30 semester credit hours of coursework, students will complete and present an advanced research project in interaction design for evaluation by a master's committee.

ATCM 6399 Master's Thesis

Master of Arts in Arts, Technology, and Emerging Communication: Emerging Media Studies
Pathway

36 semester credit hours minimum

Faculty

Professors: Anne Balsamo, Paul Fishwick, Roger Malina, Mihai Nadin, Marilyn Waligore
Clinical Professor: Tim Christopher
Associate Professors: Christine (xtine) Burrough, Monica Evans, Eric Farrar, Todd Fechter, Midori Kitagawa, Kim Knight, Maximilian Schich, Andrew Scott, Dean Terry, hxc176430
Clinical Associate Professor: Cassini Nazir
Assistant Professors: Olivia Banner, Angela M. Lee, Juan Llamas Rodriguez, Sean McComber, Josef Nguyen, Wendy Sung, Hong An Wu

Required Major Core Courses: 9 semester credit hours

ATCM 6000 ATEC Dean's Colloquium
ATCM 6300 Approaches to Arts, Technology, and Emerging Communication
ATCM 6375 Critical Approaches to Networked Cultures
ATCM 6376 Media and Cultural Studies Methods

Students are expected to complete ATCM 6300 in their first semester and the remainder of these courses within the first 18 semester credit hours in their degree plan.

Prescribed Electives within Pathway: 15 semester credit hours

Chose five courses from the following courses:

ATCM 6301 Aesthetics of Interactive Arts
ATCM 6336 Critical Game Studies
ATCM 6345 Interactive Narrative
ATCM 6351 History and Culture of Games
ATCM 6352 Socially Conscious Games
ATCM 6354 Play and Culture
ATCM 6357 Virtual Worlds and Communities
ATCM 6377 Creativity as Social Practice
ATCM 6381 Media, Culture, and Economy
ATCM 6382 Privacy, Surveillance, and Technology
ATCM 6383 Digital Culture
ATCM 6384 Digital Publics and Counterpublics
ATCM 6385 Emerging Media and Identity
ATCM 6386 Digital Textuality
**ATCM 6387** Emerging Media Studio  
**ATCM 6388** Critical Making  
**ATCM 6389** Special Topics in Networked Cultures

**Free Electives: 9 semester credit hours**  
Nine semester credit hours of electives in any organized 6000-level courses in ATEC or offered by the School of Arts and Humanities, Erik Jonsson School of Engineering and Computer Science, School of Behavioral and Brain Sciences, Naveen Jindal School of Management, School of Economic, Political and Policy Sciences, School of Natural Sciences and Mathematics, or School of Interdisciplinary Studies. All free electives are subject to approval by the Graduate Advisor.

**Thesis: 3 semester credit hours**  
Having completed at least 30 semester credit hours of coursework, students will complete and present an advanced research project in digital media studies for evaluation by a master's committee.

**ATCM 6399** Master's Thesis

**Doctor of Philosophy in Arts, Technology, and Emerging Communication**  
*60 semester credit hours minimum beyond the master's degree*

**Faculty**  
**Professors:** Anne Balsamo, Paul Fishwick, Roger Malina, Mihai Nadin, Marilyn Waligore  
**Clinical Professor:** Tim Christopher  
**Associate Professors:** Christine (xtine) Burrough, Monica Evans, Eric Farrar, Todd Fechter, Midori Kitagawa, Kim Knight, Maximilian Schich, Andrew Scott, Dean Terry, hxc176430  
**Assistant Professors:** Olivia Banner, Angela M. Lee, Juan Llamas Rodriguez, Sean McComber, Josef Nguyen, Wendy Sung, Hong An Wu

**Overview**  
The PhD program in Arts, Technology, and Emerging Communication is designed for those who wish to engage in deep scholarship or to develop artistic, cultural, or commercial applications of digital technology and emerging media. With a diverse group of faculty and a curriculum that integrates scholarly study with creative practice, ATEC cultivates creative scholars, scholarly practitioners, and interdisciplinary researchers. The PhD in ATEC additionally prepares students to teach arts- and technology-related courses in colleges and universities. Students seeking a PhD in Arts, Technology, and Emerging Communication will normally complete a minimum of 60 semester credit hours (42 semester credit hours in coursework and 18 semester credit hours in dissertation) beyond a master's degree or its equivalent, pass doctoral field examinations, submit a dissertation proposal, and complete and defend a dissertation. Students who have not previously completed six semester credit hours of coursework in computer programming are required to complete **ATCM 6304**.
Major Core Courses: 9 semester credit hours

- ATCM 6000 ATEC Dean's Colloquium
- ATCM 6300 Approaches to Arts, Technology, and Emerging Communication
- ATCM 6301 Aesthetics of Interactive Arts
- ATCM 7331 Research Methodology in Arts, Technology, and Emerging Communication

Students are expected to complete ATCM 6300 in their first semester and the remainder of these courses within the first 18 semester credit hours in their degree plan.

Prescribed Electives in ATEC Research Methodologies: 3 semester credit hours

- ATCM 6361 Design Research Methods
- ATCM 6376 Media and Cultural Studies Methods
- ATCM 6390 Social Science Research Methods in Emerging Communication
- ATCM 7332 Creative Practice Research Methods

Prescribed Electives in Methods-intensive ATEC Courses: 3 semester credit hours

- ATCM 6304 Computer Processing for Arts, Technology, and Emerging Communication
- ATCM 6326 Research in Sound Design
- ATCM 6352 Socially Conscious Games
- ATCM 6366 Information Architecture and Design
- ATCM 6371 Visualization Research
- ATCM 6375 Critical Approaches to Networked Cultures
- ATCM 6377 Creativity as Social Practice
- ATCM 6386 Digital Textuality
- ATCM 6387 Emerging Media Studio
- ATCM 6388 Critical Making

Recommended Electives: 15 semester credit hours

Fifteen semester credit hours in any graduate course in ATEC. The suggested courses below may be of particular interest to doctoral students:

- ATCM 6322 Experimental Interactive Media
- ATCM 6335 Game Design and Development
ATCM 6371 Visualization Research  
ATCM 6383 Digital Culture  
ATCM 6386 Digital Textuality  
ATCM 6389 Special Topics in Networked Cultures  
ATCM 6390 Social Science Research Methods in Emerging Communication  
ATCM 6395 Special Topics in Arts, Technology, and Emerging Communication  
ATCM 7340 Advanced Studies in Arts, Technology, and Emerging Communication  
ATCM 7390 Advanced Special Topics in Arts, Technology, and Emerging Communication  
ATCM 7620 Advanced Projects in Simulation and Game Design  
ATCM 7V81 Advanced Doctoral Project Workshop  
ATCM 7V82 Advanced Projects in Interactive Media  

Free Electives: 12 semester credit hours  
Twelve semester credit hours of electives in any organized graduate-level courses offered by ATEC or in any organized 6000- or 7000- level courses offered by the School of Arts and Humanities, Erik Jonsson School of Engineering and Computer Science, School of Behavioral and Brain Sciences, Naveen Jindal School of Management, School of Economic, Political and Policy Sciences, School of Natural Sciences and Mathematics, or School of Interdisciplinary Studies. All free electives are subject to approval by the Graduate Advisor.

Doctoral Field Examinations  
After completing 36 semester credit hours of coursework applicable to the degree plan, students may proceed to the doctoral field examinations, a sequence consisting of three written sections and one oral section. The examining committee, composed of three members of the graduate faculty, oversees definition and preparation of the three examination fields within guidelines established by the program. At least three business days before the exams themselves, the faculty members submit examination questions to the Arts, Technology and Emerging Communication office, which schedules and administers the examination. The maximum time allowed for a student's completion of the examination sequence is 20 business days.

Dissertation (18 semester credit hours minimum)  
Students are formally advanced to PhD candidacy when they have successfully completed the doctoral field examinations and received final approval for their dissertation from the four-person supervising committee and the ATEC Graduate Studies Committee.  
Each candidate then writes a doctoral dissertation, which is supervised and defended according to general University regulations. Every student must register for a minimum of nine dissertation semester credit hours in two successive semesters and must maintain continuous enrollment thereafter for at least three semester credit hours during consecutive long semesters until the degree is completed. Any exception to this
requirement is granted only by petition to the school's Associate Dean of Graduate Studies.