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, Christine (xtine) Burrough, Paul Fishwick, Roger Malina, Mihai Nadin, Marilyn Waligore

Associate Professors: Heidi Cooley, Monica Evans, Eric Farrar, Todd Fechter, Midori Kitagawa, Kim Knight, Maximilian Schich, Andrew Scott, Dean Terry

Assistant Professors: Olivia Banner, Angela M. Lee, Juan Llamas Rodriguez, Sean McComber, Josef Nguyen, Wendy Sung, Hong An Wu

Clinical Professor: Tim Christopher

Clinical Associate Professor: Cassini Nazir

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

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

*36 semester credit hours minimum*

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**Faculty**

**Professors:** Anne Balsamo, Christine (xtine) Burrough, Paul Fishwick, Roger Malina, Mihai Nadin, Marilyn Waligore

**Clinical Professor:** Tim Christopher

**Associate Professors:** Heidi Cooley, Monica Evans, Eric Farrar, Todd Fechter, Midori Kitagawa, Kim Knight, Maximilian Schich, Andrew Scott, Dean Terry

**Assistant Professors:** Olivia Banner, Angela M. Lee, Juan Llamas Rodriguez, Sean McComber, Josef Nguyen, Wendy Sung, Hong An Wu

**Clinical Associate Professor:** Cassini Nazir

**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, Christine (xtine) Burrough, Paul Fishwick, Roger Malina, Mihai Nadin, Marilyn Waligore

**Associate Professors:** Heidi Cooley, Monica Evans, Eric Farrar, Todd Fechter, Midori Kitagawa, Kim Knight, Maximilian Schich, Andrew Scott, Dean Terry

**Assistant Professors:** Olivia Banner, Angela M. Lee, Juan Llamas Rodriguez, Sean McComber, Josef Nguyen, Wendy Sung, Hong An Wu

**Clinical Professor:** Tim Christopher

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.

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