SHAPE THE DIGITAL WORLD

Online Master of Science in User Experience Design

START YOUR APPLICATION

Why choose Kent State’s online Master’s in UX Design?

INCREASE YOUR SALARY ►

BOOST YOUR CAREER PROSPECTS ►

CRAFT AN IMPECCABLE PORTFOLIO ►

APPLY WITH NO GRE REQUIRED ►
BEHIND EVERY FANTASTIC DIGITAL EXPERIENCE

is a thoughtful user experience (UX) designer.

As the online ecosystem becomes increasingly complex, well-trained UX designers are more necessary than ever. At Kent State University, we’re training the next generation of human-centered UX designers with our online Master of Science (MS) in User Experience Design (UXD).

This comprehensive program can help you increase your proficiency in user experience, usability, content strategy, information architecture and user research. You’ll also learn the soft skills you need to lead and strategize in the field of UX, whether you want to spearhead new processes at work or manage a team.

Check Out 3 Hidden Industries of User Experience Design

View Infographic
A LUCRATIVE AND REWARDING FIELD

$107,880
Average annual base pay for a UX designer.

$149,272
Average annual base pay for a UX manager.

Love What You Do

The best part? **UX designers don’t sacrifice job satisfaction for good pay—they get both.** Most UX professionals feel highly valued as employees and find their jobs challenging and engaging.  

Check Out Our Latest UX Design Career Guide

View Career Outcomes Brochure

See the Numbers Behind User Experience Design

View Infographic

OPEN THE DOOR TO MULTIPLE CAREERS

The field of UX is broader than just the “UX designer” role. It encompasses many different positions with intersecting skill sets. Some key examples include:

**USER EXPERIENCE RESEARCHER**

Median Pay: $106,000
Top Pay: $162,000
10-Year Job Growth: 19%

A Top 40 Best Job in America, according to CNN Money and Payscale

**USER INTERFACE DESIGNER**

Median Pay: $73,800
Top Pay: $106,000
10-Year Job Growth: 27%

A Top 60 Best Job in America, according to CNN Money and Payscale

Visit our careers page to learn more about the professional landscape of user experience design.

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1 Retrieved on August 28, 2018, from glassdoor.com/salaries/user-experience-designer-salary-SRCH_KO0,10.htm
2 Retrieved on August 28, 2018, from glassdoor.com/salaries/ux-manager-salary-SRCH_KO0,10.htm
3 Retrieved on November 20, 2018, from nngroup.com/reports/user-experience-careers/
MASTER’S VERSUS BOOTCAMP
Which is right for you?

Bootcamps and master’s programs in UX design have one thing in common: They both teach basic, tangible skills. So what’s the main differentiator between the two? The accredited Master’s in UXD at Kent State challenges you to think critically and become a well-rounded UX professional who’s ready to execute and lead.

Workshops and bootcamps are fine for learning a discrete skill in a limited amount of time, but it’s really tough to become a real expert in an area in the space of a couple weeks or days. In a master’s program, you are steeped in the concerns, philosophy and principles of user experience, and you learn a lot more because you actually live it over a longer period of time.

PROFESSOR BEN WOODS

Read more from Professor Woods
At Kent State University, we teach the LUMEN model. This proprietary process takes a crystal-clear approach to UX design, challenging you to elevate your research, ideation and execution skills with five easy-to-follow steps.

**THE 5 STAGES OF LUMEN**

- **Learn (L)** as much as possible about your users, their issues and the project’s context.
- **Understand (U)** how to proceed with a project after compiling your research.
- **iMagine (M)** and design solutions to user problems that you can later hand off to engineers to build.
- **Evaluate (E)** your designs with usability studies and other tools.
- **iNform (N)** your stakeholders about your research and designs through reports and other deliverables.

In UX design, process is key. Think about the last really great online experience you had. Chances are, that experience was carefully curated by a UX designer with a well-oiled process.

For more articles about best practices in user experience design, visit our blog.
CURRICULUM AT A GLANCE

- **36 credits** (12 3-credit courses)
- 7 **core courses** (21 credit hours), 4 **electives** (12 credit hours) and a **culminating requirement** (3 credit hours)
- Courses are 7 weeks in length, with 2 courses taken sequentially each semester
- Multiple sections of each course are offered to keep class sizes small and maximize collaboration

Graduate in as few as two years while focusing on just one course at a time. VIEW THE ONLINE STUDENT EXPERIENCE

"The program taught me specific techniques, such as how to conduct user interviews, sketch, develop personas, create sitemaps, construct wireframes and build interactive prototypes. I learned how to think strategically about ways in which UX fits within a product lifecycle.

– NICK GONZALEZ, MS ’16

Read Nick’s Interview"
DEVELOPING YOUR PORTFOLIO

For your 3-credit culminating experience, you can choose from five options, including portfolio development, an internship, a master’s project, a master’s research paper or a semester-length thesis (worth 6 credits).

While you’re welcome to choose whichever experience best suits your needs, the majority of students choose to create a portfolio. Why? Every UX designer needs a great portfolio to succeed in the field.

Portfolio Development at Kent State

- Receive valuable critiques on your portfolio from faculty and peers
- Put your skills to use creating an intuitive user experience for your personal website
- Use your portfolio to find work—now and in the future

“[Before] I was done with the program, I had projects on my website and was able to get interviews and learn how to talk through them. Imagine these projects are for real clients, and push yourself to make the most out of them.

JESSICA KAINU, MS ’17

Read Jessica’s Interview
MEET THE FACULTY

As a student in the online Master’s in UXD at Kent State, you’ll learn from pioneers who are experts in the areas of UX design, information architecture, content strategy, usability, educational technology, social media, knowledge organization systems, user interfaces and more.

Many faculty are active in the industry and in UX design associations, and they can serve as valuable mentors during your time in the program and beyond. Take this opportunity to build your professional network among the incredibly talented thought leaders who teach at Kent State.

MEET OUR FACULTY

WATCH THESE VIDEO INTERVIEWS TO GET TO KNOW OUR FACULTY.

Paul Sherman on the importance of balancing technical skills with critical thinking.

Ben Woods on how the program takes a holistic approach to UX design.
DON’T SACRIFICE YOUR CAREER

As one of the only fully online UX design programs in the country, Kent State’s online master’s offers an unbeatable option for professionals who want to continue working while earning their degree.

Why Choose Kent State?
∙ Spend 15-20 hours per week on coursework, which is 100% online
∙ Complete coursework from anywhere, at any time
∙ Engage with talented peers from across the country

The UXD program is a much better experience the sooner you start engaging with your classmates on [online messaging and file-sharing system] Slack. Don’t wait [to join and] participate in the conversation.

– CHAD COGDILL, MS ’16
MEET OUR STUDENTS

29% Ohio residents
93% are currently employed
71% have more than 4 years of work experience

9% hold advanced degrees
3.3 average undergraduate GPA (on a 4.0 scale)
16% U.S. minority

TOP 5 STATES

29%
1. Ohio

7%
2. California

6%
3. Texas

5%
4. Pennsylvania

4%
5. Virginia

Self-reported by Kent UXD students and graduates, from 2016-2018.
TAKE THE NEXT STEP

When you’re ready to apply, you’ll need to submit the following:

- Online application form
- Three letters of recommendation
- $45 application fee
- Official transcripts from all prior institutions attended
- Goal statement
- Resume/CV

- No GRE required

Have questions?
Call +1 844-234-4073 to speak to an Admissions Advisor today, schedule a call at your convenience or visit our site for more information.

PASSION, WORK ETHIC AND CURIOSITY

That’s what it takes to succeed as a UX designer.

Get there with Kent State. Apply now and earn your Master’s in UXD in as little as 2 years. We offer three start dates (January, May or August), so you can begin classes when it’s convenient for you.