

School of
Art & Art History



College of
ArchDesignArts

Master
of Science +
Master
of Fine Arts

Why Study Arts and Responsive Computing at UIC?

University of Illinois
at Chicago

The Arts and Responsive Computing (ARC) program is the first three-year, dual degree program in the U.S. to offer an integrated Arts + Computing curriculum that culminates in both a Masters in Computer Science (MS) and a Masters of Fine Arts (MFA). The ARC program is unique within the country, and was created for students interested in achieving both a rigorous studio arts practice and applied expertise in computer science.

ARC provides students the opportunity to pursue integrative, studio-based research between the fields of contemporary art, computer science, emerging media, and critical theory. Enrollment is limited to full-time applicants who are deeply motivated to work and collaborate across disciplinary boundaries in order to forge original research agendas. Ideal students are those who consider themselves to be hybrid practitioners, interested in engaging diverse modes of inquiry: artistic, conceptual, tactile, tactical, poetic and algorithmic. ARC's mission is to cultivate the development of cross-disciplinary artist-researchers who have the potential of making significant social impact through their work.

The ARC Program is part of an urban, public research university. Its members are committed to exploring ways in which knowledge, technology, computer science, and the arts can contribute to advances in the education, engineering, design, culture, and community life.



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Apply Now:

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ARC is an innovative and groundbreaking program that prepares students for interdisciplinary careers in the visual arts and sciences. Students learn advanced programming languages, digital fabrication techniques, and generative processes, alongside their study of critical art theory, exploratory studio practices, and the creative application of new technologies. In addition, ARC provides an environment in which students' collaborative versatility may flourish.

In this accelerated program, students will fulfill all of the requirements for both the MS and MFA degrees by enrolling in a mixed suite of art and computer science courses (based on each individual's educational background and interests), and by completing a final thesis project. Graduate advisors include affiliate faculty from Art, Computer Science, Art History, Engineering, Human Computer Interaction, Bio-Visualization, and Mathematics.

ARC Labs and Facilities:

The Creative Coding Lab is a research facility dedicated to the study of information visualization, audio and ambisonic sound, human-computer interaction, immersive environments, and machine learning. *The New Media Arts Lab* is a research facility for responsive environment design, digital fabrication, materials studies, social media, wearables, and gaming. Both Labs serve as interdisciplinary sites for prototyping, process exploration, and public outreach.

Why UIC?

Since 1972, the Electronic Visualization Lab (EVL) in the College of Engineering and the New Media Arts Lab in the School of Art & Art History have maintained a closely-knit community of researchers who have focused on the integration of art, emerging media, and computational processes. This joint effort represents the oldest formal collaboration in the country between academic departments of engineering, computer science, and art.