

# Learning Design and Technology

IN THE SCHOOL OF JOURNALISM AND MEDIA STUDIES  
IN THE COLLEGE OF PROFESSIONAL STUDIES AND FINE ARTS

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## Faculty

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## General Information

The Master of Arts degree in learning design and technology degree enables students to prepare for careers as corporate trainers, e-learning practitioners, instructional designers, performance technologists, and technology coordinators. State-of-the-art coursework and internships in agencies, companies, and schools prepare candidates to analyze performance problems or opportunities, as well as design, develop, implement, and evaluate instructional strategies and products. Students graduate with rich experience with design and development projects from local and global organizations. Contact the program's graduate adviser for additional information.

## Admission to Graduate Study

In addition to meeting the general requirements for admission to the university with classified graduate standing as described in Admission and Registration, students applying for admission to the Master of Arts degree in learning design and technology are evaluated according to the following criteria:

Minimum grade point average of 2.85 in the last 60 semester (90 quarter) units attempted. This calculation may not include lower division courses taken after award of a baccalaureate degree.

Students applying for admission should electronically submit the university application available at <http://www.calstate.edu/apply> along with the application fee by March 1.

All applicants must submit admissions materials separately to SDSU Graduate Admissions and to the School of Journalism and Media Studies by April 1

## Graduate Admissions

The following materials should be submitted by March 1 as a complete package directly to:

**Graduate Admissions**  
Enrollment Services  
San Diego State University  
5500 Campanile Drive  
San Diego, CA 92182-7416

1. Official transcripts (in sealed envelopes) from all postsecondary institutions attended;

### NOTE:

- Students who attended SDSU need only submit transcripts for work completed since last attendance.
  - Students with international coursework must submit both the official transcript and proof of degree. If documents are in a language other than English, they must be accompanied by a certified English translation.
2. GRE scores (<http://www.ets.org>, SDSU institution code 4682, department code 4503). All applicants must post a verbal score of 450 (old) or 155 (new) or higher; a GRE quantitative score of 450 (old) or 144 (new) or higher; a combined GRE verbal and quantitative score of 950 (old) or 299 (new) or higher; and a GRE writing assessment (GRE-W) of 4.0 (old and new) or higher;

3. English language score, if medium of instruction was in a language other than English (<http://www.ets.org> SDSU institution code 4682).
4. Complete the supplemental program application electronically via Interfolio at <https://apply.interfolio.com/67019>. The Cal State Apply application must be completed prior to the supplemental application. **NOTE:** The version of Interfolio used for the program application is called Faculty Search.

## Advancement to Candidacy

All students must satisfy the general requirements for advancement to candidacy as described in Requirements for Master's Degrees.

## Admission to the Degree Curriculum

### The Comprehensive Examination

This written examination, designed to evaluate achievement is required of all candidates for the Master of Arts degree in learning design and technology. A student is eligible to take the comprehensive examination only after advancement to candidacy.

The examination is offered during the spring semester, in which students are enrolled in Learning Design and Technology 795. For information on examination dates, contact the program coordinator.

### Selection of Plan A or Plan B

Students pursuing the Master of Arts degree in learning design and technology must select either Plan A (thesis) or Plan B (capstone project and comprehensive examination). Both plans require the ability to formulate and define research or evaluation problems, to assemble data pertinent to the problem, to draw conclusions, and to present the study in acceptable written form.

Plan A (thesis) is designed for students who have a particular research problem they wish to investigate in some detail. In general, applicants will be programmed for Plan B (see below). After the student is approximately half way through the program, permission to transfer to Plan A (thesis) may be requested. Once a student has requested permission to transfer to Plan A (thesis), the area coordinator of learning design and technology will work with the student to establish a thesis plan and secure a thesis adviser.

Plan B (capstone project and comprehensive examination) provides students the opportunity (1) to undertake a client-based service-learning project that emphasizes research or evaluation and writing, (2) to participate actively in the projects of the other members of capstone project cohort, and (3) to subject their own work to critical evaluation by the other cohort members. All candidates for the Master of Arts degree in learning design and technology who elect Plan B (capstone project and comprehensive examination) must pass a comprehensive examination. A student is eligible to take the comprehensive examination only after advancement to candidacy.

## Specific Requirements for the Master of Arts Degree

(Major Code: 08992) (SIMS Code: 664646)

In addition to meeting the requirements for classified graduate standing and the basic requirements for the master's degree as described in Requirements for Master's Degrees, students must take the course requirements as described below.

1. Core (12 units):

LDT 540	Educational Technology .....	3
LDT 544	Instructional Design.....	3
LDT 561	Advanced Multimedia Design for Learning .....	3
LDT 690	Research Methods for Learning Design.....	3

2. Electives (15 units): Courses in learning design and technology and related fields, selected with the approval of the adviser on the basis of the student's interests and goals. A minimum of nine units must be taken in courses at the 600- and/or 700-levels.
3. Research (3 units):
 

LDT 795	Advanced Seminar: Capstone Project (Plan B students only).....	3
<b>OR</b>		
LDT 799A	Thesis (Plan A students only).....	3 (Cr/NC/RP)

### Distance Education Certificate (SIMS Code: 664603)

This certificate program will provide necessary skills to in-service managers, instructors, instructional designers, evaluators, local site coordinators, and other professionals working in distance education systems and programs in higher education, K-12, business, and government, including personnel in law enforcement, and the military. Students who complete the certificate program and meet all other criteria may apply to be admitted to the M.A. program in learning design and technology. For application or further information, see the program adviser in Learning Design and Technology.

**Prerequisites:** A bachelor's degree from an accredited institution with a grade point average of at least 2.85 (when A equals 4) in the last 60 semester (90 quarter) units attempted. A satisfactory score on the verbal and quantitative sections of the GRE General Test (combined score of 950). At least three years of experience in distance, open or extended education, training, HRD or a related field. Mastery in telecommuting and learning new information technology applications.

**Required courses (3 units):**

LDT 640	Psychology of Technology-Based Learning.....	3
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**Electives (9 units):** to be selected from the following with approval of program adviser:

LDT 544	Instructional Design.....	3
LDT 670	Learning Through Games and Simulations .....	3
LDT 671	Learning Environment Design .....	3
LDT 685	Performance Technology for Organizations .....	3

### Instructional Design Certificate (SIMS Code: 664602)

The purpose of this certificate is to prepare specialists who can develop or assist in the development of software to meet specific instructional, training or management needs. There are two competency areas incorporated in the certificate: instructional design and educational computing. Students must complete a minimum of 18 units with a 3.0 (B) grade point average and no less than a C in any course. For application or further information, see the director of the program in Learning Design and Technology.

**Prerequisites:** A bachelor's degree from an accredited institution with a grade point average of at least 2.85 (when A equals 4) in the last 60 semester (90 quarter) units attempted. A satisfactory score on the verbal and quantitative sections of the GRE General Test.

**Required courses (6 units):**

LDT 540	Educational Technology .....	3
LDT 544	Instructional Design.....	3

Elective courses: Twelve units at the 600- or 700-level to be selected with the approval of the program director.

### Instructional Technology Certificate Refer to *General Catalog*.

### Courses Acceptable for Master's Degree Program in Learning Design and Technology (LDT)

Refer to *Courses and Curricula and Regulations of the Division of Graduate Affairs sections of this bulletin for explanation of the course numbering system, unit or credit hour, prerequisites, and related information.*

#### UPPER DIVISION COURSES

##### LDT 515. Games, Play, and Learning (3)

Prerequisite: Upper division or graduate standing.  
Analysis of games and play from cognitive, historical, motivational, and social perspectives. Design of simple learning games. Survey of the game industry and use of games in education and training.

##### LDT 525. Virtual Reality, Imaginary Worlds, and Future of Learning (3)

Prerequisite: Upper division standing or admission to a graduate program in learning design and technology or journalism and media studies.

Learning experiences using virtual reality and worlds. Cognitive load in novel environments, sensory perception, theories and models of social interaction. Implications of virtual interaction.

##### LDT 540. Educational Technology (3)

Six hours of activity.  
Rationale, foundations, theories, careers, trends, and issues in educational technology. Implications of educational technology for instruction and information in schools, government, and corporations. (Formerly numbered Educational Technology 540.)

##### LDT 544. Instructional Design (3)

One lecture and six hours of laboratory.  
Prerequisite: Learning Design and Technology 540.  
Systematic design of products for education and training. Use of analyses and content mapping to set instructional goals. Instructional methods derived from learning theories for use in schools, universities, corporations, and other settings. Rapid prototyping of instructional products. (Formerly numbered Educational Technology 544.)

##### LDT 561. Advanced Multimedia Design for Learning (3)

Six hours of activity.  
Prerequisite: Learning Design and Technology 540.  
Educational visualization with digital video, animation, sound, 2D and 3D graphics for mobile and web-based learning. (Formerly numbered Educational Technology 561.)

##### LDT 596. Topics in Learning Design and Technology (1-3)

Selected problems in educational technology. May be repeated with new content. See *Class Schedule* for specific content. Limit of nine units of any combination of 296, 496, 596 courses applicable to a bachelor's degree. Maximum credit of six units of 596 applicable to a bachelor's degree. Credit for 596 and 696 applicable to a master's degree with approval of the graduate adviser.

#### GRADUATE COURSES

##### LDT 630. Mobile Applications for Learning (3)

Two lectures and two hours of activity.  
Prerequisite: Learning Design and Technology 540.  
Mobile learning models and examples. Design principles and development processes. Adapting mobile learning for different environments, settings, and cultures. Future trends.

##### LDT 640. Psychology of Technology-Based Learning (3)

Six hours of activity.  
Prerequisite: Learning Design and Technology 544.  
Principles of human learning and cognition applied to design and use of technology-based learning systems. Development of research-based guidelines for designing educational products and services. (Formerly numbered Educational Technology 640.)

## Learning Design and Technology

### **LDT 670. Learning Through Games and Simulations (3)**

One lecture and six hours of laboratory.

Prerequisite: Learning Design and Technology 540.

Design, evaluation, and use of simulations and games for education and training. Instructional applications of role plays, board games, and multiplayer virtual worlds. Theories of motivation and interest. (Formerly numbered Educational Technology 670.)

### **LDT 671. Learning Environment Design (3)**

One lecture and six hours of laboratory.

Prerequisites: Learning Design and Technology 544 and 561.

Design and development of individualized instruction delivered through e-learning; learning management systems; informal learning for corporate and museum education. (Formerly numbered Educational Technology 671.)

### **LDT 685. Performance Technology for Organizations (3)**

Six hours of workshop and activities.

Prerequisite: Learning Design and Technology 540.

Organizational and informational systems that support instructional products and services. Individual, team, and organizational analyses. Incentives, feedback, coaching, job-aids, selection, knowledge management, and other performance improvement strategies. (Formerly numbered Educational Technology 685.)

### **LDT 690. Research Methods for Learning Design (3)**

Two lectures and three hours of activity.

Prerequisite: Admission to the master's degree program.

Planning and executing research in learning design. Analyzing, interpreting, and reporting results to stakeholders.

### **LDT 696. Advanced Topics in Learning Design and Technology (1-3)**

Prerequisite: Graduate standing.

Intensive study in specific areas of learning design and technology. May be repeated with new content. Maximum credit six units. See *Class Schedule* for specific content. Credit for 596 and 696 applicable to a master's degree with approval of the graduate adviser.

### **LDT 775. Directed Internship in Learning Design and Technology (2-6) Cr/NC**

Prerequisite: Consent of staff; to be arranged with department chair.

Supervised internship in an educational or training setting. Application to take course must be made during preceding semester. (Formerly numbered Educational Technology 775.)

### **LDT 795. Advanced Seminar: Capstone Project (3)**

Prerequisites: Advancement to candidacy and Learning Design and Technology 690.

An intensive study culminating in a written project for a community-service-based learning client. Limited to students following Plan B for the Master of Arts degree.

### **LDT 798. Special Study (1-6) Cr/NC/RP**

Prerequisite: Consent of staff; to be arranged with department chair and instructor.

Individual study. May involve fieldwork. Maximum credit six units applicable to a master's degree. (Formerly numbered Educational Technology 798.)

### **LDT 799A. Thesis or Project (3) Cr/NC/RP**

Prerequisites: An officially appointed thesis committee and advancement to candidacy.

Preparation of a project or thesis for the master's degree.

### **LDT 799B. Thesis or Project Extension (0) Cr/NC**

Prerequisite: Prior registration in Thesis or Project 799A with an assigned grade symbol of RP.

Registration required in any semester or term following assignment of RP in Course 799A in which the student expects to use the facilities and resources of the university; also student must be registered in the course when the completed thesis or project is granted final approval.