

Potential College of Design UROP Projects

Faculty Name	Project Name (if available)	Contact Info	Nature of Research	How a Student Could Participate
<p>Lyn Bruin Associate Professor Housing Studies Program</p> <p>Becky Yust Professor Housing Studies Program</p>	EMHI Pilot Project Evaluation	mbruin@umn.edu byust@umn.edu	This research project is in collaboration with agencies and companies who are working to increase sustainable homeownership for households in Minnesota. A variety of agencies and companies have been selected as pilots by the statewide Emerging Markets Homeownership Initiative (EMHI). Our research is collecting information to assess the experiences and effectiveness of this work for EMHI.	As a student researcher, you could be involved in reviewing literature, constructing interview questions, conducting interviews, analyzing data and information, writing up the results, and, potentially, presenting your findings at a conference. We can help you to focus your ideas as you develop your proposal.
Elizabeth Bye Associate Professor Clothing Design Program		ebye@umn.edu to set up an appointment	Fit and Sizing or Perception of the Human Body in the Human Dimensioning Lab	Work on part of an ongoing project.
Sue Chu Associate Professor Graphic Design Program		schu@umn.edu	Exploring the potential of Computer Game Engines and their applications to design education.	Student must have a strong interest of playing video games, learning the various games engines (such as Never Winter Nights), and studying 3D software, such as 3D Studio Max. Student will help to set up educational prototype, and conduct evaluations of the prototype.
Denise Guerin Professor Interior Design Program		dguerin@umn.edu	Develop of Research Brief on Current Evidence Based Design Criteria on Design for Children (or other topic could be substituted, e.g., sustainability, health care, lighting, etc.)	Reads, reviews Research summaries on InforMeDesign and writes a research brief from these research summaries. Challenge is to put this together in designer-friendly language. Must love to write. I will edit and guide the work.

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Tasoulla Hadjiyanni Assistant Professor Interior Design Program	Cultural Differences in Housing Needs	thadjiya@umn.edu to set up an appointment	Through a cross-cultural study of differences in housing needs, this research explores the discourse between design, culture, and identity in displacement. Groups studied include Hmong, Somali, Ojibwe, and Mexicans. African-Americans are the last part of this study, which will begin Fall 2007. The study has both theoretical and practical implications as it results in programmatic guidelines that housing must meet to respond to the needs of various cultural groups.	Students can participate by contributing on the literature review, entering the data in SPSS, analyzing data, and disseminating findings in the form of papers and presentations.
Kim Johnson, Professor Retail Merchandising Program		kjohnson@umn.edu	I have done research with undergrads primarily in the area of the social psychology of appearance/dress or consumer behavior. I have not had students come to work on a listed project but they are welcome to work on any that I have ongoing.	In the past many RM students have developed their own projects.
Karen LaBat Professor Clothing Design Program		klabat@umn.edu	Experimentation using motion capture system to evaluate protective clothing.	Participate in experiments using motion capture system. Propose new protective clothing systems that incorporate motion.
Pat Nunnally Research Associate Institute on the Environment	"River Life: The Mississippi and U," as well as a cohort project, "Telling River Stories." Both are collaborative efforts with interdisciplinary University partners and community engagement.	pdn@umn.edu	My research looks into the history and present practice of design, planning, and policy issues relating to the Mississippi River, most particularly at urban waterfronts. It touches on a broad array of disciplines, professional practices, and community groups.	Particular opportunities will vary, but there's considerable latitude. Students should get in touch with me and have some idea of what they'd like to learn and how they'd be of assistance to the broader program. Early consultation about idea development is welcome.

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<p>Ann Ziebarth, Associate Professor Housing Studies Program</p>	<p>Livable Communities/Aging in Place</p>	<p>Phone: 612-625-8795 Email: aziebart@umn.edu</p>	<p>As the number of older adults increases the need to create and maintain livable communities becomes ever more important. In this project, I am looking at public policies that are designed to promote "livable communities" and examining the impact of those policies for residents across the life-span. The project consists of three components, Phase I is comparing the Livable Community Act in Minnesota, USA with a similar law in British Columbia, Canada. Phase II is an "on the ground" assessment of two neighborhoods in St. Paul and two in Vancouver to determine the "livability" of these neighborhoods, especially for older adults and persons with disabilities. Phase III consists of a survey of high-rise residents in each of the neighborhoods to identify perceptions of the livability of their housing unit, their building, and their neighborhood.</p>	<p>Students are invited to develop a UROP proposal that would contribute to any one of the three phases of the project. Students could conduct a literature review of livable community policies and evaluation of livable community outcomes. They could participate in the observational research of Phase II by assessing neighborhoods using standardized techniques. Students interested in survey research could assist in Phase III of the project working on the survey design, data gathering, as well as data input and analysis. Anyone involved in the project is expected to write a paper and/or present their findings in a poster session or presentation at a professional meeting. This can be done in collaboration with the supervising professor.</p>