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Enhance Your Design Firm Leadership & Management Skills

Take your career in design to the next level when you learn the fundamentals of management from others, become a leader in your firm and help grow the firm with this University of Washington certificate program.

Lead Your Design Agency with Influence and Innovation

Without a doubt, successful creative agencies need talented designers with strong aesthetic and technical skills. Yet mid-size and large firms can grow only when headed by insightful leaders skilled at anticipating future trends and positioning the agency against the competition. By earning a UW certificate in Design Firm Leadership and Management, you'll gain the skills to advance your career as a manager or agency owner.

Courses are tailored for professionals with at least four years experience who want to move into management as well as for those running their own firms. This distinct certificate program prepares leaders in a variety of design-related fields, including:

- Architecture
- Interior design
- Graphic design
- Landscape architecture
- Industrial design

Learn From the Leaders in Design Management

Based on curricula developed expressly for design firms by the University of Washington Department of Architecture Professionals Advisory Council, the certificate blends tested management techniques with leading-edge thinking. The program also offers:

- **Experienced instructors.** Strengthen your education when you learn from a nationally recognized faculty of design and architecture consultants with real-life experience.
- **Flexible classes.** University of Washington Extension courses are based around the needs of the working professional.
- **Top-rated education.** This certificate is an intense nine-month program delivering a level of education only a world-class university can offer.

“This program provided valuable tools I could immediately apply to my practice. The interaction and networking with design professionals facilitated invigorating and enriching dialogs where ideas, strategies and challenges could be freely discussed.”

Wolf Saar AIA, LEED AP,
Principal, WEBER + THOMPSON

“The Design Firm Leadership program provided resources for thinking more strategically and skills for evaluating future markets and differentiating my firm, further enhanced by the opportunity to collaborate with current and future leaders in the design field.”

Janice M. Thayer, Principal
Signature Environments, Inc.

Design Firm Leadership and Management Certificate Courses

The Design Firm Leadership and Management certificate is designed for those seeking leadership roles in their firms, whether as managers or owners ready to grow their agencies. Design Firm Leadership and Management is a nine-month program that aims to:

- Define the direction and formulate the vision of an organization
- Achieve a balanced alignment of strategy, leadership and management
- Supply the tools needed to immediately apply knowledge

The program's strategy-leadership-management focus is carefully woven through all three courses in the program -- Design Firm Leadership and Management: Part 1, Part 2 and Part 3 -- across each of the three quarters. You'll utilize a case-study approach to examine concepts and engage in discussion and analysis with peers and guest speakers. Taught in three parts, weaving seamlessly from general to specific, you'll gain an understanding of the following topics:

- Practice management
- Leadership
- Financial management
- Technology management
- Formulation, design and implementation of design firm strategy
- Risk management
- People management

About UW Extension

Learning through UW Extension gives working professionals the quality education that will take your career to the next level, whether you long for a promotion or a shift to a completely new field. All UW Extension programs are designed by UW faculty, industry experts and community leaders. To ensure you receive first-rate instruction, every UW Extension program must be approved by the corresponding University of Washington academic department. UW advisory boards are continually reviewing programs and updating the curriculum to meet the evolving demands of specific fields.


The University of Washington is one of the oldest state-supported institutions of higher education on the West Coast, and one of the preeminent research universities in the world. With nationally ranked academic excellence, facilities, and a diverse student and faculty population, the UW is a leading-edge university with global influence.

About UW Certificate Programs

You already work hard at your existing job, and going back to school is a serious commitment. That's why UW certificate programs are designed around you, with flexible schedules and a choice of part-time, full-time or even online study, depending on the program. A UW certificate gives you the knowledge and credibility to open doors for the rest of your professional life, whether you're moving up the career ladder or switching careers altogether.

Learn more about the program

For complete details, visit the Web site:

 WWW.EXTENSION.WASHINGTON.EDU

Attend an information meeting.

Interested in a certificate? You can ask questions and meet instructors and former students at these free meetings. For meeting dates, times and locations, please go to our Web site.

Questions? Ask away

Give us a call:

 206.685.8936 OR 1.800.506.1325

Send us an email:


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Apply or register today

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This program is brought to you by UW Extension, a community gateway to the University of Washington.