

About The Design + Innovation Hub

The **Design + Innovation Hub (D+I Hub)** is MICA's coordinating ecosystem for creative experiential learning. The Hub connects students, faculty, academic programs, centers, labs, and external partners through partnered courses and other pathways that connect classroom learning to real-world practice.

What is a partnered course?

A **partnered course** is a credit-bearing course in which MICA students collaborate with an **external partner** to explore and address a real-world opportunity or challenge.

The primary goal is **student learning through applied experience**, with faculty guiding the educational process. A partnered course is not a consulting engagement or professional service. Partners may receive valuable insights, concepts, and creative outcomes, but students are learning through the process, and outcomes may be exploratory rather than final. Partnered courses are part of MICA's broader **Creative Experiential Learning (CEL)** ecosystem.

From Ideas to Action to Impact

A partnered course is often the **entry point** for a relationship, idea, or project that can continue beyond the classroom. The D+I Hub creates pathways for promising work to move from **IDEAS** into **ACTION** and, when appropriate, toward **IMPACT**:

- **IDEAS**

Partnered Courses: Students and external partners explore real-world opportunities and challenges through credit-bearing coursework.



- **ACTION**

Post-Course Engagement / Sponsored Projects / Fellowships: Promising work can continue through funded opportunities that support further development.



- **IMPACT**

Applied Research: Faculty, centers, and labs pursue real-world questions and challenges through funded research and creative practice.

Not every partnered course will move beyond the classroom, and not every project needs to. The goal is to recognize promising opportunities and create pathways for work to continue when there is a meaningful opportunity, appropriate funding, and institutional support.