

Bachelors of Fine Arts, Interior Design

Background Knowledge and Skills Needed by Graduates:

Interior designers plan, design, and furnish interiors of residential, commercial, or industrial buildings, including offices, hospitals, airports, theaters, shopping malls, restaurants, hotels, schools, and private residences. They draw upon many disciplines in order to formulate a design which is practical, aesthetic, and conducive to intended purposes, and they may specialize in a particular field, style, or phase of interior design.

The traditional view of an interior designer is that of someone who focuses mostly on decorating, choosing colors, different styles and selecting furnishings. However, more and more designers are becoming involved in the architectural aspects of buildings. Therefore, it is essential that interior designers know how to read and understand blueprints, building and fire codes, and accessibility needs of disabled and elderly populations. Interior designers also must work closely with architects and contractors to ensure that their designs meet requirements.

Interior designers who are familiar with CAD software have a competitive advantage in the job market. Employers need interior designers who know how to use this software and are also familiar with the basics of architecture and engineering. Interior designers must be able to work independently, be creative, and have customer service skills, good problem-solving skills, communication skills, self-discipline, good business skills; including sales and marketing, which are also essential.

Three areas of specializations that are gaining popularity are: ergonomic design, elder design, and environmental – or “green” – design. As the baby-boomer generation ages, it is also becoming increasingly important for designers to know the needs of elderly and disabled populations, and be able to plan interior spaces to meet those needs. In addition, environmental concerns have prompted many builders to consider green designs, which may include using hypoallergenic, chemical-free, or energy efficient materials.

Program Exit Competencies

Upon successful completion of this program, the student should be able to:

- *Articulate and solve basic problems of form and function*
- *Demonstrate basic drawing skills*
- *Generate technically accurate drawings using perspective*
- *Demonstrate craftsmanship (organization, neatness, precision)*
- *Follow oral and written directions*
- *Solve problems in 2-D design*
- *Identify the visual language of design*
- *Select and apply appropriate visual elements*
- *Define, apply and use the appropriate reference to specific design-related terminology*
- *Develop the ability to critique in relation to the fundamentals of design*
- *Communicate design visually through a variety of traditional media.*

- *Produce two-and/or-three dimensional graphic images that demonstrate the relationship between the design elements and the principles of visual organization.*
- *Use three-dimensional models and drawings to visualize interior spaces.*
- *Operate both a MAC and PC Computer using current operating system interfaces*
- *Use and manage computer hardware peripherals for input, output, and storage*
- *Create a simple web page*
- *Demonstrate basic drawing skills*
- *Develop the ability to critique compositional development*
- *Distinguish the relative aspects of color perception as they apply to solving design problems*
- *Define and apply design-related terminology*
- *Develop an awareness of cultural differences as they effect design*
- *Develop the ability to critique appropriate to application of color*
- *Assess how building and interior systems, structural conditions, materials, interior detailing, and environmental factors interact.*
- *Produce properly formatted, cross-referenced working drawings and technical specifications.*
- *Evaluate personal and professional skills and goals related to their application in various career paths in the interior design industry.*
- *Demonstrate professional standards of responsibility, ethics, accountability and effectiveness.*
- *Articulate design ideas in a systematic fashion using the vocabulary of art and design.*
- *Analyze and apply design elements and principles to solve two-and/or- three dimensional design problems.*
- *Utilize research methodology throughout the design process to acquire, assess and apply collected data to interior design solutions and practice.*
- *Select and coordinate furnishings, fixtures, equipment, and finishes related to specific aesthetic and functional solutions.*
- *Communicate design ideas and concepts in a systematic fashion using the vocabulary of art and design.*
- *Apply knowledge of the scientific, psychological, and aesthetic properties of color to create solutions for use in interior design*
- *Collaborate with other professionals in applying the knowledge and skills of the Interior Design profession.*
- *Develop interior design solutions that facilitate the health, safety, and welfare of human activity*
- *Use three-dimensional models and drawings to visualize interior spaces.*
- *Communicate design visually through a variety of traditional media.*
- *Identify developments in art, architecture, furniture, accessories and interiors; compare and contrast them with other periods; and relate them to their social, cultural, and historical contexts.*
- *Produce properly formatted, cross-referenced working drawings and technical specifications.*
- *Employ industry standard software to communicate design solutions.*
- *Estimate furnishings, fixtures, equipment, finishes and/or material quantities, costs and installation requirements.*

- *Display an understanding of environmental ethics and the role of sustainability as they relate to the profession of interior design.*
- *Create interior design solutions in accordance with applicable regulatory authorities.*
- *Apply the practices and procedures involved in project management and contract administration.*
- *Identify the dynamics of business organizational structure and practice.*
- *Examine and differentiate personal and career goals*
- *Identify career paths and salaries*
- *Assess personal strengths and weaknesses*
- *Present a portfolio and articulate strengths*
- *Design personal letterhead and business cards for self-promotion*
- *Critique and evaluate potential portfolio projects*
- *Incorporate critical evaluation of self and others into portfolio projects*
- *Conduct research related to the job search and career development, using a variety of resources*
- *Select and apply various management strategies in business situations*
- *Apply basic business principles to the creation and maintenance of a business*
- *Apply legal principles to the formation, operation, and termination of sole proprietorships, partnerships, and corporations*
- *Explore the opportunity and the operation of a freelance business*
- *Develop a code of business and personal ethics*
- *Apply time-management skills*
- *Act in a professional manner appropriate to the work environment*
- *Develop a professional work ethic*
- *Maintain a code of professional ethics*
- *Participate in collaborative work*
- *Cultivate and implement critical thinking skills*
- *Apply technical and creative skills in a professional setting*
- *Develop professional awareness through research and networking*
- *Develop an awareness of professional standards.*
- *Analyze, prioritize, and sequence project tasks*
- *Manage time and budget*