



INTERIOR DESIGN PROGRAM BACKGROUNDER

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The importance of interior design is apparent throughout our daily lives. Producing an environment that is functional and aesthetically pleasing is the goal of every good interior designer. Interior design is a visual art. Interior design is a technical art. Interior design is a practical art. The challenge of interior design education is to address the artistic, intellectual, technical and practical considerations necessary to provide students with a stable base upon which to begin to practice the art of interior design.

The interior design program is based on the premise that interior design is both an art and a science. As the discipline that interfaces between architecture and the user, its purpose is to enhance the quality of life and facilitate human activity within the built environment.

The interior design curriculum combines the critical thinking skills and broad, cultural knowledge inherent in the liberal arts with the creative, technical, and professional skills necessary for interior design practice. Coursework focuses on issues relevant to current design practice—environmental concerns, the needs of special populations and changing technology.

Students build on an art foundation of drawing, color, and 2- and 3-D design, and go on to study the design process and how to apply the elements and principles of design to the development of interior space. They study how interior design affects human behavior and the natural environment.

Students also learn to develop and carry out a design concept from space planning to selection of materials, finishes, color and furnishings. Students explore methods of visual communication necessary to communicate design ideas in manual and computer-aided drafting and rendering courses. Students also focus on the relationship of interior space to architecture in courses such as interior detailing, building systems, lighting and codes and regulations.

Industry-experienced faculty guide students as they hone their skills to create a portfolio to show prospective employers and clients. Students have the opportunity to make valuable contacts with professionals in the field through professional organizations and internships. Upon graduation, students of the Interior Design program will possess the portfolio that can be professionally presented to any prospective employer.

Graduates are prepared to seek entry-level positions such as, assistant designer, interior designer, space planner, resource librarian or draftsman, with interior design firms or companies specializing in facilities or space planning. After gaining additional on-the-job experience, graduates may become independent consultants or open their own firms.

The Art Institutes (www.artinstitutes.edu) is a system of over 40 education institutions located throughout North America, providing an important source of design, media arts, fashion and culinary arts professionals.

