

Mission Statement of the Interior Design Program

The mission of the Interior Design area is to prepare students to be ethical, responsible critical thinkers, and effective problem-solving professionals in the fields of residential and commercial design by providing a **unique, current, diverse, and high-quality** learning experience.

Goal: UNIQUENESS

To maintain the **uniqueness** of this area in its *balanced emphasis* on disseminating 1) knowledge – of general and design theories, methods and design applications from historical, multicultural and current perspectives, 2) empathetic understanding – of peoples' needs, preferences and behavior in environments and 3) an entrepreneurial perspective.

Objectives:

- To maintain a curriculum that balances the broad liberal aspects of education (liberal arts, sciences, humanities) with the specialized content integral to the profession.
- To maintain and strengthen the unique link with the curriculum of the business program
- To maintain a balanced emphasis on the design of residential and commercial environments
- To maintain a balanced emphasis within coursework on designing functional and aesthetically pleasing environments
- To maintain a balance between lessons learned from history and other cultures and current design applications

Goal: CURRENT CURRICULUM

To maintain a focus on **current** design-related issues in the program best prepares students to learn, critique and adapt problem-solving approaches to a complex and ever-changing world; a crucial aspect in both residential and commercial design fields.

Objectives:

- To offer an undergraduate program that meets the standards of our accrediting agency (FIDER – Foundation for Interior Design Education Research)
- To offer coursework that contains projects with emphasis on current design concerns such as environmental sustainability, green design, up-to-date code compliance measures, and adaptive re-use of existing buildings.
- To assist students in acquiring high levels of current technical and substantive knowledge and critical thinking skills that will help them successfully compete for local and national entry-level positions in the interior design profession.
- To encourage students to develop and practice (through coursework, assignments and projects) a high degree of problem-solving skills that will also help prepare them for rapid advancement into leadership positions in the interior design profession.
- To engage students in current community-based design problems that link them to community service and provide insight into real-world complexity.

Goal: DIVERSE LEARNING EXPERIENCE

To provide a range of **diverse** professional experiences that is an integral part of hands-on learning.

Objectives:

- To expose students to more than one professional point of view through course instruction and actual encounters with practicing designers and researchers
- To integrate the diverse contributions of the faculty in the learning experience
- To maintain and strengthen learning opportunities and experiences, that is, field trips and case studies outside the classroom
- To engage design professionals in the community in studio critiques of design projects.
- To maintain student participation in the internship at the end of the program

Goal: HIGH-QUALITY LEARNING COMMUNITY

To engage students and faculty in a **high-quality** learning community that encourages a creative exchange of ideas in an environment with high quality resources.

Objectives:

- To maintain a high quality program by recruiting students with high academic and creative potential.
- To manage enrolment effectively (via Review of portfolio and academic standards) to efficiently use existing resources.
- To provide small classes that offer an ideal optimized learning environment with high level of one-on-one faculty-student contact, and more personalized direction. This is also FIDER's guidelines.
- To maintain the program's emphasis on ethics and social responsibility by using examples in course instruction, and encouraging students to question their own actions and behavior as it fits within this objective.
- To maintain the highest quality instruction and enhance the reputation of the Interior Design area by supporting excellence in teaching (recognition of teaching, opportunities for personal development)
- To maintain the participation of design professionals in the community in project critiques, and conversely, engage the students in design-related service to the community.
- To effectively communicate to the public and design professionals at regional and national levels, the expertise and contributions of our interior design majors.