Program Description

The Interior Design Program at California State University, Sacramento has a regional reputation as a leading design school, and is recognized as a nationally accredited program. The four year program leads to a Bachelor of Arts degree in Interior Design and offers two concentrations: Interior Architecture and Interior Design Marketing.

The Interior Design Program provides students with the technical, creative, and critical thinking skills needed to enter the interior design profession. The breadth of courses in the program reflects the importance of both a liberal arts background and professional preparation in the design field. Courses encompass the study of design history and theory, aesthetics, graphics, lighting, space planning, computer-aided design, interior construction, and professional practice. The Interior Design curriculum provides comprehensive coverage in all the major areas of training, including concept development, design, communication, presentation, construction and professional services. Many of the course assignments are based on actual design projects. Guest lecturers and professional panel critiques and discussions as well as building tours of outstanding projects are all important parts of the curriculum. Community service projects and pre-professional internships help to maintain a strong connection to the community and profession.

The Interior Design major at California State University, Sacramento is one of the most highly sought after programs in Northern California and is considered an “impacted program” within the CSU system. As such, students entering the program are initially classified as Pre-Interior Design Majors. After completing the required lower division prerequisites, students may apply for admission to the upper division program by declaring their concentration in either Interior Architecture or Interior Design Marketing. Admission to the Interior Architecture concentration is limited and controlled by an annual portfolio review. Students interested in this concentration must submit a supplementary application including a portfolio of work.

California State University, Sacramento is located in the state capital city and is less than 100 miles from the San Francisco bay area. This strategic location offers a wealth of professional employment opportunities. Graduates from the Interior Design program at CSU Sacramento have secured positions in architectural firms, interior design firms, government agencies, private corporations, furniture manufacturing companies and design showrooms.
Program Highlights

Accredited Learning The CSU Sacramento Bachelor of Arts degree in Interior Design is accredited by both the Council for Interior Design Accreditation (CIDA) and the National Association of Schools of Art and Design (NASAD). These organizations’ frequent review of the curriculum provides assurance of rigorous and real world-relevant coursework.

Faculty: Four full-time faculty and several part-time faculty possess wide and comprehensive expertise in architecture, design history, residential and commercial interiors, lighting, space planning, presentation and computer-aided design. Full-time faculty are actively engaged in teaching as well as participating in professional work, publication and research. Part-time faculty teaching studio courses are practicing professional architects and designers and offer students firsthand exposure to current work and community development.

Internships: The curriculum features a strong practical learning component that includes a required professional internship. This experience immerses the graduating senior in meaningful work within architecture firms, interior design firms, government agencies or other organizations and provides vital real-world professional experience. Many internships transfer to full-time employment for graduates.

Competitions: The Department’s students have a long history of successful design competition entries. The annual San Francisco Student Career Forum consistently plays host to first place awards by CSUS students in competitions sponsored by ASID, IIDA, NKBA, IFDA and other design organizations.

Scholarships: Monetary scholarships sponsored by IIDA and the corporate design firm Hogue & Associates are awarded annually to interior design students who show particular promise in their professional and academic skills. These funds assist students in their tuition and materials purchases. Additional scholarships sponsored by professional organizations are also available to CSUS design students.

The Spring Show: This annual event invites design employers, parents and prospective students to view premiere design studio work created by the program’s interior design, graphics and photography students. This gala affair boasts an annual attendance of 600+ and provides a festive venue for the best of the best of our students to showcase their abilities.

Student Design Organization: Pr.Int.S., the CSU Sacramento Professional Interior Design Students organization provides a conduit for student communication and fellowship. The organization’s affiliation with both IIDA and ASID offers students the opportunity to network with area professionals and meetings bring a multitude of guest speakers to campus. More information about the group is available in the Department of Design office.

Guest Lecture Series and Activities The Program of Interior Design is a part of the Festival of the Arts week where well-known speakers, exhibitors, and performers are highlighted on an annual basis.

Facilities: The Program of Interior Design is located in Mariposa Hall on the main campus. Completed in 2000, the building offers ‘smart’ classrooms that foster digital presentations as well as computer laboratories replete with SketchUp, AutoCAD, AutoCAD Architecture, Revit, Photoshop, and other crucial programs. Video hardware in studio classrooms supports real-time drawing and rendering demonstrations projected onto class projector screens. Further, the Department’s Gallery serves as a venue for student critiques as well as a lighting demonstration space. Students also take advantage of the spacious library resource room stocked with current periodicals and relevant design materials.

Advising: Upon declaring a Major in Interior Design, the student is assigned to one of the four full-time Faculty as their Major Advisor. Students are also assigned by the University to a G.E. Advisor to help with General Education and Graduation requirements. Transfer students must meet with their Major Advisor to discuss transfer course evaluation, credit, and placement within the Program. Group Advising Sessions are regularly scheduled to discuss the Portfolio Review process and Internships.
The Concentrations

California State University, Sacramento offers a CIDA and NASAD accredited Bachelor of Arts degree in Interior Design. The BA in Interior Design requires 120 units including university requirements. The major consists of two concentrations within the Bachelor of Arts Degree in Interior Design: a Concentration in Interior Architecture and a Concentration in Interior Design Marketing. Both concentrations require essentially the same lower division courses, i.e. 24-27 units of required lower division preparatory course work and both require essentially the same upper division History and Professional Practice course requirements. The Interior Architecture students are required to take 21 upper division units in Studio courses and the Interior Design and Marketing students are required to take 21 units in Marketing from the School of Business.

The Interior Architecture Concentration. Admission to the Interior Architecture concentration is limited and controlled by an annual portfolio review. Students interested in this concentration must submit a supplementary application including a portfolio of work. Interior Architecture concentration applicants will be ranked based on cumulative GPA and the results of the juried portfolio review held each Spring.

The Interior Design -Marketing Concentration consists of all existing history and professional practice courses in our upper division curriculum and will require an additional 24 units taken within the College of Business Administration. Admittance into the IDMC requires that students wishing to pursue the concentration submit the Declaration of Concentration form which is available at the DOD office.

Design Specialties
- Residential Design
- Commercial Design
- Corporate Tenant Improvements
- Hospitality
- Retail
- Healthcare
- Institutional
- Entertainment
- Restoration and Adaptive Reuse

Career Possibilities: Interior Architecture Concentration

Interior designers work in a diversity of environments including:
- Sole Practitioner
- Interior Design Firms
- Architectural Offices
- Facility Planning

Career Possibilities: Interior Design Marketing Concentration

- Graphic and Marketing Departments within Design Firms
- Furniture Retailers
- Office Furnishing Dealers
- Retail Specialty Stores

Student Work: Emily Hall
The Faculty

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Supplies and Textbooks

Interior design is considered an “applied” art and students will be expected to purchase art supplies and drawing equipment. Although supplies required for projects such as papers, mat board, foam core, etc., are to be expected, they will vary from project to project. Additionally, many assignments require the use of reprographics such as large format copies and/or color copies. Reprographic expenses will also vary from semester to semester.

Drawing equipment and art supplies listed are identified as either required or recommended. Generally, all drawing equipment and art supplies are used in every studio. If students purchase good equipment and take care of their equipment each semester, it can be expected that most if not all of their tools can be used well into professional practice. The course syllabus for all studio classes will identify specific supplies needed to complete assignments.

The study and practice of interior design requires students to remain current in the field. Instructors often prepare readers or course primers filled with articles, images, code excerpts and supplemental reference materials for student purchase. Whenever possible, faculty will prepare readers or course primers for students in lieu of requiring the purchase of costly textbooks. Each course syllabus will identify required and recommended textbooks as well as readers and course primers.

Several textbooks that are extremely beneficial to students are routinely used in more than one course. These texts will later prove useful in professional practice as reference materials. The following is a list of required textbooks and recommended periodicals for the major in Interior Design:

Core Required Textbooks:
- The Codes Guidebook for Interiors. Designers. Harmon, S.
- Interior Graphic and Design Standards. Reznikoff, S.
- Color Drawing. Doyle, M.
- The Interior Plan. Roberto Rengel
- ADA Pocket Guide

Recommended Textbooks:
- Professional Practice for Interior Designers. Piotrowski, C.
- Interior Construction and Detailing. Ballast, K
- Human Dimension and Interior Space. Panero, J. and Zelnik, M.
- Architecture: Form Space and Order. Ching, F.

Recommended Periodicals:
- Interior Design
- Architectural Record
- Architecture
- Dwell Magazine
**Studio Fees & Laptop Computer Requirement**

All studio-based courses have lab fees. Fees are used to provide studio classrooms with a variety of art supplies and widely used reference and code books needed to complete interior design projects. Student fees also provide convenient in-house large format black and white and color printing.

Students who have been accepted into the Interior Design Program’s Interior Architecture Concentration are required to own a laptop computer with the appropriate software for their upper division courses. This requirement must be met before entering the upper division program. Before purchasing a laptop computer, please review the specifications shown for specific minimum requirements.

The University Bookstore offers student discounted pricing on Apple Computers. Many software vendors offer discounted pricing to eligible students, including Adobe, Autodesk and Google.

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**Software Minimum Requirements:**

- AutoCAD 2012 OR AutoCAD Architecture 2012 (Autodesk provides a free 1-year license to students)
- Revit Architecture 2012 (Autodesk provides a free 1-year license to students)
- Adobe Photoshop (any version)
- Adobe Acrobat X Pro (or other PDF Creator)
- Google SketchUp Pro (current version available)
- Podium (current version available)

**PC Hardware Minimum Requirements:**

- Windows Vista OR Windows 7 Intel® Core™2 Duo 2.4 GHz or equivalent processor
- 4 GB RAM (on-board memory)
- 80GB Hard Drive
- 256MB Nvidia Quadro NVS 110M Turbo cache or better
- Wireless 802.11g
- 3 yr limited warranty + 3 year NBD on-site service

**Apple Hardware Minimum Requirements:**

- Apple MacBook Pro 2.4 Ghz Intel Core 2 Duo (bootable in Windows) or MacAir
- 4 GB RAM (on-board memory)
- 80GB Hard Drive
- 3yr Applecare warranty
Frequently Asked Questions

Why is Interior Design “Impacted” and what does it mean?

“Impaction” is a term the University uses to describe high-quality, high-demand majors with limited resources. Impaction may at first sound like a negative term, however, it is in fact a good thing for our program, our students and our graduates. Impaction does not apply to Interior Design Marketing students, only students entering into the Interior Architecture Program.

Entry into the Interior Architecture Program is competitive. Once a student is accepted into the Interior Architecture program, placement in upper division courses is secure, as long as the student meets the required academic standards, the student will graduate in four semesters. Because admission into the Interior Architecture program is competitive, our graduates are more easily distinguished from the many other interior design programs in Northern California.

What is the “Pre-Interior Design” Major?

Students coming to Sacramento State and declaring a Major in Interior Design are first classified as Pre-Interior Design majors. After completing the required lower division prerequisites, students may apply for admission to the upper division program by declaring their concentration in either Interior Architecture or Interior Design Marketing.

How hard is it to get into the Interior Architecture Concentration at Sacramento State?

Admission to the Interior Architecture concentration is limited and controlled by an annual portfolio review held each Spring. Students interested in this concentration must submit a supplementary application including a portfolio of work. The portfolio review has specific content requirements so transfer students must meet with their Major Adviser to discuss the process. There is an annual meeting in the fall to help students prepare for the spring portfolio submission. Interior Architecture concentration applicants will be ranked based on cumulative GPA and the results of the juried portfolio review.
Frequently Asked Questions Continued

How long will it take to graduate?

The BA Interior Design degree is a four-year program. Students coming to Sacramento State as freshmen and declaring their major will likely graduate in the normal time frame. Transfer students and/or students who change their major, must meet with a major Adviser to officially review a student’s placement within the Interior Design major, graduation requirements will be discussed at that time.

I’m a transfer student. How do I get coursework from another university accepted?

Transfer students should contact the Department of Design Office at (916) 278-3962 to schedule an appointment for Transfer Credit Evaluation. A Transfer Credit Evaluation may be fairly involved depending on how many courses need to be reviewed and how many Colleges or Universities the student may have attended. It is important that the transfer student have examples of studio coursework, transcripts and course syllabi with them when they attend their appointment. Transfer students may wish to first visit www.assist.org to see if a course(s) is “articulated”, officially accepted for transfer. If a transfer course does not appear at Assist.org, a student can still (and should) request that their coursework be reviewed by a Major Advisor.

I’m not sure if the field of interior design is for me. How can I find out more information?

The professional practice of interior design involves understanding the aesthetics of an entire space, and shaping it into a rich visual and tactile experience. Interior design students at Sacramento State learn fundamental art and design principles such as color and form, as well as the design of lighting, furniture, architecture, interior construction, and much more. Both hand-drawn and computer-aided rendering will be discussed and implemented in the courses, with an emphasis on professional preparation and communication. Interior design teaches students to create spaces that will inform, enrich, and enlighten.

For students who are uncertain if this is the right career choice, we highly recommend students take the following three courses and decide: INTD15, INTD20, and INTD25.
Frequently Asked Questions Continued

What happens if I don't maintain a ‘C’ average?

Students who receive a grade of C- are placed on Interior Design Probation and a registration hold will be placed by the department. Students are required to meet with their major advisor and then the registration hold will be removed. Students who receive a grade of D+ or lower must repeat the course, are placed on Interior Design Probation, and are required to meet with their major advisor. Students will not be able to advance in the Interior Architecture Concentration until the student successfully completes the repeated course.

What kind of laptop is best for Interior Design?

The industry standard computer for architectural practice is the PC. The PC is the market share leader and will continue, at least in the short term. Most architectural firms use Autodesk products such as Revit, which is written for the Windows environment. Students however, may choose either the Mac or the PC. All required software (see Studio Fees and Laptop Computer Requirements) will operate on both platforms, however, students wishing to use a Mac will be required to purchase an additional application such as Parallels to operate Windows based software on a Mac.

Is Interior Design an expensive major?

All majors that deal with graphic presentations can be expensive. The laptop, software and traditional drawing supplies are required for all upper division design studios. In addition, students are required to give presentations that may require printed materials, sometimes large format prints are required. Faculty are careful to require only necessary printing for student presentations. There is also a shift toward using digital projected images more often for presentations.