

Interior Design, BID

Department: Interior Design Program

College: Caine College of the Arts

Overview

About This Degree

Interior designers are responsible for the interior design, decoration, and functionality of a client's space, whether the space is commercial, industrial, or residential. They work closely with architects and clients to determine the structure of a space, the needs of the occupants, and the style that best suits both. In addition to using color, fabric, and furniture to decorate a space, interior designers must understand construction and building codes, know the characteristics of materials, have budgeting skills, communicate well, and oversee the ordering, installation, and maintenance of all objects that define a space.

Students in USU's program have won numerous design awards at the regional, national, and international levels. The program also boasts strong internship placement, with students working for nationally known designers in New York, Great Britain, France, Australia, Peru, and more.

USU's program also hosts a visiting designer series each year. Visiting designers typically send students a project assignment before their visit. Once they arrive, students receive feedback and personal attention from some of the world's leading interior designers on these projects.

The program embraces sustainable design. Students take a sustainability class that prepares them to take the LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) Green Associate Examination, which gives students additional credentials when they graduate.

The program sponsors a national or international design tour every year, where students may tour famous buildings, museums, manufacturing facilities, design centers, and the offices of some of the country's top designers. Students have the opportunity to travel to locations, such as Italy, France, England, Los Angeles, Chicago, and New York.

Students learn to identify, research, and creatively solve problems pertaining to the function and quality of the interior environment. Students also gain an understanding of the legal and ethical issues that guide and direct the profession. The interior design program gives students a knowledge base of traditional aesthetics and historical precedent. The program emphasizes a strong foundation based on an understanding of architecture, history, technical skills, including the latest software, as well as the study of art and design.

The bachelor of interior design program at USU is accredited by the Council for Interior Design Accreditation.

Career Options

With a degree in interior design, students are qualified to pursue a variety of graduate programs, including architecture, or they may pursue the following careers:

- Residential interior design
- Commercial interior design
- Manufacturer's sales representative
- Design analysis
- Space planning
- Event planning
- Interior construction
- Architectural firms
- Drafting
- Building codes
- Designing furnishings

[Career Services](#) provides counseling and information on hundreds of job and internship opportunities and even helps students apply and interview.

What it takes

Admissions Requirements

In addition to Utah State University's [admissions requirements](#), the interior design program has additional requirements:

- **Freshman:** New freshmen admitted to USU in good standing qualify for admission as pre-majors.
- **Transfer Students:** Transfer students from other institutions and students transferring from other USU majors are required to submit an application/portfolio packet, available from the Interior Design Office, by April 1 for the following fall semester.
- To be an interior design major, students must submit an application packet by April 1 of the students first year. The application packet assesses basic skills and creativity. If the student is accepted, he or she may continue in the program. Students who desire to continue on to the third year of the program must submit a portfolio for review.

International students have [additional admissions requirements](#).

Major Requirements

[Click here](#) to see course requirements for the **Bachelor of Interior Design**.

Students entering sophomore-level interior design courses must have their own laptop computer. Specifications for the laptop will be provided by the program, and required software will be made available through a special leasing program.

Students must participate in an internship before graduation. This internship is an extensive, real-world learning experience that most students complete during the summer of their junior year.

Contact

Advising

All new USU students participate in a [New Student Orientation](#) program, where they receive detailed information about major requirements, registering for classes, and other important advising information.

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Get Involved

Professional Organizations, Honor Societies, and Clubs

International Interior Design Association: IIDA is a professional networking and educational association that strives to create a strong niche for the most talented and visionary interior design professionals, to elevate the profession to the level it warrants, and to lead the way for the next generation of interior design innovators. IIDA stands at the intersection of passion and strategy where designers create extraordinary interiors and experiences.

American Society of Interior Designers: ASID is the oldest, largest, and leading professional organization for interior designers. The society's members work in all areas of both commercial and residential design. Professional members of ASID must pass rigorous acceptance standards: they must have a combination of accredited design education and/or full-time work experience and pass a two-day accreditation examination administered by the National Council for Interior Design Qualification.

Labs, Centers, Research

With the second oldest [undergraduate research](#) program in the nation, USU offers students a wide range of opportunities to gain hands-on research experience. The [Undergraduate Research and Creative Opportunities](#) program allows students to apply for grants and receive funding. USU's [Honors Program](#) prepares students for excellent graduate programs by helping them build relationships with professors, participate in research projects, take smaller, more intensive classes, and develop leadership skills.

Tippetts Exhibit Hall: A 4,500-square-foot open space with movable display walls, the Tippetts Exhibit Hall supports art exhibits of all types and styles and serves as one of the main display venues for the Art Department and Interior Design program.