College of Human Ecology

Interior Design

Overview

Professional interior designers use a balance of analytical and creative skills in combination with a broad range of technical knowledge to shape interior environments that satisfy the functional, spatial and aesthetic requirements of a broad range of end users in all building types. Ultimately, professional interior designers identify, research and creatively solve problems related to the function of interior environments in order to enhance quality of life while protecting public health, safety and welfare.

Interior designers typically develop a program of space needs with description of environmental qualities to guide design decisions. When developing solutions for interior spaces, interior designers consider a variety of factors, including spatial attributes, construction, material properties and energy consumption, as well as contextual factors such as precedent, building and site location, and behavioral and cultural pattern of use.

Interior designers also select, specify and determine placement for materials, fixtures, finishes and furnishings. Designs are communicated through physical and digital models and hand-drawn or digitally produced images. Technical design decisions are communicated through construction documents. At the time of construction or installation, designers are involved with project administration as the client’s agent. Interior designers also frequently conduct post-occupancy evaluations.

The interior design program in the College of Human Ecology emphasizes the interaction between humans and the interior environment. Students are encouraged to become professionals who design interior spaces that are sustainable and enhance user satisfaction, productivity and safety at all stages of life.

Points of pride

Kansas State University’s interior design graduates work for top 100 firms from coast to coast, from Santa Monica, California, to Washington, D.C.

Professional options

Careers

K-State interior design graduates are frequently employed at a variety of architectural and interior design firms. Many graduates work in multidisciplinary offices that utilize a variety of professionals on the planning and design teams. Other common career paths include positions with systems dealerships or other product manufacturers to the architectural and interior design community, serving as specification specialists and project managers. Others take their design careers toward targeted areas such as lighting, kitchen and bath design, or residential design positions.

Employers

Employment is available domestically and in international offices of multidisciplinary firms. Job opportunities for interior designers are most plentiful in metropolitan areas.

Job experience

Our students work for top 100 firms from coast to coast. Recently, our students have interned or gained employment with top firms, including:

- Callison in Seattle
- Perkins+Will in Dallas and Washington, D.C.
- Hersch Bedner Associates in Santa Monica, California
- SOM in Washington, D.C.
- Gensler in Dallas, San Francisco, Denver and Chicago

Academics

The interior design program is a studio-based curriculum structured to integrate learning with related professional courses taken sequentially and concurrently. Students learn how the interior design body of knowledge is developed through research, and how to create spaces that support how we work and live today and tomorrow.

Studios 1 to 8 are sequential, beginning with design fundamentals and progressing through more complex learning in spatial composition and space planning, design and execution of working drawings, sustainability, material specification, universal and accessible design, and building and life safety codes. Some projects are team-based.

Senior-level studios provide capstone projects that are professionally comprehensive. The program also includes courses in communication, social and natural sciences, quantitative studies, humanities, art, architecture, business and textiles.

Specific profession courses also include:

- Design and Behavior in the Interior Environment
- History of Interior Design I and II
- Construction Methods and Materials for Interior Design
- Computer-Aided Visual Communication in Interior Design
- Environmental Systems for Interior Design
- ID Practices and Procedures
- Design for Supportive Environments
- Textiles
- Lighting

Elective professional courses include:

- Advanced Design and Behavior
- Design for Aging in the Modern World
- Interior Design Internship
- Topics in Advanced ID Theory

Some of the special features of the K-State program:

- Students are well-served by the program’s unique combination of an emphasis in the knowledge of human behavior in the designed environment and professional competencies in interior design.
- Opportunities in coursework and experience-based learning provide exposure to diverse cultural perspectives.
- Teaching facilities include dedicated studios, a dedicated printing lab and a comprehensive professional resource library.
- Students can participate in summer internships, study abroad and a variety of both domestic and foreign study tours.
- Many studios include participation in regional and national design competitions.

Accreditation

The interior design program is accredited by the Council for Interior Design Accreditation and the National Association of Schools of Art and Design.

k-state.edu/admissions/academics
Faculty
Members of the interior design faculty have professional experiences in a range of practice backgrounds, including corporate, healthcare, senior living, historic preservation and sustainability. As both scholars and practitioners, they are prepared to help students make the leap from the classroom to the workplace.

Preparation
Students who have completed a college preparatory curriculum are best suited for the interior design program. Preparation or experience in hand drawing, two-dimensional and three-dimensional design, geometry, algebra, world history, and written and oral communications is strongly recommended.

Activities
Professional development
The student chapters of professional organizations provide opportunities for leadership and involvement. Organizations include the American Society of Interior Designers, or ASID, and the International Interior Design Association, or IIDA.

Activities within the student chapter provide the opportunity for interior design students to network with professionals in our region and to continue their education outside the classroom.

Admissions
Incoming students complete the general university admissions process. Students can apply to the university at k-state.edu/admissions/apply.

Students need to indicate that they are interested in being considered for admission to the interior design program in the College of Human Ecology. Individuals who have completed applications submitted to the university by Feb. 1 will be in the first round of applications considered for the following fall semester.

Requirements
First-year students
Admission to the interior design program is selective and highly competitive. A complete application must be submitted — including official high school transcript and official ACT or SAT test scores, with application fee — to the admissions office. Review of applications will begin Feb. 1. The interior design faculty will review applications, and applicants will be notified of their admission status to the interior design program in March.

Applicants are admitted on the basis of academic profiles and availability of space. In some instances early applicants with very high ACT or SAT scores who have been awarded premier scholarships will qualify for early admissions and be notified in January.

Transfer students
Transfer students are admitted through the selective admissions process. Completed applications — including all college transcripts and application fee — must be submitted to the admissions office.

Review of applications will begin Feb. 1. The interior design faculty will review applications, and applicants will be notified of their admission status to the interior design program in March.

Applicants are considered on the basis of academic profiles and the availability of space. Applicants who apply after Feb. 1 will be placed on a waiting list.

Transfer students from other design programs who wish to be considered for advanced placement should contact the ATID office for additional submission requirements.

Computer access
Interior design students are required to provide their own laptop computer beginning their second year of the curriculum. Please consult he.k-state.edu/atid/current-students/id-laptop-requirements.html.

As technology changes, so do the computer specifications. Students are encouraged to verify the most current requirements before the beginning of their second year.

Suggested coursework
Suggested first-year curriculum

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First Year ID Student Seminar, Design and Behavior in the Interior Environment*, Expository Writing I, Western Civilization: Rise of Europe*, General Psychology, Foundations of Human Ecology

Suggested coursework

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*Classes are required to retain the program sequence

#Students have the option to take ID 350 in the summer following their first year in the program.

For more information about interior design, contact:
Department of Apparel, Textiles, and Interior Design
Kansas State University
225 Justin Hall
1324 Lovers Lane
Manhattan, KS 66506-1405
785-532-6993
atidinfo@k-state.edu
he.k-state.edu/atid

For information about transferring coursework from other institutions, contact:
Karen Pence
College of Human Ecology
Kansas State University
119 Justin Hall
1324 Lovers Lane
Manhattan, KS 66506-1401
785-532-5500
Fax: 785-532-5504
kpence@k-state.edu

For more information about Kansas State University, contact:
Office of Admissions
Kansas State University
119 Anderson Hall
919 Mid-Campus Drive North
Manhattan, KS 66506-0102
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Notice of nondiscrimination
Kansas State University prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, ethnicity, national origin, sex (including sexual harassment and sexual violence), sexual orientation, gender identity, religion, age, ancestry, disability, genetic information, military status, or veteran status, in the University’s programs and activities as required by applicable laws and regulations. The person designated with responsibility for coordination of compliance efforts and receipt of inquiries concerning nondiscrimination policies is the University’s Title IX Coordinator: the Director of the Office of Institutional Equity, equity@k-state.edu, 103 Edwards Hall, Kansas State University, Manhattan, Kansas 66506, (785) 532-6277. The campus ADA Coordinator is the Director of Employee Relations, charlotte@k-state.edu, who may be reached at 103 Edwards Hall, Kansas State University, Manhattan, Kansas 66506, (785) 532-6277.

Post-Graduation Statistics
k-state.edu/postgrad-stats
kdegreestats.org

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