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DESIGN INSTITUTE OF SAN DIEGO



BFA IN  
**INTERIOR  
DESIGN** PROGRAM

TRANSFORM  
YOUR PASSION

# INTO A PROFESSION

While the origins of interior design date back to Ancient Egypt, interior design was not recognized as a profession until about 100 years ago. Today, interior design plays a critical and essential role in the health, safety, and welfare of our communities. Interior design has also become a part of our culture and entertainment with easy-and-fun DIY design television shows, because, at its core, it is still a delightful exercise in creativity.

To be a successful professional interior designer today, a deep and well-rounded education and degree from a reputable university are critical; and given the expanding scope and importance of the field of interior design, choosing the right school and program for your desired career path has never been more important. That's what will transform your passion and creativity into a career.



## PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Design Institute of San Diego (DI) is a small college with a big interior design program. As experts in interior design education for more than 45 years, we put a lot of research into every aspect of your interior design education including the order in which you take courses, how courses interact with each other, and how you get exactly what you need when you need it. Our Bachelor of Fine Arts (BFA) in Interior Design program is designed to prepare you for a successful entry-level position in the field of interior design. What's more, you get to begin your interior design courses immediately – no time wasted.

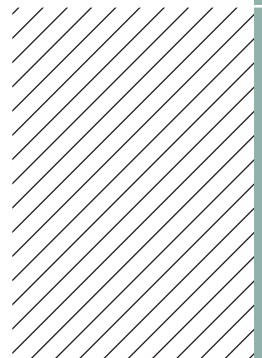
Organized to allow students to build upon skills and knowledge in a logical sequence, the curriculum addresses the development of artistic, intellectual, technical, and practical skills appropriate to contemporary interior design practice. It also balances the broad cultural aspects of education with the specialized current professional needs of interior design.

At Design Institute, you will begin your studies with firm foundations in design history, theory, and visual arts and build strong skills in communication, research, and space planning.

You will progress to increasingly more complex learning experiences that will help you build competency to appropriately identify and solve problems related to the rich contextual relationship that exists between people, the natural environment, and the designed space. Because DI is relatively small, we have the opportunity to quickly incorporate newly emerging interior design issues and technology into the curriculum whenever necessary.

Our curriculum addresses social, global, and environmental issues. Additional upper-division coursework prepares students to effectively analyze human behavior to meet the functional, aesthetic, social, and psychological needs of clients. It also prepares them to make a confident transition into professional practice.

In your third year, you will complete an internship, or as we call it, an Externship. Designed so you can experience the day-to-day work practices of a professional interior designer, the DI Externship is a supported work experience and one of the key building blocks of the program. DI also offers a Classroom Without Walls initiative that gives students an additional opportunity to explore interior design practice through a community-based, pro-bono project.





DEVOTED TO DESIGN



## ACCREDITATION

The BFA in Interior Design program at Design Institute has been accredited by the Council for Interior Design Accreditation (CIDA), an independent, non-profit accrediting organization for interior design education programs, since 1991. DI is accredited by the WASC Senior College and University Commission (WSCUC).

## ELIGIBILITY AND PROGRAM LENGTH

The interior design program leading to a BFA in Interior Design degree is a four-year, 132 semester-credit-unit curriculum. The program consists of 96 units in the Interior Design Major and 36 units in General Education.

We understand that every DI student's circumstance is unique. The program may be completed in four years by a student attending full time and successfully completing 15-18 units per semester for eight semesters, Fall and Spring. A student attending in the evening and successfully completing the full load offered each semester (6-9 units per semester for 15 semesters) may complete the program in five years. Evening track students attend classes year-round or three semesters per year: Fall, Spring, and Summer.

A fast track option is available for transfer students who want to attend classes full time year-round in order to graduate sooner. The fast track may be completed in two and one-half to three years by a student attending full time and successfully completing 15-18 units per semester for eight semesters: Fall, Spring, and Summer.

## FINANCIAL AID

Many students and their families seek financial help in paying for a college education. DI participates in all applicable federal and state financial aid programs available, and we are happy to help prospective students explore eligibility for loans, grants and scholarships.

Financial aid is available for those who qualify. We encourage prospective students to meet with the Financial Aid Director to get complete details regarding financial aid options. Prospective students may apply for financial aid before being admitted to the college, but must be accepted for admission before financial aid can be awarded. It is advisable to begin the application process early in order to meet filing requirements and deadlines.

**For questions related to financial aid, please email us at [financial.aid@disd.edu](mailto:financial.aid@disd.edu) or call us at (858) 566-1200.**

## ADMISSIONS

Design Institute welcomes all applicants whose personal interest is directed toward a professional career in interior design and whose background indicates the potential to be successful. All admissions decisions are made based on a holistic review of each applicant and all materials submitted.

All candidates for admission to the BFA program at DI must possess proof of high school graduation or its equivalent, including but not limited to a High School Equivalency (HSE) credential. It is not essential to have any previous training in art or design; this training is provided within the program.

Design Institute offers personal, individualized evaluations for all transfer students, as well as assistance to international students who want to know more about the I-20 form process or other admissions questions.

Our convenient online Applications Portal at [disd.edu/admissions/apply/](https://disd.edu/admissions/apply/) is easy to use and, once you log-in and register, you can start, stop and return to your application at any time. During the application process, you will need to provide appropriate transcripts, two essays, recommendations and a \$25 application fee.

## FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE ADMISSIONS REQUIREMENTS AND PROCESS:

Contact the DI Admissions Team  
at (858) 566-1200 or [admissions@disd.edu](mailto:admissions@disd.edu).  
We are here to help you make this process  
as easy and as personal as possible.



## MORE INFORMATION

We admire your desire to transform your love of interior design into a thriving career and we are excited to welcome you to our community and to your future as a successful interior designer.

**We invite you to visit the website at [disd.edu](https://disd.edu) for more information about Design Institute, and to download the full Institutional Catalog.**

### NON-DISCRIMINATION POLICY STATEMENT

Design Institute of San Diego (DI) does not discriminate in its employment practices or in its educational programs or activities on the basis of sex/gender. DI also prohibits retaliation against any person opposing discrimination or participating in any discrimination investigation or complaint process internally or externally. Reports of misconduct, questions regarding Title IX, and concerns about noncompliance should be directed to the Title IX Coordinator at [TitleIX@disd.edu](mailto:TitleIX@disd.edu). For a complete copy of the policy or for more information, please contact the Title IX Coordinator or the Assistant Secretary of Education within the Office for Civil Rights (OCR) at <https://www.hhs.gov/ocr/index.html>.



**Design Institute  
of San Diego**

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