

# Education in the Interior Design Profession



An interior designer identifies, researches and creatively solves problems pertaining to the function, safety and quality of the interior environment. An interior designer is responsible for performing services relative to interior spaces, including programming, design analysis, space planning and aesthetics, using specialized knowledge of interior construction, building codes, equipment, materials and furnishings. Interior designers are formally trained to prepare drawings and documents relative to the design of interior spaces in order to enhance and protect the health, safety and welfare of the public.

Completing a degree, either an associate or bachelors, is an essential element to professional practice of interior design. Currently, 26 states and jurisdictions have licensing or registration requirements for interior design practitioners that require them to meet or exceed an accepted level of accredited education.

Over a hundred colleges and universities across the country offer accredited programs and degrees in interior design. The majority of these programs are at state-funded institutions. Interior design programs accredited by the Council for Interior Design Accreditation are required to educate students in:

- professional values
- design fundamentals
- interior design
- communication
- building systems and interior materials
- regulations
- business and professional practice

This formal education prepares the professional interior designer with a unique blend of knowledge and skills specific to the interior environment. It also prepares the interior designer to sit for the National Council for Interior Design Qualification examination, which requires a minimum of two years of formal interior design education and a combination of education and experience totaling six years.

After interior designers complete their formal education, they can continue their professional development through continuing education opportunities. Continuing education in interior design emphasizes competencies, knowledge and skills in a specific subject with the long-term goal of enhancing an individual's performance. Continuing Education Units (CEUs) in interior design, which are coordinated through the Interior Design Continuing Education Council (IDCEC), are required by many states for licensed or registered interior designers.