



Council
for Interior
Design
Accreditation

Summary of Accreditation Decision

The Art Institute of Houston

The interior design program leading to the Bachelor of Fine Arts in Interior Design degree meets Council for Interior Design Accreditation (CIDA) Professional Standards and has been awarded accreditation for a term of six years, effective August 2018. The Accreditation Commission is pleased to recognize this achievement.

The Accreditation Commission's decision was based on the interior design program's demonstrated achievement of sixteen accreditation standards, which are evaluated within the context and overarching purpose and intent of the program. CIDA accreditation standards broadly address the evolving components of graduate preparation for interior design practice, including:

- critical thinking, professional values, and processes that provide the framework of interior design practice;
- core design and technical knowledge that provide the historical, theoretical, and technical contents of interior design practice.

CIDA accreditation standards also address the institutional systems, structures, and resources that are fundamental to providing an effective higher education learning environment for interior design.

Award of CIDA accreditation attests to the quality of the interior design program and benefits the public and program in many ways. Parents, students, and employers of graduates can be assured that the program meets the rigor of peer review and develops the skills and knowledge required to practice interior design. Furthermore, the accreditation process provides the program with valuable input for continued development and assists the program in adapting to meet evolving professional requirements as CIDA updates standards.

In three years, the interior design program will be required to submit a Progress Report to CIDA addressing ongoing program development, as well as the following Standards:

Standard 1. The interior design program provides a professional-level education that prepares graduates for entry-level practice and advanced study. The program has a mission, educational philosophy, and goals appropriate to its context. The program engages in on-going assessment and planning ensuring the curriculum and resources are structured to achieve its goals. The public is able to access understandable and reliable information about the program.

Standard 5. Interior designers collaborate and also participate in interdisciplinary teams.

Standard 8. Interior designers employ all aspects of the design process to creatively solve a design problem.

Standard 9. Interior designers are effective communicators.

Standard 13. Interior designers complete design solutions that integrate furnishings, products, materials, and finishes.

Standard 15. Interior designers understand interior construction and its interrelationship with base building construction and systems.

Standard 16. Interior designers apply laws, codes, standards, and guidelines that impact human experience of interior spaces.

The program is scheduled to be revisited in 2024 to seek re-accreditation.