ABOUT THE PROGRAM

The interior design program at Western Michigan University prepares students for professional practice and continuing education through seeking and solving complex design challenges in the built environment. Students strive to redefine the status quo and discover how to enhance the quality of life through design.

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

Students begin their studies in the pre-professional program. Special admission is required into the professional, upper-level courses (typically after the students sophomore year).

→ Completion of required introductory interior design courses

→ Achievement of a cumulative grade point average of 3.0 or higher in interior design courses, and overall GPA of 2.5 or higher

→ Completion of portfolio review process (including formal application, statement of interest and presentation to the interior design faculty)

→ Up to 18 students will be selected from the portfolio review applicants each year to continue in the upper level in the interior design program. Students who are denied advancement may retake courses and redo projects before reapplying for portfolio review the following spring semester.

100% of 2019-20 WMU interior design graduates were employed full-time within three months of graduation.
INTERIOR DESIGN IS ABOUT SUPPORTING CULTURE, ENHANCING BUSINESS VALUE, SOLVING PROBLEMS AND POSITIVELY IMPACTING THE HEALTH AND WELL-BEING OF PEOPLE’S LIVES.

Ashley Walters, interior design alumna

CAREER POSSIBILITIES

- **Residential designers** developing the interiors of single-family detached homes, apartments, and condominiums
- **Commercial designers** developing the design of the workplace, retail, hospitality and healthcare establishments, recreational facilities, public and government institutions and specialized areas such as exhibitions and customized furniture
- **Employment with architectural and design firms**, corporate facilities management, retail home furnishings, and in marketing positions and showroom management

PROGRAM STRENGTHS

- The interior design program is accredited by the Council for Interior Design Accreditation and is also included in WMU’s art and design program accreditation by the National Association of Schools of Art and Design.
- Interior design majors are required to earn three semester credits by completing 300 hours of supervised field experience with interior design, architectural, facilities management and retail firms. Field experience offers students the opportunity to apply theories and principles from their academic program to real world situations, as well as gain valuable work experience.
- Students can apply to participate in the study abroad experience Western Roots of Interior Design-Greek Influence in Greece. On the 14-day tour, which includes ancient sites in Greece and two famous islands in the Aegean Sea, students will learn about, observe and reflect on historic Western art and architecture that has influenced the fields of architecture and interior design.

STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS

- Interior Design Student Organization (IDSO)
- International Interior Design Association (IIDA) Student Chapter