

Interior Design

Program Overview

The Master of Arts in Interior Design increases students' understanding of the relationship between human behavior and interior environments through advanced study and hands-on research.

The program builds on the design studio experience to provide students with an opportunity for further exploration and discovery in the field. Students gain knowledge and skills that prepare them to analyze information and relationships, evaluate issues and set priorities, while creating functional and high-quality design solutions for complex projects.

The Master of Arts in Interior Design positions students for successful careers in a wide array of settings. Graduates provide design services as practicing professionals, work in academia as interior design educators, and pursue research in the field of interior design. This graduate degree also provides a strong interdisciplinary knowledge and practice background for those working toward doctoral studies.



Course of Study

The Master of Arts in Interior Design degree requires a minimum of 30 credits, including the completion of a research thesis or project, and is offered as a two-year or three-year program.

The two-year option is for students who have an undergraduate degree in interior design and are prepared to pursue graduate level studies in interior design.

The three-year option requires students without a background in interior design to take a series of related undergraduate courses while they are introduced to graduate level courses such as Design Theory, Readings, Research Methods, Design Applications, and Interdisciplinary Seminars.

Areas of Research

Students in the Master of Arts in Interior Design program study the interior design field through qualitative and quantitative research methodologies. Examples of research include:

- Interrelation of art & space
- Ornament as narrative
- Language of light
- Creating place in retail space
- Nature in the urban workplace
- Sustainable design
- Healing aspects of design

"Transitioning from a non-design profession to the world of interior design was eased by the WSU Spokane staff and interior design professors. The combination of their guidance and stimulating course work challenged me to develop a solid knowledge base and valuable work habits in a short period of time."

—Leylan Fernandes-Richards, a student with a background in business administration before enrolling in the Master of Arts in Interior Design program.

Poised for Excellence

Students in the Master of Arts in Interior Design program are exposed to perspectives beyond the Northwest through internships and field trips to San Francisco, Seattle, Las Vegas, Los Angeles and Phoenix, and study-abroad programs in Europe.

Students regularly participate in and win regional, national, and international competitions. Students are also actively involved in student chapters of professional associations and benefit from mentorship by the program's advisory board of professional practitioners.



The Interdisciplinary Experience

The Master of Arts in Interior Design is offered at the Interdisciplinary Design Institute on the urban campus of Washington State University Spokane. The Institute provides a collaborative learning environment where interior design students learn alongside students and faculty in other design and construction disciplines, including architecture, landscape architecture, and construction management.

The unique interdisciplinary learning experience offers students a more holistic understanding of all design fields, positioning them more competitively in the dynamic marketplace.

Nationally Recognized Faculty

Students in the Master of Arts in Interior Design engage with field-leading faculty who are experienced in interior design and fine arts and are recognized for their research scholarship in history, theory, and practice through regional, national, and international design awards and publications.

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