Why Interiors?

90% of all human activity happens in or around interior spaces. With that large of an impact, interior designers help determine the livability of a space.

While color and texture factor into the final plans for an interior space, the School of Interiors helps you explore these and other material concepts at the beginning of the process. Maybe felt becomes a wall-covering to reduce noise pollution. A client wants the interior white, but do you realize just how many shades of white there are? This is not HGTV design. This is real life. The School of Interiors in the UK College of Design elevates any notion you ever had of “decorating.”

The study of interiors reaches beyond the fundamental tools of a designer and into the psychological DNA of how people work and live. Think of interiors — like other design disciplines — as human-centric.

You will be finding solutions to problems that we encounter on a daily basis — in the way we work, play, move and live. And with those challenges comes the opportunity to make a global impact through the profession of design in a myriad of ways.

The University of Kentucky School of Interiors advocates for the study of interiors as a multi-layered, sensory-laden, connective way of experiencing the world.
Why Interiors at UK?

Comprised of both students and faculty, the School of Interiors is a community of scholars in the College of Design at the University of Kentucky. We fundamentally demonstrate design as a human-centered practice and challenge long-established ideas that a designer only treats the surface of the interior. Instead, we advocate for the study of interiors as a multi-layered, sensory-laden, connective way of experiencing the world. As a place of education, we stimulate exemplary design practice and inspire young design talent. Through real-world examples, we show that design can and does make a difference. For example, take healthcare, a revered paradigm of UK's research culture.

Did you know that UK HealthCare serves 1.5 million outpatient encounters per year? With such a large audience, this allows the School of Interiors to pioneer inventive ways to bring the world of design into the future of healthcare. Ergonomically driven patient rooms and responsive nursing care stations are just the beginning of rethinking the crossover between healthcare and design.

Students are also immersed in many community-related projects, working with organizations like the Lexington-Fayette Urban County Government; envisioning future spaces for education; and honing their skills related to other cultures through the Education Abroad program. These are just a few reasons why UK's School of Interiors program gives you a leg up on the competition.

An education grounded in research, the Interiors program at UK helps students gain the ability to distill and visualize data, and turn ideas into actionable solutions.
The **Interiors Experience**

Part of what makes the School of Interiors program at the University of Kentucky so transformative is the student-to-teacher ratio. With a faculty member for every 15 students, you will receive personal attention and the ability to engage in the research topics your professors are focusing on. This could open new doors for where you take your design degree in the future.

The School of Interiors has also re-envisioned its educational spaces to meet the high demands of technology in its classrooms. The diverse faculty — with specialties in lighting, sustainability, healthcare, community engagement and more — will guide you through progressive ideas using design as an agent of social change: sustainable earth, global design, thriving communities, healthy societies and future learning.

**WHAT CAN I DO WITH AN INTERIORS DEGREE?**

The structure of the Interiors program allows you to leave UK with a well-rounded degree that can lead to careers in:

- Furniture design
- Graphic design
- Exhibition/event space
- Healthcare design
- Sustainability
- Community engagement
- Preservation
- Manufacturer representation
- Government facilities planning
- And the list goes on…
Interiors and the Studio Culture

With the studio model at its core, the School of Interiors starts undergraduate students on a structured path of learning from day one, each being a building block for the next.

YEAR ONE: Foundation principles are explained, UK core classes begin
YEAR TWO: Professional engagement begins
YEAR THREE: Individual work evolves into community projects
YEAR FOUR: Focus on social/cultural impact in senior thesis

Then, if earning a master’s degree is your next step, the School of Interiors offers its graduate program, using design research and creativity to help students hone their own design focus.

So what exactly is studio culture? More than likely you are accustomed to the standard “students at desks, teacher at the chalkboard” way of learning. And while that’s still a part of your education in the School of Interiors, it’s the studio where you will really find your voice as a designer. In this setting, you will spend hours sketching, developing, cutting, molding, milling, sculpting, and so on. Hands dirty, minds engaged.

“Many hands make light work” so the saying goes, and studio allows you to take advantage of this notion. With your instructor and classmates physically together in one space, you get immediate feedback as well as a volley of ideas when your creative well is running dry.

Your tangible skill set will also include knowledge of textiles, materials, color, space planning, sustainability, software applications for 2D & 3D computer-aided design (CAD) and building information modeling (BIM), building codes, health and safety issues, and structural requirements.

And before your time is complete here, you will have been indoctrinated in the ways design can tackle real-world challenges. In the past, students have taken on the challenge of re-designing empty retail spaces to rejuvenate growing communities and creating more patient-friendly space in hospitals.

This wide variety of projects lends itself to an impressive portfolio that lets potential employers know you are unequivocally prepared for your journey into the professional world of design.

The College of Design at the University of Kentucky
design.uky.edu/interiors
What is **Immersive Design?**

There is a method to how classes flow as you work your way through the interiors program, and its essence starts within its name: planning/strategy/design. These are key strengths in the program’s approach:

- Designing spaces based on both data and aesthetics
- Applying design principles to big-picture challenges (healthcare, climate change, aging, workplace and more)
- Community engagement, including education abroad and opportunity for real-world immersion

Building on a foundation of history/theory for a clear understanding of the “why,” then moving on to prototyping to discover the “how.” “There is a process to make things better, but the process is just as important as the end product,” explains School of Interiors Director Patrick Lee Lucas. “There are so many things you will learn that you aren’t expecting — even failure is an important part of learning.”

Because design is open-ended, there is no scientific method to determining the exact answer. Yet this is how ideas thrive; you can shake it up and see what comes out of your discovery process. This approach allows for broader thinking, inspiring the next generation of designers to be more in tune with the human condition.

All of this generative thinking is made possible through the studio experience, which is at the core of the Interiors program. From exploration to fabrication to writing to teamwork, the studio stands at the center for the student to build diverse thought as well as mental and creative agility.
# Interiors Curriculum

## YEAR 1: FALL
- ID121 – Design Studio 1
- ID131 – Design Communication 1
- ID161 – History and Theory 1
- ID171 – Design Profession 1
- UK Core
- UK Core

## YEAR 1: SPRING
- ID122 – Design Studio 2
- ID132 – Design Communication 2
- ID162 – History and Theory 2
- UK Core
- UK Core
- UK Core

## YEAR 2: FALL
- ID221 – Design Studio 3
- ID231 – Design Communication 3
- ID241 – Construction Systems
- ID251 – Finish Materials
- ID271 – Design Profession 2
- UK Core

## YEAR 2: SPRING
- ID222 – Design Studio 4
- ID232 – Design Communication 4
- ID242 – Environmental Systems
- ID252 – Lighting
- A-H105 – Art History Course
- Directed Elective

## YEAR 3: FALL
- ID321 – Design Studio 5
- ID331 – Design Communication 5
- ID371 – Design Profession 3
- Directed Elective
- UK Core

## YEAR 3: SPRING
- ID322 – Design Studio 6
- ID332 – Design Communication 6
- ID362 – Environmental Theory
- ID373 – Design Profession 4
- Directed Elective
- UK Core

## YEAR 4: FALL
- ID421 – Design Studio 7
- ID431 – Design Communication 7
- ID461 – Capstone Theory & Research
- ID471 – Design Profession 5
- Directed Elective

## YEAR 4: SPRING
- ID422 – Design Studio 8
- ID432 – Design Communication 8
- Directed Elective
- Directed Elective
- UK Core

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Admissions & Scholarships

THE ADMISSIONS PROCESS

The School of Interiors admissions committee is looking for students with an eye for design. However, this does not mean that you have to come to school already toting an extensive Interiors portfolio. What is most important is your creativity. By submitting pieces of your own creative work, the committee can get a better idea of your preparedness for a career in interior design.

Visit design.uky.edu/interiors for step-by-step instructions on how to apply to the School of Interiors.

SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

After you submit your application to the School of Interiors, the next step to be considered for a scholarship is simple: you do nothing. There is money available for incoming students, and your application will automatically allow you to be considered for scholarships. You will be notified directly if you are a recipient.
Career Paths with an Interiors Degree

As you leave the School of Interiors, the pathways you pursue as an alum vary greatly, as do the cities and states where you will settle. The listing below includes some of the places and firms where graduates have landed after earning their degrees.

**CALIFORNIA**
- Los Angeles: NBBJ
- Santa Clara: Shaw Contract

**FLORIDA**
- Tampa: Gensler

**GEORGIA**
- Atlanta: Nelson, Peace Design
- Savannah: Global Furniture Group USA

**INDIANA**
- Indianapolis: Parallel Design Group, Su Casa Tile & Granite
- Newburgh: VPS Architecture

**ILLINOIS**
- Chicago: Perkins + Will

**KENTUCKY**

**Louisville**: Army Corps of Engineers, Bittners, DIRTt, Facility360, Florida Tile, Hubbard & Company, Leslie Cotter Interiors, Luckett & Farley, ORI, Reese Design Collaborative, Swope Design Group

**MASSACHUSETTS**
- Boston: McMahon Architects

**MICHIGAN**
- Holland: Haworth

**MINNESOTA**
- Minneapolis: Rhinka Chung Architecture
- St. Paul: BWBR

**NEW JERSEY**
- Morristown: Gensler

**NEW YORK**

**NEW YORK CITY**: Gensler, HOK, Knoll

**NEW JERsey**: Morris: Gensler

**TENNESSEE**

**TEXAS**
- Austin: Gensler
- Dallas: Cannon, HOK, Interior Architects, RSM
- Houston: EYP, Gensler, PDR

**WASHINGTON**
- Bremerton: Rice Fergus Miller
- Seattle: Miller Interior Design, LLC

**DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA**
- Washington, DC: LSM

**WISCONSIN**
- Milwaukee: Flad Architects

**WORLD**
- Malawi, Africa: Peace Corps

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