

FAQ'S ABOUT F&I

1. What are the requirements for the Furnishings and Interiors major?

Intended Furnishings and Interiors majors must complete 45 hours in core areas I-VI (at least sophomore level), including ARTS 2000 or ARHI 2300 or ARHI 2400, ARST 1050, TXMI 2350 and TXMI 2360 before/when applying to the major. During the fall semester of your sophomore year submit an application and portfolio of work by the deadline date for Fall Portfolio Review. This deadline date changes every year, so please check with the department to verify the due date. Enrollment is limited. **As a result, everyone that applies will not be accepted into the major.** Portfolios are evaluated on an established list of criteria (please check the FI Information and Application packet for further details). All decisions are final.

2. What differences are there between the Furnishings and Interiors program in the Department of Textiles, Merchandising & Interiors and the Interior Design program in the School of Art?

The Furnishings and Interiors program in the Textiles, Merchandising and Interiors department focuses on interior design of residential environments (single and multi-family housing design, assisted living facilities, hospitality, etc...) with an emphasis in kitchen and bath design. The program also provides a strong background in textile end-use and performance. The FI program is accredited by the National Kitchen and Bath Association (NKBA). The Interior Design program in the Lamar Dodd School of Art offers courses in residential design, but emphasizes commercial design. The Lamar Dodd program has a separate set of requirements to enter the program, and is CIDA accredited.

3. Why do I have to take Chemistry when I have completed 6 hours of biology or other sciences?

Chemistry provides a background for understanding the production and end-use performance of textile materials commonly used in interiors including upholstery, carpets, and other materials.

4. Why do I have to take statistics when I have completed Math 1115?

Statistics is the science of collecting, analyzing and interpreting quantitative data collected in a way so conclusions can be evaluated in an objective way. It will be useful in developing your problem solving skills and is required for Textile Testing (TXMI 3250).

5. Will I have to draw in this major?

Yes! Drafting of floor plans, elevations, and sections as well as three-dimensional drawings such as perspectives and axonometric drawings, and rendering are essential to being able to communicate effectively and to present design ideas visually.

6. Can I minor in something else with F&I as my major?

Yes. The University of Georgia requires a student to have 20 hours of additional courses not required for your major to receive a minor. In addition, you will need to meet the minimum requirements of the minor, as determined by the department you wish to receive your minor in.

7. What student organizations are available to students who major in Furnishings and Interiors?

The Furnishings and Interiors major offers the Student Interior Design Association (SIDA) which includes student membership in IIDA-International Interior Design Association, ASID-American Society of Interior Designers, and NKBA-National Kitchen & Bath. Students may also join NABH-National Association of Home Builders which is offered through the Department of Housing and Consumer Economics. The student chapter of AATCC-American Association of Textile Chemists and Colorists (in TMI) also covers topics related to interior designers (dyes and finishes). Each of these organizations welcomes all interested students.

8. What are the starting salaries in the field?

An average range of \$25,000 to \$30,000 is common for a beginning designer. However, salaries have been a little lower to as much as \$40,000 depending on the student, company, and position.

9. What will I be qualified to do with a degree in Furnishings and Interiors?

With a degree in Furnishings and Interiors you will be well qualified to work in interior design and architecture firms as well as companies specializing in kitchen & bath design and model home merchandising. In addition, a degree from our program will prepare you to work in many different areas including design showrooms and furniture stores. You would also be able to be work in historic preservation and adaptive reuse, color consultation, and many other related areas.

10. Where are some alumni of this program working today?

Design Environments, Stephen Fuller, Centex, Knoll, Image Design, KB Homes, Interior Design Atlanta, Home Depot Expo, Kravet, Brunswig and Fils, Holland & Company, Lee Jofa Fabrics, Donghia, Atlanta Merchandise Mart, Bella Maria, Inc., Mayo, Guyton Interiors, Beverly Hall Interiors, and Chatham House Interiors.

11. What is the difference between an “interior designer” and “interior decorator”?

As defined by NCIDQ, the interior designer is qualified by education, experience, and examination to enhance the function and quality of interior design spaces for the purpose of improving the quality of life, increasing productivity, and protecting the health, safety, and welfare of the public. An interior designer performs services relative to non load-bearing interior construction, furnishings, fixtures and equipment. An interior decorator, on the other hand, is an individual who is involved only in the embellishment of interior spaces and may or may not have a formal education in the field of design. Job responsibilities of an interior decorator may include selection and specification of finishes and furnishings within an existing space.

12. What is NCIDQ Certification? Can everyone take the NCIDQ? Why take it?

NCIDQ is the National Council for Interior Design Qualification. NCIDQ certification recognizes that an individual has met minimum competency standards for the practice of interior design. NCIDQ 's role in the certification process includes the establishment of standards for education and experience and the administration of a minimum competency examination. The examination consists of three sections as follows: Section I: Principles and Practices of Interior Design, Section II: Contract Development and Administration, and Section III: Schematics and Design

Development.

NCIDQ certification provides interior designers with peer recognition, promotes public acceptance through awareness of a profession with certified practitioners, is required for professional designation in interior design professional organizations such as ASID and IIDA, and is required for licensing in those states with title acts and/or practice acts for interior design licensing. To be eligible to take the NCIDQ exam requires interior design education and actual full time interior design experience. The requirements are as follows:

- 4/5 years of interior design education plus 2 years of full-time work experience in interior design;
or
- 3 years of interior design education plus 3 years of full-time work experience in interior design; or
- 2 years of interior design education plus 4 years of full-time work experience in interior design.

As of January 1, 2008, those interested in taking the NCIDQ exam will be required to have their work experience under a licensed designer/architect or a designer who is NCIDQ certified in order to qualify to sit for the exam IF that person begins their work experience on or after January 1, 2008. Qualified interior design work experience begun prior to January 1, 2008 will NOT be required to be under a licensed designer/architect or a designer who is NCIDQ certified.

13. What are the requirements to become a “Registered Interior Designer” in Georgia?

Requirements for licensing and type of licensing varies state by state. Georgia has a title act form of licensing, not a practice act. A completed application is to be submitted to the Georgia State Board of Architects along with the current application fee. Georgia’s requirements are as follows:

- Be at least 21 years of age;
- NCIDQ Certification
- A minimum 4-year or first professional degree from a college or university with a program accredited by CIDA or a program approved by the license board, NASAD (National Association of Schools of Art and Design), or NAAB (National Architectural Accrediting Board).
A minimum 4-year degree received prior to July 1, 1996, which would constitute the equivalent of a major in interior design.

*For more information see www.sos.state.ga/plb, then click on Interior Designers on the side bar, then FAQ’s on the next side bar.

14. Can I become a registered interior designer in the state of Georgia with a degree in Furnishings and Interiors from UGA?

You can appeal to the members of the board that oversees the registration process for special consideration and then you must demonstrate to them that you are qualified. Obtaining NCIDQ certification is required and will provide support for a favorable outcome of their decision.

15. Can I become a Certified Kitchen Designer (CKD) or Certified Bath Designer (CBD) without a degree from a FIDER accredited program?

Yes. The traditional career-path for NKBA certification requires minimal industry experience and NKBA professional development courses regularly provided by NKBA. A NKBA Accredited Program Graduate will automatically be granted 30 hours of NKBA Education and one year related experience which can be applied to any NKBA certification requirement. Students that complete their internship requirement in the Kitchen & Bath industry and submit a Graduation Verification

Form will receive an additional one year of industry experience to be applied towards certification.

16. Will I have trouble finding work without a degree from a FIDER/Council accredited program?

No. There are many jobs in interior design, especially residential interior design, that do not require an interior design degree from a CIDA accredited program. However, some commercial firms do prefer graduates from CIDA accredited programs.

17. What does it mean to be CIDA accredited?

CIDA (Council for Interior Design Accreditation), was established in 1970 and the intent of the founders was to promote excellence by developing standards for interior design education and to acknowledge the increasing demands of an emerging profession. CIDA leads the interior design profession to excellence by setting standards and accrediting academic programs. CIDA accreditation is a voluntary process in which programs are reviewed using internationally recognized educational standards.

Accreditation is a process unique to the United States and Canada that replaces government regulation of education found in most other countries. It is a process of self-evaluation and peer review that promotes achievement of high academic standards, while making education more responsive to students and society's needs. Standards developed by interior design practitioners and educators and concern for continued growth and development are central to accreditation.