

**New Program Proposal
Bachelor of Fine Arts
Interior Design
Winthrop University**

Summary

Winthrop University requests approval to offer a program leading to the Bachelor of Fine Arts degree in Interior Design to be implemented in Summer 2011. The proposed program is to be offered through traditional instruction on campus.

The Program Planning Summary was submitted to the Commission on July 31, 2009, and reviewed and voted upon favorably without substantive comment by the Advisory Committee on Academic Programs (ACAP) on October 8, 2009. The Winthrop University Board of Trustees approved the proposal on November 6, 2009, and the full proposal was received by the Commission on September 2, 2010. The full proposal was reviewed and voted upon favorably by the Committee on Academic Affairs and Licensing (CAAL) on February 14, 2011.

According to the proposal, the proposed program will provide a high standard of design education to develop highly competent interior design professionals who are able to synthesize knowledge and solve problems creatively for a wide range of interior environments and a diverse group of users. The proposed program will emphasize the design process so that students develop fluency in conceptual development and technical proficiency and learn the essential elements of visual language. The proposed program will also emphasize the spatial envelope as a framework for selecting furnishings, understanding the importance of light, and using colors and materials as well as a three-dimensional approach in planning and designing appropriate interior environments that meet the needs of intended occupants. As such, the proposed program will integrate current interior design theory and practice with the liberal arts.

The proposal states that the program is needed because of recent changes affecting design professionals, including requirements for licensing and certification and an increased presence of standards and codes that regulate the field. The proposed program is also needed because interior design professionals increasingly work in new environments that require use of a broader variety of materials and technology and they are expected to be aware of the ecological implications of various practices and materials and knowledgeable about a design's impact on construction decisions. In addition, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics's 2010-11 *Occupational Outlook Handbook*, the employment of graduates of programs specializing in Interior Design and related professions is expected to increase 19% by 2018.

Presently, Winthrop University is the only public institution in South Carolina to offer a program in Interior design. The program, a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Art with a concentration in Interior Design, will be replaced by the proposed program. Three independent institutions in the state offer programs in Interior Design. Converse College offers a Bachelor of Fine Arts program in Interior Design and both Anderson University and Bob Jones University offer Bachelor of Arts degrees in Interior Design. While Converse College has attained Council for Interior Design Accreditation (CIDA) candidacy, Winthrop's existing program is the only interior design program in South Carolina to be accredited by the CIDA. In addition, Winthrop's current program is also accredited by the National Association of Schools of Art and Design (NASAD) so it is the only Interior Design program in the state to hold two specialized national accreditations. The University's CIDA and NASAD accreditations are expected to stand for the proposed program because the proposed changes are consistent with accepted standards of both accrediting bodies.

The proposed program is a reclassification and reorganization of an existing program which currently enrolls 25 students each year for a total of 80 students enrolled in the program. The institution anticipates that such enrollment will continue for the proposed program. If enrollment and program completion projections are met, the proposed program will meet the Commission's productivity standards.

Admission to the proposed program will require that students meet the University's current admission standards. In addition, students will be required to pass a competency exam/portfolio review in the second year of the proposed program in order to be permitted to enroll in upper-division interior design courses to ensure that students have sufficient background in the field. The curriculum for the proposed program will consist of 127 credit hours, with 92 credit hours of required and program-specific courses and 35 credit hours of general education and elective courses. Twenty-one new courses will be added to the institution's catalog, including: Interior Design Studio: Fundamentals; Spatial Analysis and Theory I and II; Presentation Techniques I and II; Textiles and Materials; Interior Design & Architecture History I and II; CAD for Interior Design; Introduction to Building Systems; Interior Design Contract Documents; Lighting Design; Interior Design Studio I, II, III, and IV; Advanced Computer Applications for Interior Design; Professional Practices for Interior Design; Portfolio Preparation; Portfolio Review; and Senior Thesis Preparation. The proposed program's assessment plan has several components, including evaluation of projects within courses, the competency-based portfolio review held after students have completed introductory coursework, a senior-level capstone project synthesizing knowledge and skills the student has acquired, and a graduating senior portfolio show attended by industry professionals who provide critical feedback to both the student and the program.

The proposal states that no new faculty will be hired for the proposed program because the proposed program is a redesign of and will replace a program currently offered at the University. Six faculty (4.32 FTE) comprised of three assistant professors and three lecturers will support the proposed program.

The proposal states that no physical plant or significant equipment needs are anticipated for the proposed program. However, the proposal also notes that the institution has a long-range space plan that addresses the anticipated needs of the proposed program. According to the proposal, library resources are sufficient because library holdings support the existing interior design program. The proposal states that students have access to 434,732 library titles, including more than 340 specific to the areas of interior design, building, space design, and drawing, and access to 242 electronic journal titles and databases which provide information on interior design. However, to keep the collection current, the proposed budget includes \$1,864.70 per year for library resources. Students also have access to additional materials through the Partnership Among South Carolina Academic Libraries (PASCAL).

New costs and sources of financing identified by the institution for the proposed program are shown in the following table.

ESTIMATED COSTS BY YEAR						
CATEGORY	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th	TOTALS
Program Administration	\$35,350	\$35,350	\$35,350	\$35,350	\$35,350	\$176,750
Faculty Salaries	\$210,478.75	\$210,478.75	\$210,478.75	\$210,478.75	\$210,478.75	\$1,052,393.75
Graduate Assistants						
Clerical/Support Personnel	\$18,937.50	\$18,937.50	\$18,937.50	\$18,937.50	\$18,937.50	\$94,687.50
Supplies and Materials	\$12,570	\$12,570	\$12,570	\$12,570	\$12,570	\$62,850
Library Resources	\$1,864.70	\$1,864.70	\$1,864.70	\$1,864.70	\$1,864.70	\$9,323.50
Equipment	\$10,760	\$10,760	\$10,760	\$10,760	\$10,760	\$53,800
Facilities						
Accreditation Expenses			\$6,000			\$6,000
TOTALS	\$289,960.95	\$289,960.95	\$295,960.95	\$289,960.95	\$289,960.95	\$1,455,804.75
SOURCES OF FINANCING BY YEAR						
Tuition Funding	\$443,788	\$443,788	\$443,788	\$443,788	\$443,788	\$2,218,940
Program-Specific Fees	\$12,570	\$12,570	\$12,570	\$12,570	\$12,570	\$62,850
State Funding						
Reallocation of Existing Funds						
Federal Funding						
Other Funding (Specify)						
TOTALS	\$456,358	\$456,358	\$456,358	\$456,358	\$456,358	\$2,281,790

These data show that if the institution meets the projected student enrollments and contains costs as they are shown in the proposal, the proposed program will be able to cover costs beginning in the first year and thereafter.

In summary, Winthrop University requests approval to offer a program leading to the Bachelor of Fine Arts degree in Interior Design. The proposed program will produce graduates with a solid foundation in interior design theory who are highly competent interior design professionals able to synthesize knowledge and solve problems creatively for a wide range of interior environments with diverse users.

Recommendation

The Committee on Academic Affairs and Licensing commends favorably to the Commission the program leading to the Bachelor of Fine Arts degree in Interior Design at Winthrop University, to be implemented in Summer 2011, provided that no “unique cost” or other special state funding be required or requested and further provided that the institution terminate the concentration in Interior Design for the Bachelor of Fine Arts in Art program.