California State University, Long Beach

Department of Design

The Department of Design offers three degree programs: Bachelor of Science in Industrial Design (BS), Bachelor of Fine Arts in Interior Design (BFA) and a Bachelor of Arts in Design (BA). The faculty believe that an appropriate education for the professional designer must include a comprehensive body of technical knowledge involving historical sources, tools, techniques, and materials. In addition, a methodology for encouraging the creative problem solving process; and the attainment of the requisite level of skill to express visual ideas with clarity must be obtained. While being fully equipped to meet the objectives of the global marketplace, today’s designer must also achieve sufficient educational breadth to adapt successfully to the varying demands imposed on their work by economic, social and psychological factors. A competitive portfolio review is held each year to identify students whose work has reached a level of competence necessary to advance to junior and senior-level courses in Industrial Design and Interior Design. After passing portfolio requirements, selected students are officially admitted to the BS and BFA programs. The BA program is open to all students.

The Bachelor of Arts in Design is comprised of 120 semester units and structured for students who seek a broad understanding and application of design with an opportunity to select a specific area of interest. The purpose of this degree is to provide a forward-thinking liberal arts degree where students will take a variety of core courses in design theory, art and design history, lighting design, display and exhibition design, interior design, graphic design, industrial design, and furniture design. In addition to receiving a foundation through the core courses, the curriculum enables students to focus in one of these areas: interior design, graphic design, industrial design, lighting design, furniture design or display and exhibition design. The degree is advantageous to design students who would like a degree in an alternative design area, or who wish to pursue study in a graduate program.

The Bachelor of Fine Arts in Interior Design is comprised of 132 semester units. The program provides a framework within which students can fully immerse themselves in a critical examination of the social, cultural, and environmental awareness while giving visual form to their investigations. The program has an international reputation, attracting a substantial number of undergraduate students from around the world. It supports opportunities for employment in the professional practice of interior design and helps to prepare those who are interested in pursuing a graduate degree. A diverse
curriculum of lecture and studio courses develops a student's cognitive ability to analyze design challenges of a complex nature. Issues of graphic communication, project analysis, programming, space planning, design and selection of interior components are presented in a logical sequence. Instruction emphasizes the three-dimensional possibilities of sculpting interior space from conceptual ideas. Courses consist of lectures, demonstrations, and critiques of works-in-progress. Professional designers and educators from outside the department visit regularly to lecture and review student projects.

The Bachelor of Science in Industrial Design is comprised of 132 semester units. The program prepares designers for professional practice, whose function will be to help shape the products and systems produced by industrial processes. The curriculum includes studies in rapid visualization, aesthetics, materials and processes, presentation techniques, design methodology, product development, human factors, product costing, and financing principles. Students often have an opportunity to work directly with industry professionals through internships or as team members on sponsored projects. Participating companies have included Oakley, Xerox, Unisys, General Electric, Hewlett Packard, NCR, Apple, Chrysler, General Motors, Hitachi, Toyota, Kawasaki, InFocus, Compaq and Nike. Graduates have found positions in a wide variety of industries, including motion picture special effects, medical and dental equipment, computer and microchip technology, small appliances, as well as air, water and land transportation. The Industrial Design program has an international reputation, attracting a substantial number of foreign undergraduate and graduate students, including exchange students and Fulbright Scholars.

The department’s academic facilities provide dedicated and controlled access semi-private studio workspaces. These studios are available twenty-four hours a day to all students who have passed portfolio review in the industrial and interior design programs. Each studio workspace provides Ethernet and wireless access to the Internet through the university server. In addition, several dedicated studios and design laboratories are provided for student use. These facilities include: two Computer Labs, a Multimedia Lab (with large format printing capabilities), a Metal/Plastic and Wood Shop, and three Materials Resource Libraries. The facilities also house a Rapid Prototyping machine (RP) and a Computer Numerical Control machine (CNC), for generating precise models.