

CAREER
LINKS



Career Development
Center

Conversations about Career Success...with Faculty



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Professor/Chair, Interior Design

What was your college major?

Home Economics and Art – the interior design degree was in the Home Economics department and the classes were in the Art department.

Did this major lead you to your current career?

Yes, I knew from the time I began taking classes in high school that I wanted to work in either Fashion Design or Interior Design. College solidified my selection of interior design.

What are the characteristics that your most successful students possess?

- A creative and imaginative open mind
- Self-motivated and willing to take initiative
- Organized with regard to time management and details
- Solid communication skills both oral and written
- Be willing to make a decision and justify the objective “why” of the decision

Name three things a student should know when exploring this career.

- You need to be flexible.
- It is not glamorous.
- You need to be a team player, interior designers do not work alone they have clients.

What skills will a student learn when pursuing this career?

- Principles and Elements of Design
- Color Theory
- Space Planning
- Manual and CAD drafting
- Elevations and perspective drawings with pencil, computer and color rendering
- Resources used in the profession-textiles, flooring materials, furniture, window treatments, lighting, etc.

For a student needing part-time employment while in college, what types of jobs provide the best experiential learning opportunities?

I would suggest retail environments such as Home Depot, Lowes, paint and wallpaper stores and furniture stores. Much can be learned about the materials and resources of the industry.

If a college student is unable to find related work experience in this career field, how do you suggest he/she prepare for the workplace?

Our department requires two internships. These can be either paid or unpaid opportunities. We have job/internship postings available year round.

Is there a selection process for entering this program?

No, we are an open admissions program.