

INTERIOR ARCHITECTURE, BS

The Bachelor of Science degree in Interior Architecture (<https://humanecology.wisc.edu/academics/undergraduate-majors/interior-architecture/>) is a four-year professional program accredited by the Council for Interior Design Accreditation (CIDA). The program develops students' creativity in the design and planning of interior spaces by emphasizing the process and communication of design. Students learn the art of design, drawing from physical and social sciences to understand the interaction of people and their environment, along with the history of design. Insight into professional practice is enhanced through internship experiences.

Design Studies faculty are leading scholars in design research with design industry experience developing innovative and creative spaces. Students benefit from faculty's expertise, mentoring, and industry connections.

Through classroom learning, hands-on projects, and internships, students develop verbal and visual communication skills while gaining exposure to both residential and commercial interiors. The program has a competitive admissions process that involves two phases.

Coursework includes everything related to the design process and products, including environment-behavior studies, sketching, rendering, computer drafting and design, 3D modeling, art and art history, business, and engineering. Studio spaces, a resource center containing catalogs and samples, plus a digital fabrication lab and computer laboratory provide physical support for the Interior Architecture student experience.

In preparation for graduation, students develop a professional portfolio to demonstrate their expertise and creativity.

HOW TO GET IN

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CURRENT UW-MADISON STUDENTS

Current UW-Madison students declaring Pre-Interior Architecture

Requirements	Details
How to get in	No application required. All students who meet the requirements listed below are able to declare. For information on how to declare, see: https://go.wisc.edu/sohe-declare (https://go.wisc.edu/sohe-declare/).
Courses required to get in	None.
GPA requirements to get in	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First-semester students have no GPA requirement to declare. • Non-first-semester students within the first 60 GPA credits: Minimum 2.75 minimum cumulative GPA is required for declaring the pre-interior architecture major. Eligible students should meet with an advisor to declare as early in their academic career as possible.

Credits required to get in	None.
Other	Must be in good academic standing with their current school or college.

Pre-Interior Architecture students applying to Interior Architecture

Requirements	Details
How to get in	Application required. Meeting the requirements listed below does not guarantee admission. (https://go.wisc.edu/sohe-apply (https://go.wisc.edu/sohe-apply/))
Courses required to get in	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DS 120 • DS 221 • DS 252 • DS 220 (in-progress) • DS 140 (in-progress)

GPA requirements to get in None.

Credits required to get in	None.
Other	In the case that student interest for spring courses exceeds course capacity, student ranking in fall courses (DS 120, DS 221, and DS 252) and academic performance will be used to determine priority enrollment in the required spring courses. Enrollment in spring courses is not guaranteed and may be limited by permission based on class rankings and academic performance.

Semester	Deadline to apply	Decision notification timeline
To apply for a fall start	Application opens during the latter half of the spring semester and close in late April.	Decisions will be made once the spring coursework is completed.
To apply for a spring start	This program does not accept applications to start in the spring.	
To apply for a summer start	This program does not accept applications to start in the summer.	

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Transfer students may take longer to complete their degree than students entering the program as freshmen, as they too must complete the Courses required to get in, which contain specialized courses that must be taken sequentially.

There are typically 32 available spots each application cycle. This is an industry standard to ensure appropriate student to faculty ratio.

Upon acceptance into the major students must purchase a laptop computer based on minimum hardware specification and software licenses determined by the department and updated regularly. Students also have the option, but are not required, to purchase a laptop computer before acceptance into the program.

PROSPECTIVE UW-MADISON STUDENTS

All prospective UW–Madison students must apply through the central Office of Admissions and Recruitment (<https://www.admissions.wisc.edu/>).

Freshmen should declare their intention to pursue the interior architecture major when they apply for admission to UW–Madison. In addition, students may indicate interest in the interior architecture major when registering for Student Orientation, Advising, and Registration (SOAR).

REQUIREMENTS

UNIVERSITY GENERAL EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS

All undergraduate students at the University of Wisconsin–Madison are required to fulfill a minimum set of common university general education requirements to ensure that every graduate acquires the essential core of an undergraduate education. This core establishes a foundation for living a productive life, being a citizen of the world, appreciating aesthetic values, and engaging in lifelong learning in a continually changing world. Various schools and colleges will have requirements in addition to the requirements listed below. Consult your advisor for assistance, as needed. For additional information, see the university Undergraduate General Education Requirements (<http://guide.wisc.edu/undergraduate/#requirementsforundergraduatestudytext>) section of the *Guide*.

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| General Education | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Breadth–Humanities/Literature/Arts: 6 credits • Breadth–Natural Science: 4 to 6 credits, consisting of one 4- or 5-credit course with a laboratory component; or two courses providing a total of 6 credits • Breadth–Social Studies: 3 credits • Communication Part A & Part B * • Ethnic Studies * • Quantitative Reasoning Part A & Part B * |
|-------------------|--|

* The mortarboard symbol appears before the title of any course that fulfills one of the Communication Part A or Part B, Ethnic Studies, or Quantitative Reasoning Part A or Part B requirements.

SCHOOL OF HUMAN ECOLOGY REQUIREMENTS

Code	Title	Credits
<i>Arts and Humanities</i>		
Literature		3
Choose one of the following:		
Any Art History course (http://guide.wisc.edu/courses/art_hist/)		
DS/ANTHRO/ ART HIST/ HISTORY/ LAND ARC 264	Dimensions of Material Culture	
Humanities		3
Social Science		9
Physical, Biological and Natural Science		9

Human Ecology Breadth 3

Select one Human Ecology course from CNSR SCI, CSCS, HDFS, or INTER-HE. Design Studies (DS) courses in the area of Textiles Fashion Design may also be completed.

Total Credits 30

INTERIOR ARCHITECTURE REQUIREMENTS

A complete list of requirements is below. Students should follow the curriculum requirements in place at the time they entered the major. This requirement list should be used in combination with a DARS report.

Code	Title	Credits
<i>Phase One: Design Core</i>		
DS 120	Design: Fundamentals I	3
DS 220	Design: Fundamentals II	3
DS 221	Person and Environment Interactions	3
DS 140	Visual Thinking - Form and Space	3
DS 252	Design Leadership Symposium	1
<i>Phase Two: Professional Course Sequence</i>		
<i>Interior Architecture Studio Core</i>		
DS 222	Interior Design I	4
DS 322	Interior Design II	4
DS 622	Interior Design III	4
DS 623	Interior Design IV	4
DS 626	Interior Design V	4
<i>Content Area Courses</i>		
DS 223	Interior Architectural Design	3
DS 224	Interior Materials and Finishes	3
DS 241	Visual Communication I	3
DS 242	Visual Communication II	3
DS 321	Problem-definition: Design Programming	3
DS 421	History of Architecture and Interiors I: Antiquity through 18th Century	3
DS 422	History of Architecture & Interiors II: 19th and 20th Centuries	3
DS 451	Color Theory and Technology	3
DS 549	Environmental Control Systems: Lighting, Acoustics, and Thermal Comfort in Buildings	3
DS 624	Interior Architecture Professional Practice	3
DS 679	Research Methods in Design	3
<i>Professional Development</i>		
INTER-HE 202	SoHE Career & Leadership Development	1
DS 601	Internship	3
<i>Design Focus</i> ¹		
Select 6 credits in consultation with your Human Ecology academic advisor.		
<i>Electives</i>		

Select electives to meet minimum total of 120 degree credits

¹ Design Focus courses are intended to be an opportunity for students to develop more depth and uniqueness to their course of study. See Design Focus course list below. Please work with your Human Ecology academic advisor to seek approval for coursework taken outside of Design Studies.

Design Focus course list

Code	Title	Credits
DS 101	Introduction to Textile Design	3
DS 227	Textile Design: Printing and Dyeing I	3
DS 251	Textile Science	3
DS 252	Design Leadership Symposium (May be taken twice)	1
DS/ANTHRO/ ART HIST/HISTORY/ LAND ARC 264	Dimensions of Material Culture	4
DS 341	Design Thinking for Transformation	3
DS 361	Design-Related International Experience	1-6
DS 501	Special Topics (offerings vary by semester)	1-3
DS/COMP SCI/ ISYE 518	Wearable Technology	3
DS 521	Environments of Crisis & Design	3
DS 527	Global Artisans	3
DS 561	Textiles: Specifications and End Use Analysis	3
DS/COMP SCI 579	Virtual Reality	3
DS/LAND ARC 639	Culture and Built Environment	3

UNIVERSITY DEGREE REQUIREMENTS

Total Degree To receive a bachelor's degree from UW-Madison, students must earn a minimum of 120 degree credits. The requirements for some programs may exceed 120 degree credits. Students should consult with their college or department advisor for information on specific credit requirements.

Residency Degree candidates are required to earn a minimum of 30 credits in residence at UW-Madison. "In residence" means on the UW-Madison campus with an undergraduate degree classification. "In residence" credit also includes UW-Madison courses offered in distance or online formats and credits earned in UW-Madison Study Abroad/Study Away programs.

Quality of Work Undergraduate students must maintain the minimum grade point average specified by the school, college, or academic program to remain in good academic standing. Students whose academic performance drops below these minimum thresholds will be placed on academic probation.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

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1. Grounded in the history and theory relevant to the built environment and human behavior.
2. Intellectual skills for inquiry, creative thinking, and critical analysis.
3. Professional skills that prepare them for applying what they have learned to create new knowledge and solve problems in a real world setting.
4. Apply the design process to identify and explore complex problems and generate creative solutions that optimize the human experience within the interior environment. This includes the ability to apply research and the principles and theories of Design to their solutions.
5. Apply their knowledge of building materials and systems, building construction, and industry specific codes, standards and guidelines in order to enhance the health, safety, welfare and performance of building occupants.

FOUR-YEAR PLAN

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This is a sample four-year plan for Interior Architecture. We encourage all students to consult with their academic advisor to develop an individualized plan that meets their specific needs.

Freshman

Fall	Credits Spring	Credits
Communications A	3 Communications B	3-4
Ethnic Studies	3 Quantitative Reasoning A	3-4
Science	3 DS 220	3
DS 120	3 ART HIST/ ANTHRO/ DS/HISTORY/ LAND ARC 264 or DS 264	4
DS 221	3 DS 140	3
DS 252	1	
16		16-18

Sophomore

Fall	Credits Spring	Credits
DS 222	4 DS 322	4
DS 224	3 DS 242	3
DS 241	3 DS 422	3
Science	3 INTER-HE 202	1
DS 421	3 Social Science	3
16		14

Junior

Fall	Credits Spring	Credits Summer	Credits
DS 223	3 DS 623	4 DS 601	3
DS 321	3 DS 549	3	
DS 622	4 DS 624	3	

Design Focus	3 DS 679	3	
Literature	3		
	16	13	3
Senior			
Fall	Credits	Spring	Credits
DS 626	4 Humanities		3
DS 451	3 Social Science		3
Design Focus	3 Science		3
Social Science	3 Elective		4
	13	13	
Total Credits 120-122			

ADVISING AND CAREERS

ADVISING AND CAREERS ADVISING & CAREER CENTER

The Advising & Career Center (ACC) fosters undergraduate students' personal, academic, and professional development. Through advising, academic planning, and career education, we support students as they navigate the college experience—from exploring our majors as prospective students to becoming Human Ecology alumni.

Academic Advising

Each Human Ecology student is assigned to an academic advisor in the Advising & Career Center. Human Ecology academic advisors support academic and personal success by partnering with current and prospective Human Ecology students as they identify and clarify their educational goals, develop meaningful academic plans, and pursue their own Wisconsin Experience.

To explore academic advising resources or schedule an appointment with an academic advisor, visit Advising in Human Ecology (<https://advising.humanecology.wisc.edu/academics/apply/>).

Career Development

Each Human Ecology student is assigned to a career advisor in the Advising & Career Center. Active engagement in the career development process is a vital component of a student's personal growth in college and future success as a lifelong learner, professional, and global citizen. Human Ecology career advisors help prepare students for life post-graduation through individual and group advising and integration of career readiness throughout our curriculum.

To explore career development resources or schedule an appointment with a Human Ecology career advisor, visit Career Development (<https://advising.humanecology.wisc.edu/careers/scheduling/>).

PEOPLE

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For more information, visit the School of Human Ecology Design Studies faculty and staff directory (<https://humanecology.wisc.edu/staff/sohe-department/design-studies/>).

WISCONSIN EXPERIENCE

WISCONSIN EXPERIENCE INTERNSHIPS

Internships are a vital part of student career development and a highly valued component of the undergraduate curriculum in the School of Human Ecology. High-quality internships foster student development by bringing theories and classroom-based learning to life in real-world settings. In addition, internships give students the opportunity to explore careers related to their major, gain relevant experience in their field(s) of interest, and develop a better understanding of what is expected in a workplace by performing the tasks of a professional in that field.

For Human Ecology majors, internships are a requirement of our undergraduate curriculum. Students must have at least a junior standing (54+ credits) in order to pursue a 3-credit internship and must complete a minimum of 150 hours at the internship site. To be eligible, an internship must be educational in nature, directly relate to a student's major and career goals, and be approved by the Advising & Career Center (https://go.wisc.edu/acc_office/).

For some Human Ecology majors, additional course prerequisites may be required. For more information, visit Human Ecology Internships (<https://advising.humanecology.wisc.edu/careers/internship-requirement/>).

STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS

School of Human Ecology student organizations include:

- Apparel and Textile Association (ATA)
- Community & Nonprofit Leaders (CNPL) of UW–Madison
- Financial Occupations Club for University Students (FOCUS)
- Interior Design Organization (IDO)
- Phi Upsilon Omicron (National Honor Society in Family and Consumer Sciences)
- Re-Wear It
- School of Human Ecology Makerspace Organization (SoHE Makerspace)
- Student Retail Association (SRA)

For more information about joining a Human Ecology student organization, please visit Human Ecology Student Organizations (<https://go.wisc.edu/sohestudentorganizations/>).

Learn more about UW–Madison registered student organizations through the Wisconsin Involvement Network (<https://win.wisc.edu/>).

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SCHOLARSHIPS AND OTHER FINANCIAL RESOURCES

The School of Human Ecology awards many merit and need-based scholarships each year. Students can learn more about these opportunities on the Human Ecology scholarships webpage (<https://humanecology.wisc.edu/academics/scholarships/>). To be eligible for these awards, scholarship recipients must be registered as full-time Human Ecology students. For further questions on the scholarship application, please contact the School of Human Ecology Scholarship Coordinator at scholarships@sohe.wisc.edu.

Students who experience personal challenges or emergency financial situations may inquire about the availability of short-term loans (<https://humanecology.wisc.edu/academics/scholarships/#emergency:~:text=-,Emergency%20financial%20support,-Students%20experiencing%20specific>) with the Human Ecology Academic Deans (<https://advising.humanecology.wisc.edu/academic-dean-services/>) (deansservices@sohe.wisc.edu). In addition, university scholarships, loans, and employment are available through the Office of Student Financial Aid (<https://financialaid.wisc.edu/>) (333 East Campus Mall #9701; 608-262-3060).

ACCREDITATION

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Council for Interior Design Accreditation (<https://accredit-id.org/>)

Accreditation status: Accredited. Next accreditation review: 2030.