THESIS TRACK

MASTER OF SCIENCE
ADVANCED PROFESSIONAL

For students that possess a prior undergraduate degree in interior design or architecture and wish to obtain a Ph.D. degree for careers in teaching and/or research.

GOAL
Provides research, writing and critical thinking skills that enable creating original research findings that inform the interior architecture and design body of knowledge.

NUMBER OF SEMESTERS AND CREDIT HOURS
3 semesters and 32 credit hours

CURRICULUM FEATURES
Students write a university thesis with the assistance of a major professor and faculty committee. Research methods and statistics information enables the student to engage in quantitative or qualitative methods depending on the selected research topic. Elective courses and options for university teaching facilitate a customized learning experience. Internships and Study Abroad opportunities are available and highly encouraged.
A thesis forms the heart of the Master of Science Thesis Track degree. This work gives students the opportunity to conduct original research regarding the built environment, the interior architecture and design profession or related area, then analyze and interpret these findings using qualitative and/or quantitative methods. Results can not only assist the students’ career goals, but also help move the profession forward when disseminated through academic or professional conferences and publications. The thesis forms a centerpiece of a students’ graduating portfolio and provides necessary grounding in preparing to undertake a doctoral degree dissertation.

PAST THESIS RESEARCH WORKS BY INTERIOR ARCHITECTURE AND DESIGN STUDENTS (FORMERLY THE MFA RESEARCH TRACK)

Lauren Trujillo  
*Intercultural Connection and the Built Environment in American Universities*

Tony Purvis  
*Conflict Resolution and the Interior Built Environment: Design Considerations for Consensus Building*

Lindsay Dixon  
*The Interior Design Studio Built Environment: Exploring Intersections of Energy Conservation, Student Satisfaction, and Occupancy Patterns*

Liz Tarver  
*What I Wish I Knew… Interior Design Graduates “Sense of Preparedness” to Practice*

Paris Henderson  
*Attachment to Place and Possession among an Extraordinary Traveling Population: The New American Circus*
MASTER OF FINE ARTS

For students that possess a prior undergraduate degree in Interior Design or Architecture.

GOAL
Provides foundation knowledge for conducting original research inquiry. Students develop specialized practice-oriented interior design abilities including gathering and synthesizing in-depth, detailed programming information for the creation of design solutions. The MFA is a terminal degree deemed acceptable by some institutions for higher education teaching. (Alternately, the MS Advanced Professional research track provides a path to the Ph.D. degree, acceptable to research institutions).

NUMBER OF SEMESTERS AND CREDIT HOURS
6 semesters and 60 credit hours minimum

CURRICULUM FEATURES
Students write a university thesis with the assistance of a major professor and faculty committee. Original thesis research is then applied to a hypothetical design project of the students’ choosing. Outcomes include construction documents and advanced print, verbal and video-based presentations. The programming and studio core sequence is augmented by a diverse support courses including research methods, theory, and options for furniture design in the Department’s Studio D facility. Internship opportunities are available and highly encouraged.

Alumni are practicing in a variety of design firms or teaching in higher education:

- Gensler, California
- Veenendal cave, Atlanta
- Skidmore, Owings and Merrill, California
- HOK, Tampa
- Auburn University
- High Point University
- University of Central Oklahoma
- California State University Sacramento

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The centerpiece of Master of Fine Arts graduate students' study is the creation of a master's thesis. This work gives students the opportunity to conduct original research regarding the built environment and complete a research analysis of these findings using qualitative or quantitative methods. Finally, these results are put into action in a hypothetical project of the students' choosing that illustrates the potential and usefulness of these ideas. The thesis forms a centerpiece of a student's graduating portfolio and is a major asset in securing practice or academic employment.

**PAST THESIS WORKS BY MASTER OF FINE ARTS STUDENTS**

Katie Timmerman  
**Millennials and Home: Understanding the Needs of the Millennial Generation in their Housing Environ-ment**

Amy Griffin  
**Creating a Healing Environment for Professional Caregivers in a Cancer Center Setting**

Amanda Cleveland  
**Symbiosis Between Biophilic Design and Restorative Healing Environments: The Impact on Overall Well-Being**

Heather Dodd  
**Discovering, Testing and Applying A Preliminary Framework of Holistic Wellness Design in a Pediatric Oncology Facility**

Kelley Robinson  
**Seeking Effective Agri-Tecture: An Urban Farm Design that Nourishes a Food Desert**

Tanya West  
**Environments for Young Children: A Qualitative Study and Design of Healthy and Nurturing Preschool Environments**

Adrienne Kautz  
**The 880 Square Foot House: A Small Residential Design that Transforms to Accommodate Multiple Household Types**

MFA Thesis project poster by Melissa Brown

The centerpiece of Master of Fine Arts graduate students' study is the creation of a master's thesis. This work gives students the opportunity to conduct original research regarding the built environment and complete a research analysis of these findings using qualitative or quantitative methods. Finally, these results are put into action in a hypothetical project of the students' choosing that illustrate the potential and usefulness of these ideas. The thesis forms a centerpiece of a student's graduating portfolio and is a major asset in securing practice or academic employment.
PROJECT TRACK

MASTER OF SCIENCE
FIRST PROFESSIONAL

For students that possess an undergraduate degree in a field other than Interior Design or Architecture.

GOAL
Fully prepares the student for interior design practice and eventual passage of the NCIDQ examination.

NUMBER OF SEMESTERS AND CREDIT HOURS
10 semesters and 84 credit hours

CURRICULUM FEATURES
A 5-course studio core sequence is augmented by a comprehensive range of support courses including design foundations, history, theory, lighting, construction systems, design communication, portfolio and business practices. Internships and Study Abroad opportunities are available and highly encouraged. The program culminates in the three-semester creation of a complex project of the student’s choosing.

Alumni are employed in architectural and design firms across the country and have also created their own design firms:

Rapt Studios, Los Angeles
Walt Disney Imagineering, Orlando
BAM Architecture, New York
Skidmore, Owings & Merrill, San Francisco
Collins & Dupont Interiors, Florida

Manifesto Furniture Design, Chicago
Pacific Dimensions, Los Angeles
Kaefer Energy, Norway
Southern Living (publication), Alabama
Gresham, Smith and Partners, Tampa

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Project by Zuleydi Gonzales
The First Professional Master of Science degree provides necessary foundation skills, information and procedures for the post-baccalaureate student that is new to interior architecture and design. First Professional Master’s students bring their unique backgrounds already gained from their previous education and experience to bear on interior architecture and design challenges—and this can bring forth a design practitioner with a valuable and unique skill set with edge in the marketplace. Past alumni have had backgrounds in law, economics, marketing, art, history, criminal justice, nursing and many other areas.
For students that possess a prior undergraduate degree in interior design or architecture.

**GOAL**
Provides specialized project-oriented interior design knowledge including the ability to gather and synthesize in-depth, detailed programming knowledge in service to design solutions.

**NUMBER OF SEMESTERS AND CREDIT HOURS**
3 semesters and 32 credit hours

**CURRICULUM FEATURES**
Students design a three-semester single project of their choice, including construction documents and advanced print, verbal and video-based visual communications of the completed solution. The programming and studio core sequence is augmented by a diverse range of support courses, including design communication, theory and options for furniture design in the Department’s Studio D facility. Internship opportunities are available and highly encouraged. Elective courses and a portfolio class facilitate a customized learning experience oriented toward post-education employment.

Alumni are practicing in a variety of design firms:

Gensler, California  
Laura Bryant Design, Florida (alumni-owned firm)  
Collins and DuPont Interiors, Florida

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Project by Stephanie Gettins
Master of Science project track students devote their focus to the creation of a multi-semester project of their choosing. This post-baccalaureate exploration provides the opportunity and means to deeply explore an office, healthcare, institutional, or residential design project (to name but a few topics) with advanced programming tools that yield insightful project outcomes and enhanced student perspective and understanding. This project is often a springboard to securing career employment with the advanced critical thinking it demonstrates.

PAST MASTER OF SCIENCE PROJECT WORKS BY FSU INTERIOR ARCHITECTURE AND DESIGN STUDENTS

Andrew Tobias
The PHlive Collection (Furniture design and showroom)

Kelly Platko
Revitalizing the American Hostel

Yvonne Thorsen
EHUB Entertainment Airport Terminal

Mehdi Shayan
Iranian Art and Islamic Education Center

Elisha Vincent
New Orleans International Airport Terminal
Melanie Murata  
Class of 2014 | Advanced Professional Master of Science  
Principal Designer & Creative Director  
Milan, Italy | Worldwide

Melanie holds a Master’s and a Bachelor’s Degree in Interior Design from FSU. She is the Founder of Karu, an inter-disciplinary design firm and the co-founder of Collettiva -- a boutique hospitality firm, headquartered in Monaco. Her tenure with Gensler in Los Angeles and Newport Beach, and experience under Master Piero Lissoni in Milan, enabled her to build a body of work that is nuanced, poetic and atmospherically unique. Living in Milan, Melanie is immersed in a special kind of creative energy where designers are constantly pushing new, interesting work forward. She and her work have been featured on Architectural Digest Magazine, Interior Design Magazine, Boutique Design Magazine, and Melanie has been a speaker at the Boutique Design New York conference.

David Roan  
Class of 2014 | Master of Science First Professional  
Designer, Kreate, INC.  
Los Angeles, California

David graduated from FSU’s Interior Design program and was immediately hired by Rapt Studio, his dream design firm. After a year of designing tech offices in Los Angeles, David moved on to doing freelance work for various companies like Nelson, and was eventually brought on as an Art Director under what is now part of Endeavor. He is currently taking lead in designing official hospitality spaces and installations for sports leagues like the NFL. He credits the FSU graduate department with giving him specific attention and direction based on his interests, as well as encouraging him to believe in his abilities. The first thing David noticed in the program was how much the instructors genuinely care about your growth. His mantra to this day is, “What Would Dr. Pable Do?”

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Andrew Tobias
Class of 2015 | Master of Science
Workplace Strategy Manager, Fanatics
Jacksonville, Florida

“My experience going through the Master of Science programs at FSU’s IAD department was outstanding! The professors, my peers, the facilities, and the familial atmosphere made for an unforgettable part of my college career. Each course was taught in a way that I could see the practical use in reality!”

In his current career, Andrew is constantly reminded of lessons learned from his time in IAD. Following graduation, he secured a job in the Wynwood design district in Miami for a boutique hospitality studio. From there, he transitioned into a large design firm working within the Corporate Design studio. Now, Andrew currently works as a Workplace Strategy Manager for a large tech & garment producer, Fanatics. He is involved with all new office location build-outs, analyzing current spaces for continual improvement and enjoyment, and strategizing responses and plans for offices across the globe.

Amanda Guerrier
Class of 2014 | Master of Fine Arts
Interior Designer, ASD | SKY
Tampa, Florida

Amanda graduated from FSU with a Bachelor of Science in Interior Design in 2011 and with a MFA in Interior Design in 2014 where she studied biophilic design. She is currently an Interior Designer, NCIDQ, IIDA for ASD | SKY in Tampa, Florida where she works on various commercial design projects. She serves as an online adjunct professor of interior design at Rocky Mountain College of Art & Design (RMCAD) where she teaches an array of design lecture courses. She has spent several years on the board of her local IIDA Florida Central Chapter, most recently serving as the chapter’s Past-President. Amanda credits her FSU IA&D graduate experience and graduate teaching assistant experience for instilling within her the confidence and leadership skills needed to stand out in a crowd and for providing her with the credentials to pursue opportunities in both commercial practice and academia. She deeply enjoyed her education and experience within the Department and continues to provide support through her most recent role as a member of the FSU IA&D Advisory Council.

“Graduate studies will not only enhance your knowledge of design, it will enhance knowledge of yourself. Take time to use these classes to determine your passions. This will put you in a great place for your career – employers strongly favor someone who is confident in their abilities and passion, and has the portfolio to prove it!”