

GW INTERIOR ARCHITECTURE: IA MFA

The IA MFA Program is for students who excelled in their undergraduate studies and received a Bachelor Degree in a subject *other than* interior design and architecture. The MFA IA program is a rigorous, five-semester 60-credit curriculum that takes two years to complete, starting in the fall semester *only*. It is the only program in the nation's capital that is accredited by the **Council for Interior Design Accreditation**.

With a focus on **conceptual thinking and the design process**, students are exposed to many design methods and tools that encourage them to push the boundaries of creativity. Furthermore, the studio-based MFA is a terminal degree; this also allows for teaching at the college/university level in that it is equivalent to a PhD in another field.

| semester | course # | credits | title | type |
|---------------------------------------------|----------|---------|-------------------------------------------------|-----------------|
| first year | | | | |
| fall | | | | |
| CIAR | 6100 | 6 | Studio 1 Graduate | core studio |
| CIAR | 6125 | 3 | Graphic Communications | support studio |
| CIAR | 6150 | 3 | Sketching Architecture + Design | support studio |
| spring | | | | |
| CIAR | 6200 | 6 | Studio 2 Graduate | core studio |
| CIAR | 6225 | 3 | Interior Materials + Color Theory | support lecture |
| CIAR | 6250 | 3 | Digital Drafting + Modeling | support studio |
| summer (6-week + 8-week accelerated) | | | | |
| CIAR | 6300 | 6 | Studio 3 Graduate (8-week) | core studio |
| CIAR | 6325 | 3 | Case Studies: Bauhaus to Bilbao (6-week) | support lecture |
| CIAR | 6350 | 3 | Sustainability + the Built Environment (6-week) | support lecture |
| second year | | | | |
| fall | | | | |
| CIAR | 6400 | 6 | Studio 4 Graduate | core studio |
| CIAR | 6425 | 3 | Lighting + Acoustics | support lecture |
| CIAR | 6450 | 3 | Research Seminar for Studio 5 | support studio |
| spring | | | | |
| CIAR | 6500 | 6 | Studio 5 Graduate | core studio |
| CIAR | 6525 | 3 | Practicum + Internship | support lecture |
| CIAR | 6550 | 3 | Structures + Building Systems | support studio |

60 CREDITS TOTAL

additional program requirements

- attend [Annual Interior Architecture Lecture](#) [held once per academic year]
- each semester, attend either a [First Friday](#) or an [ALUM](#) event
 - [First Friday](#): bring a project and/or portfolio for professional feedback [select from two per semester]
 - [ALUM](#): hear from IA alumni as they share their work experience [select from two per semester]
- complete a [120-hour internship](#)
 - must be enrolled in the 1st semester of IA before internship begins + be completed before the end of final semester
 - part of MFA *Practicum + Internship course*

optional MFA courses

- CIAR 6560 Selected Topics (reserved for study abroad)
- CIAR 6570 Independent Study (akin to an honors course; proposed topic must be approved by faculty member)

notes

- core studios meet 9 hours/week, support studios meet 4-1/2 hours/week, and support lectures meet 2-1/2 hours/week
- the program consists of 5 core studios, 6 support studios, and 4 support lectures