

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