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## Educational Policies Committee Program Proposals, Caine College of the Arts, April 22, 2013

Utah State University

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## Cover/Signature Page - Abbreviated Template/Abbreviated Template with Curriculum

**Institution Submitting Request:** Utah State University

**Proposed Title:** Request to add an Interior Design Specialization to MFA degree and discontinuation of MS in Human Environments.

**Currently Approved Title:**

**School or Division or Location:** Caine College of the Arts

**Department(s) or Area(s) Location:** Department of Art and Design

**Recommended Classification of Instructional Programs (CIP) Code<sup>1</sup> (for new programs):** 50.0408

**Current Classification of Instructional Programs (CIP) Code (for existing programs):** 19.0699

**Proposed Beginning Date (for new programs):** 08/15/2014

**Institutional Board of Trustees' Approval Date:** March 8, 2013

**Proposal Type (check all that apply):**

Regents' General Consent Calendar Items		
R401-5 OCHE Review and Recommendation; Approval on General Consent Calendar		
SECTION NO.		ITEM
5.1.1	<input type="checkbox"/>	Minor*
5.1.2	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Emphasis*
5.2.1	<input type="checkbox"/>	Certificate of Proficiency*
5.2.3	<input type="checkbox"/>	Graduate Certificate*
5.4.1	<input type="checkbox"/>	New Administrative Unit
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Administrative Unit Transfer
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Administrative Unit Restructure
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Administrative Unit Consolidation
5.4.2	<input type="checkbox"/>	New Center
	<input type="checkbox"/>	New Institute
	<input type="checkbox"/>	New Bureau
5.5.1	<input type="checkbox"/>	Out-of-Service Area Delivery of Programs
5.5.2	<input type="checkbox"/>	Program Transfer
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Program Restructure
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Program Consolidation
5.5.3	<input type="checkbox"/>	Name Change of Existing Programs
5.5.4	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Program Discontinuation
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Program Suspension
5.5.5	<input type="checkbox"/>	Reinstatement of Previously Suspended Program
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Reinstatement of Previously Suspended Administrative Unit

\*Requires "Section V: Program Curriculum" of Abbreviated Template

**Chief Academic Officer (or Designee) Signature:**

I certify that all required institutional approvals have been obtained prior to submitting this request to the Office of the Commissioner.

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Signature**

**Date:** 04/22/2013

**Printed Name:** Laura Gelfand, Head, Department of Art and Design

<sup>1</sup> CIP codes must be recommended by the submitting institution. For CIP code classifications, please see <http://nces.ed.gov/ipeds/cipcode/Default.aspx?v=55>.

**Program Request – Abbreviated Template**  
**Utah State University**  
**Art & Design Department, Caine College of the Arts**

**Request to add an Interior Design specialization to MFA degree, and discontinuation of MS in Human Environments**

**Section I: Request**

The Utah State University Department of Art and Design seeks approval to discontinue the Master of Science degree in Human Environments and instead, offer an Interior Design specialization (Plan B) within the Master of Fine Arts degree beginning Fall 2013.

**Section II: Need**

The Department of Art and Design currently offers two graduate degrees: the Master of Fine Arts (MFA) with specializations in Ceramics, Graphic Design, Painting and Drawing, Photography, Printmaking, and Sculpture, and the Master of Science (MS) degree in Human Environments, which is in actuality a degree in Interior Design. We propose to offer the MFA degree with a specialization in Interior Design and discontinue the MS degree in Human Environments. This new degree offering will achieve a number of things: it will create greater uniformity in the graduate offerings of the Department of Art and Design, it will create a degree with a name that more appropriately reflects its content, and, most importantly, it will enable USU to offer a terminal degree for students wishing to pursue a career teaching interior design.

It is important to recognize that the MFA with a specialization in Interior Design is considered the terminal degree in the discipline. For students who wish to pursue a career teaching in higher education, the MFA is an essential qualification.

The Master of Science in Human Environments is a non-terminal, first professional degree that does not qualify graduates for teaching positions in higher education. Because of the degree's limited utility, the program has attracted relatively few graduate students and graduate classes/studios have often been under-enrolled. It is our desire to terminate the Master of Science in Human Environments degree and focus our resources and energy on the new MFA degree.

The demand for education in interior design has increased significantly over the past decade. Denise Guerin, 2010-2011 president of the Interior Design Education Council (IDEC), described this demand in a white paper entitled "Path from Practitioner to Professor," in which she wrote:

"There is a shortage of qualified interior design instructors, and in order to address and solve this problem we must first ask ourselves how we got to this point. From our perspective, there are three reasons that explain how this shortage came about:

- First, the interior design profession has grown in popularity; therefore, we are seeing more applicants for interior design programs in schools and universities.
- Second, the business world is recognizing the importance of syncing design with company goals and objectives.
- Third, as many Baby Boomers begin to retire, the number of qualified professionals, those with a master's degree, is shrinking, yet the number of programs is growing. Additionally, many

institutions are shifting interior design from two-year to four-year programs, which have increased the need for teachers in both public and private institutions.”

The issue was also addressed in an article titled “Sustaining Interior Design Education: The Shortage of Qualified Interior Design Educators” in the *eNewsletter of the Interior Designers of Canada*.

“Interior Design education is facing a severe shortage of qualified interior design educators. Each year, there are over 120 interior design faculty positions open across North America; most of these positions go unfilled. Reasons for this shortage include the increasing number of interior design students, the increasing number of interior design programs, the aging and retirement of current faculty, and the lack of graduate degrees among interior design practitioners, which is generally required for full-time faculty positions.”

The US Department of Labor Bureau of Labor Statistics Employment projections for jobs in Interior Design shows an expected increase in employment by 2020 of more than 28,000 new job openings. See [http://www.bls.gov/emp/ep\\_table\\_102.htm](http://www.bls.gov/emp/ep_table_102.htm). Growth in the next decade for Interior Design professionals overall is projected to be 19.3% and in Higher Education it is projected at 12.6%. (See US Dept. of Labor Bureau of Labor Statistics National Employment Matrix <http://data.bls.gov/oep/nioem>)

The majority of searches for tenure-track positions in interior design at universities indicate a preference for those who have terminal degrees in interior design. Dozens of current and former students have indicated that they would be interested in pursuing this degree at USU if it were offered. Additionally, faculty in the program have been strongly encouraged to offer the degree by professionals in the field. Surveys taken of seniors graduating in interior design from Utah State University over the last two years indicate that nearly 30% of these students would pursue an MFA with a specialization in interior design given the opportunity. San Diego State University is the only other public institution in the western United States that offers an MFA with a specialization in interior design. Upon the degree’s approval, USU will be the only institution between the Mississippi and the west coast to offer the MFA / Interior Design specialization.

### **Section III: Institutional Impact**

Using the existing graduate resources already well-established within the Department of Art and Design, the interior design program will have the personnel and facilities to offer this degree specialization with no significant impact to the institution.

The creation of the MFA specialization in Interior Design can be accomplished with no additional financial commitment by the institution. Interior Design graduate students will take graduate courses already offered by the Department of Art and Design. Only one additional studio class (ID 6730 – Advanced Interior Design Studio) will need to be offered each semester. All interior design graduate students pursuing the MFA will take this course each of the six semesters they are enrolled. This course will provide an in-depth examination of a focused interior design topic that will change each semester and repeat on a three-year rotation, enabling every ID graduate student the opportunity to cover the same material in a graduate course. Recent changes to the ID undergraduate program have been instituted so that each of the five full-time interior design faculty will be able to take turns teaching this course.

We anticipate that the MFA specialization will have a positive financial impact on the institution by increasing the number of Interior Design graduate students enrolled. Within their first year we anticipate that most of these students will be able to teach courses allowing the Department to offer more on-line and summer courses.

It is also anticipated that adding MFA students specializing in Interior Design to the long-established MFA program in the Department of Art and Design will have a positive impact on the institution by adding diverse skills and new types of experience and creativity. The new MFA specialization will enrich the interaction of graduate students specializing in a variety of art and design disciplines. We anticipate Interior Design students collaborating with art students to explore how art and space interact, and fine art students learning from interior design students about working in three-dimensional space in creative new ways. We look forward to interior design students and graphic design students collaborating on issues such as building signage, way finding and branding.

#### **Section IV: Finances**

All classes for the proposed new degree are funded through existing resources. No budgetary impact is anticipated for any other programs or units. If the MFA with a specialization in Interior Design grows, as we anticipate it might, then there will be a need for an additional faculty member but there are no needs for the foreseeable future.

#### **Program Requirements – Interior Design**

Master of Fine Arts with a specialization in Interior Design

Post Professional Degree

Three-Year Program

A three-year course of study allows students with an undergraduate degree in interior design to obtain a Master of Fine Arts with a specialization in interior design. The MFA is the terminal degree. Its primary emphasis is on the creative aspects of the student's work. The MFA requires a minimum of five semesters of intensive study and 60 semester hours of credit.

#### **Credit Hours**

Students must earn 60 credits, to include:

42 credits of graduate-level studio art as determined by the student in consultation with his or her major professor, including a minimum of:

- ☐ 6 credits studio art outside of the declared emphasis area
- ☐ 3 Credits of ART 6900 Graduate Seminar: Professional Practices
- ☐ 3 Credits of ARTH 6900 Graduate Seminar: Issues in Contemporary Art
- ☐ 3 credits of Graduate Interdisciplinary Critique
- ☐ 6 credits outside the art department as specified by the supervisory committee
- ☐ 3 credits of Plan "B" Project, which concludes with an MFA plan "B" project exhibition and an oral defense. The MFA plan "B" project is a visual presentation, the equivalent of a written dissertation in other disciplines. The plan "B" project exhibition is the single most important feature of the MFA program; the culmination of at least two years, and often three or more years, of intensive study in a single discipline. In conjunction with the plan "B" project exhibition, students must submit visual documentation of the graduate project, in the form of a digital image portfolio.

#### **Sample Program of Study**

<b>Year One</b>			Undergrad. Credit	Grad. Credit
Fall Semester				
ART 6900	Graduate Seminar	F		3 Elective
	Elective	F		3
ID 6730	Advanced I.D. Studio	F		6
Spring Semester				
ARTH 6900	Graduate Seminar	S		3
Art Elective	Art Elective	S		3
ID 6730	Advanced I.D. Studio	S		6
				24 credits

<b>Year Two</b>			Undergrad. Credit	Grad. Credit
Fall Semester				
ART	Inter. Critique	F		3 Elective
	Elective	F		3
ID 6730	Advanced I.D. Studio	F		6
Spring Semester				
ID Elective	ID Elective	S		3
Art Elective	Art Elective	S		3
ID 6730	Advanced I.D. Studio	S		6
				24 credits

<b>Year Three</b>			Undergrad. Credit	Grad. Credit
Fall Semester				
ID 6730	Advanced I.D. Studio	F		3
ID Elective	I.D. Elective	F		3
Spring Semester				
ID Elective	I.D. Elective	S		3
ID 6970	Thesis Research	S		3
				12 credits