



BRIDGING to 4TH YEAR BAA - Interior Design Degree



Admissions Information

Congratulations on taking the next steps towards receiving your baccalaureate degree in interior design! We are delighted that you have chosen to upgrade your current credential to a baccalaureate degree and to refresh your existing design knowledge.

The purpose of this document is to help you fully understand the structure of the bridge into the 4th Year of Algonquin's BAA - Interior Design program, the content of the six courses within it, and the sequencing of the courses as they relate to our Council for Interior Design Accreditation (CIDA) accredited four year BAA – Interior Design (BAA – ID) program. Having read this document, if you still have questions which have not been answered, please do not hesitate to contact Dorothy Stern, Professor, BAA – ID at sternd@algonquincollege.com.

What is the purpose of bridging into the fourth year of the BAA - Interior Design program? Why should I consider continuing my design education?

The bridge into the 4th year of Algonquin's BAA- Interior Design program has been created to fill the knowledge and credential gap between diploma and degree level learning outcomes within the interior design profession. The impetus for this endeavour was a recent important change to an Ontario requirement for all practising interior design professionals. ***Beginning January 1, 2015, a four year bachelor's degree will be the minimum standard of accreditation for both intern and registered membership categories within the Association of Registered Interior Designers of Ontario (ARIDO)*.***

While different provinces and states have varying requirements for professional status, at Algonquin, we strongly believe that within a very short time, all practising designers in North America will be required to possess a minimum of a baccalaureate degree. We encourage you to upgrade your current credential to stay competitive in the marketplace.

For example, the Council for Interior Design Accreditation (CIDA) already requires a four-year bachelor's degree as its minimum standard for accreditation. Additionally, a strong majority of well – regarded interior design programs (CIDA accredited) in the United States culminate in a bachelor's degree. Further, as our profession rapidly matures towards more advanced credentialization across the globe, we believe that upgrading your own credential to a baccalaureate degree will enable you to function on an equal footing with colleagues around the world. Interior design graduates with a baccalaureate credential may also pursue graduate studies in interior design or related fields.

***For more information about recent ARIDO changes refer to :**

http://www.arido.ca/membership_categories0.php

<http://www.arido.ca/Files.file/ARIDO-Chart.pdf>

*** For more information about careers in interior design and educational options/requirements refer to:**

<http://www.careersininteriordesign.com/index.html>

How does bridging into the 4th year of Algonquin's BAA - Interior Design work? What are the entrance requirements? What are its components and how is the program sequenced?

The complete bridge consists of the following:

Entrance requirements

- Advanced (3 year) diploma from a recognized interior design program with a minimum cumulative grade point of 3.0 (B);
 - Submission of complete transcripts from your previous institution and course descriptions for all courses taken;
 - Submission of personal portfolio*:
- * For information on how to prepare this portfolio and how/where to submit it, please refer to Algonquin's document entitled "*Bridging to Algonquin College's 4th BAA - Interior Design Portfolio Requirements*".

Bridging Components and Sequencing

Bridging to the 4th year of BAA - Interior Design has been approved by the Ontario government's Post-Secondary Education Quality Assessment Board (PEQAB). The courses and structure outlined below are based upon a formal gap analysis between Algonquin's previous three year diploma program and the current four year degree program. Upon acceptance into the program, the complete bridge consists of the following three steps:

1. Successful completion of the following six online courses.*

- Critical Thinking and Academic Writing
- Topics in Design History and Theory
- Perspectives in Interior Design
- Sustainable Issues
- Issues in Psychology
- Social Responsibility and Cultural Diversity in Canada and Abroad

The passing grade for all courses is C- (60 – 62%). These courses may be taken individually or in groupings as available within specific semesters. All courses are 45 hours in duration. The cost per course is still under review. Please check the BAA Interior Design website: <http://www2.algonquincollege.com/mediaanddesign/program/bachelor-of-applied-arts-interior-design/> for updates.

**See course descriptions at the end of this document.*

2. Successful completion of the 14 week BAA –ID summer Co-Op program. *

Bridging students must complete a minimum of 14 weeks in a paid Co-Operative placement. Students are strongly encouraged to seek employment with firms who are members of professional associations such as IDC, ARIDO, OAA, OAQ, APDI or ASID.

Students who are unsure of the appropriateness of a potential Co-Op placement must seek guidance from Algonquin's BAA – Interior Design faculty prior to commitment. Algonquin's Co-Op term provides you with comprehensive work experience prior to graduation. For many students, this opportunity leads to immediate entry into full-time positions upon graduation.

*Candidates with *appropriate and extensive* work experience may be eligible for a Prior Learning Assessment and Recognition (PLAR) review with regard to this requirement. PLAR is a process that helps adult learners to identify, articulate and demonstrate relevant learning acquired through life and work experiences and translate this learning into college credit.

Similarly, candidates who are enrolled in the previous bridging course(s), *with program advisor approval*, may complete this component of the program concurrent to the completion of course work. *Candidates who wish to pursue this option should first contact Dorothy Stern, Professor, BAA – Interior Design at sternd@algonquincollege.com for more information.* Candidates who have completed all six bridging courses are required to complete the BAA – ID summer Co-Op program and are eligible for assistance through the Algonquin College Co-Op office. Please note that, in addition to the standard 4th year tuition and basic fees of this program, there is a \$465.00 ancillary fee associated directly with the Co-Op office.

3. Successful completion of the 4th year of study in the BAA – Interior Design program.

Once you have successfully completed the previous three components of the bridge, you will graduate with a Bachelor of Applied Arts – Interior Design credential from Algonquin College. Algonquin's program is one of only six programs in Canada fully accredited by the Council for Interior Design Education (CIDA) and one of only two which are housed in the strong tradition of a professionally-oriented college environment. Additionally, our program is recognized by Interior Designers of Canada (IDC).

Important: *The 4th year courses are not offered online. Beginning in Fall 2011, all courses will be located in the new Algonquin Centre for Construction Excellence at the Ottawa campus of Algonquin. Please visit <http://www.algonquincollege.com/acce/> for more information about this exciting building.*

Why is only part of the bridging online?

A gap analysis of learning outcomes between the diploma level and the baccalaureate interior design curricula was previously undertaken by Algonquin faculty. Following approval from the Ontario government, we are now able to offer the six bridging courses online to address the broad learning areas not covered in the previous diploma program. Although currently not available, we hope to also offer the fourth year of the BAA – ID program through online learning in the near future.

What are online courses like? How do I know if I am a good candidate for online education?

Online learning is simply study via a digital, Internet-based communication platform. All of your course tutorials and assignments, as well as communication with colleagues and faculty will be managed online through Algonquin's Blackboard learning environment. You will study within a community of online learners with courses facilitated by a qualified educator. Because these courses are completely online, Algonquin welcomes students from Ottawa and around the world. As a participant, an added benefit is therefore that you will have the opportunity to share ideas with colleagues from all over the globe. If you are comfortable using the Internet, have looked at Web pages and have attached a file to an e-mail, then you should be familiar with the management of the online class environment and are likely a good candidate for online education. As previously mentioned, our program is geared to recent graduate designers holding a diploma credential, as well as those who may already be working professionals. Typically our students are individuals who do not have access to an accredited degree level design education in or near their home environment or for other reasons, prefer an online learning environment at this time.

How long are the courses? Do online courses meet at a specific time? When do they start?

All courses are 15 weeks long and follow the standard Algonquin College calendar. There are generally no specific meeting times as there are in a traditional classroom setting, allowing students to work on assignments based upon their own time commitments. The first week of each bridging course includes an assignment to familiarize each student with the online learning environment.

Many online learning courses also include some participation in group discussions which take place online at a specific time ('synchronous') in addition to those discussions which are 'asynchronous', or are essentially discussion points which have been posted to a specific site by individual students working according to their own schedule. Synchronous meetings offer an opportunity for all students and professors to meet together to discuss and expand upon ideas and work posted online.

Additionally, within each course there will be specific due dates stipulated for each assignment with standard BAA – ID program policies (e.g. late assignments, etc.) in effect. All students enrolled in a bridging course are expected to participate in all assignments and examinations as directed by the course instructor. Attendance is determined by active login time and participation in class requirements. All students in bridging to Algonquin College's 4th year of BAA - Interior Design are governed by the program policies outlined in the *BAA – Interior Design Program Policies and Procedures Manual* in place during the year(s) of study. It is the responsibility of each student enrolled in a bridging course to be familiar with this online document.

Bridging Course Descriptions

Critical Thinking and Academic Writing

In this course, exercises in speaking, writing, researching, and discussion of academic texts informs the preparation of academic documents including summaries, response papers and formal essays. An introduction to research methods and scholarly texts prepares learners to engage in academic thinking and communication activities. Learners develop the capacity to articulate independent thought, apply sound logic, and explore a variety of problem-solving methods.

Topics in Design History and Theory

In this course, through lectures, independent research, and group activities, learners develop the ability to identify and explain historical and theoretical topics related to the design of the built environment within a broader art and design context, both historical and cultural. Learners identify and analyze the evolution of design themes and link past work with the future of design.

Perspectives in Interior Design

In this course, students study the major influencers of design decisions (e.g. cultural implications, technology, demographic trends, sustainability, business factors) in order to more fully understand the complexity of future design decision-making. Emphasis is placed upon the study of factors affecting specific design sectors (e.g. corporate, health-care, hospitality, retail, residential) in addition to the overlapping concerns which designers must address. Topics such as "green" design, generational design, infection management, the democratization of design, "stay-in-place housing" are discussed and analyzed in order to separate substantive issue from trend. Current design issues, including licensing, LEED accreditation, Bill 124 examinations, community - based design initiatives will also be discussed.

Sustainable Issues

In this course, students study the history and evolution of the built environment and the effects of human development on the availability of natural resources. Learners examine the role of interior designers and other professionals responsible for the built environment in working towards a sustainable future. Topics will address a broad range of societal, environmental and ecological issues from a holistic perspective. Students will be required to critically explore ways of sustaining global well-being through the exploration of current and future innovations in alternative methods, materials, and systems.

Issues in Psychology

In this course, students develop an understanding of psychological concepts as they apply to the relationship of human behavior to the natural and built environments. Learners link an understanding of human behaviour to the design of spaces to suit a variety of occupant needs.

Social Responsibilities and Cultural Diversity in Canada and Abroad

In this course, learners identify the parameters of civic life at the local, national and global level as a step in the development of a personal strategy towards the adoption of attitudes and behaviours that foster tolerance and responsibility within a variety of contexts. Through lectures, research, and experiential learning activities, students acquire a deeper understanding of the meaning of social responsibility and cultural diversity.

Note: The course descriptions indicated above are subject to change at the discretion of Algonquin College.