

IUPUI Program Review and Assessment Committee
Assessment Project Report

Cover Sheet

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Project Title:

“Comparative Assessment of Software Proficiencies between Interior Design Technology Students and Industry Practitioners for the Purpose of Standardization and Certificate Creation”

Project Dates:

January 2015 through August 2015

Provide a summary of overall project accomplishments as related to the intended outcomes of the project described in the proposal.

One of many critical arenas of knowledge expected of interior design graduates is a variety of computer software competencies utilized in the production of drawings, documents and visual presentations. Without specific knowledge of industry expectations relative to computer software, it is not possible to assess whether our undergraduate education is thoroughly preparing our students for the established vocation. While our accrediting body examines our curriculum for distinct student outcomes, they do not explicitly require the use of any particular software as a specific means of achieving these outcomes, thus no evaluation of equivalency with relation to student software knowledge and practitioner expectation had ever been completed for our program.

As a result of this ambiguity, the project accomplishments were two-fold:

1. The team was able to clearly ascertain which software packages and skills are most used and required by architectural and design firms in the Indianapolis area, and to what level
2. The team was able to develop a new Building Information Modeling (BIM) certificate which will allow both students and practitioners the benefit of expanding their software knowledge to a higher level, utilizing the most current, desired and technologically advanced methods on the market

Describe data collection methods and provide an analysis of the findings.

The data collection methods that were used in this project include the distribution of a survey (via Survey Monkey) which was disseminated to the top 20 local interior

design, architecture firms and construction companies in Indianapolis in order to evaluate software preferences and Building Information Modeling (BIM) usage. We experienced a 32% response rate. Examination of our Interior Design Technology curriculum was also conducted and compared to these results through faculty interviews and syllabi examination, which in turn resulted in the creation of a curricular software map. Student portfolios were similarly reviewed and analyzed using a created rubric which scored students with relation to their software competencies in the foundation level courses. This, in turn, was also compared and contrasted to the professional responses.

The Interior Design Technology curriculum was carefully examined as a result of this project, and it was noted that several course were not properly named, numbered, or aligned in a logical way which reflects desired software instruction in the program. As a result, three courses were renamed and/or renumbered. Specifically, ART 12000 was renamed and two new courses were created (ART 22300 and 32300) which will allow software in our program to be taught in a more expedient and logical manner. In addition, a thoughtful new BIM certificate was created, affording both graduating students and practitioners in the areas of interior design, architecture and construction with focused skillsets relative to this innovative design methodology.

Describe any obstacles/challenges encountered, and what changes, if any, were made to address these obstacles/challenges?

The changes to the Interior Design Technology curriculum have been submitted to campus, although we are still waiting on final approval and implementation. We anticipate that the coursework changes will be reflected on the Fall 2017 plan of study, in

plenty of time to collect assessment data and make subsequent changes for our next accreditation visit in 2020.

While the certificate has passed the ET school faculty governance, administrative changes and faculty shortages have kept the certificate from receiving campus approval and being administered at this time. We continue to work with our new department chair to remedy the challenges at hand. It is our hope that this new curriculum will increase credit hour production as well as enhance job placement and employability for all who complete it.