Interior decorators and designers need to be creative, imaginative and artistic combining vision with practical skills and knowledge as they design the interior of buildings to meet the functional needs of the users. Interior decorators and designers also need to be disciplined, organized and skilled business people who are able to work effectively with clients to develop decoration and design solutions that are practical as well as technically correct and aesthetically appealing.

Decorators and designers work in a wide range of settings, both commercial and residential. Whilst the focus of this course is on residential settings there is also a link in the training to the design and decoration of enterprises in the commercial sector to further studies of interior design.

Students who graduate from this course will be able to plan and detail mainly residential interiors: for effective use, with particular emphasis on; space creation, overall ambience and factors that affect our responses to living and working environments. Good decoration and design can enable us to live and work more effectively, comfortably, securely and pleasurably in a more fulfilling, aesthetically pleasing and functional environment.
The scope of interior design and decoration

The Certificate IV in Interior Decoration and Design enables students to develop the ability to approach a variety of mainly residential design problems with creativity, a high level of competence and sensitivity. This one year course introduces students to basic design skills and concepts, establishing foundation in the area of design theory, creativity and environmental awareness, together with communication and technical skills such as how to draft. Other areas covered in detail include soft furnishings, collecting client information, colour theory, sourcing products and finishes, the affects of natural light on an interior, production of digital images and some retail display design.

Although on-the-job training is not specifically required for the course completion, it is highly recommended to all students. Placement in a practicing company gives real life work experience that clarifies the student’s previous studies.

As members of a service profession, interior decorators and designers’ fortunes depend on their ability to satisfy clients. Thus, they must possess three important skill sets - artistic and technical skills, interpersonal skills and management skills.

Decorators and designers must know how to plan a space and how to render that plan visually so that it can be conveyed to the client. They must also be knowledgeable about the materials and products that will be used to create and furnish the space, and about how texture, colour, lighting and other factors combine and interact to give a space its ‘look and feel’. In addition they must have a basic understanding of the structure, the health and safety issues, building codes.

Personal attributes that will enhance your chances of success in this career include:

- ability to work as part of a team
- fundamental interest in spatial planning for interiors
- meticulous attention to detail
- well developed communication skills
- possess a flair for creativity
- ability in technical & artistic drawing
- computer literacy
- well developed analytical skills and capacity to solve problems

Decorators and designers must be comfortable meeting and dealing with many kinds of people. They must communicate clearly and effectively as well as be attentive listeners. They also need to be good team players because they often work collaboratively with other interior designers, architects, contractors and other service providers. They must be willing to negotiate and mediate when necessary to resolve problems.

Decorators and designers must have excellent time and project management skills, since they are frequently employed on more than one project at a time. They need to know how to market themselves to clients, to create informative and persuasive proposals and presentations and to maintain good client relationships.

What interior design and decoration qualifications offer you

This qualification will provide you with the practical skills and knowledge to produce interior decoration and design solutions for mainly residential projects. You will also learn how to stay abreast of trends, fashions and technical developments in the decoration and design area, develop and maintain a knowledge of sources related to products, suppliers, and contractors. You will utilise this knowledge to support your decoration and design proposals.

Employment opportunities

Successful completion of this qualification provides you with the opportunity to become employed in areas such as retail sales for colour and finishes, furniture, lighting, paint and decoration, soft furnishing and window treatments, carpets and flooring. The opportunity also exists to offer consulting services to domestic clients to assist with decoration and design issues for their homes.

Entry requirements

Certificate IV in Interior Decoration and Design

- Communication skills
- Maths skills

Further study options

Diploma of Interior Decoration and Design

Advanced Diploma of Interior Design

Or University degrees

Further information

Contact our Information and Career Advisory Officers on 1800 621 445 or (08) 9780 7070

Email: courseinfo@bunbury.training.wa.gov.au

Website: www.swrc.wa.edu.au