

Area of Interest: Arts and Design

## Interior Decorating

Ontario College Diploma

Program Code: 6142X01FWO

2 Years

Ottawa Campus

### Our Program

**Using modern and traditional techniques, develop your creative talent for a career in residential and small scale commercial interiors.**

The two-year Interior Decorating Ontario College Diploma program develops your creativity and artistic flair in residential and small scale commercial interiors. Recognized by the Decorators and Designers Association of Canada (DDA) and the National Kitchen and Bath Association (NKBA), this program prepares you with the essential design and client relations skills needed to succeed as an Interior Decorator.

Develop your creativity through hands-on projects using modern digital techniques as well as traditional skills. Create appealing atmospheres, discover current trends, choose effective colour palettes, understand complex kitchen and bath design, and manipulate elements such as furnishings, finishes and lighting. Work with individuals and/or businesses to improve residential and commercial spaces to enhance the users` experience.

The program provides an opportunity for you expand your real-world experience through competition and real community projects . Moreover, you are able to gain valuable industry experience and contacts as well as apply your skills during your field placement during your final semester.

There are many career opportunities in the industry after graduation. Graduates may find employment as a:

- residential or commercial decorator
- kitchen and bath designer
- new home/design center decorator
- staging and colour consultant
- window treatment specialist
- sales/product representative
- window display and merchandising consultant for retail spaces or photo shoots

### SUCCESS FACTORS

This program is well-suited for students who:

- Are imaginative and enjoy solving problems.
- Think visually and creatively.
- Are planners and enjoy putting plans into action.
- Possess good communication skills.
- Are comfortable with technological expression.

- Are committed to work 40 to 60 hours per week (including class time).

**Employment**

Graduates may initially be employed as residential decorators and kitchen and bath designers, as well as hold many other industry-related positions.

**Learning Outcomes**

The graduate has reliably demonstrated the ability to:

- Analyze client`s needs and goals to create a decorating solution.
- Evaluate the effectiveness of the completed decorating project based on the specific requirements of the client.
- Communicate using a variety of formats (such as verbal, written, visual, and digital) to describe the decorating concept to the client and contractors.
- Assess and select materials and finishes to be used in the decorating project, to meet the needs of the client.
- Prepare technical documents as necessary for the implementation of the final decorating solution.
- Collaborate with a variety of design and decorating professionals and other industry specialists for the implementation of the decorating solution.
- Employ customer relationship management practices to maintain a positive reputation as an interior decorator that will encourage repeat business or referrals.
- Employ project management to manage the time, resources and costs required to implement the decorating solution to meet the needs of the client.
- Adhere to industry standard codes, regulations and by-laws when creating a decorating solution.
- Employ environmentally responsible and sustainable practices in the selection of materials and products used in the decorating solution.
- Identify and apply discipline-specific practices that contribute to the local and global community through social responsibility, economic commitment and environmental stewardship.

**Program of Study**

Level: 01	Courses	Hours
DSN2100M	Design Thinking	42.0
DSN5315	Basic Drafting Skills	42.0
DSN5317	Hard Materials and Finishes	42.0
DSN5318	Drawing Techniques	42.0
DSN5319	Period Styles and Decoration I	42.0
DSN5354	Design Elements and Principles	42.0
ENL1813M	Communications I	42.0
Level: 02	Courses	Hours
DSN5320	Soft Materials and Finishes	42.0

DSN5322	Period Styles and Decoration II	42.0
DSN5324	Furniture and Layout	42.0
DSN5325	Window Treatments and Accessories	42.0
DSN5327	Digital Communication	42.0
ENL1814M	Communications II	42.0
<b>Choose one from equivalencies: Courses</b>		<b>Hours</b>
GED6142	General Education Elective	42.0
<b>Level: 03</b>	<b>Courses</b>	<b>Hours</b>
DSN5331	Studio Techniques I	42.0
DSN5333	Lighting	42.0
DSN5334	AutoCAD for Decorators I	42.0
DSN5335	Kitchen Design	42.0
DSN5337	Project Management for Decorators	42.0
DSN5342	Commercial Decorating	42.0
<b>Choose one from equivalencies: Courses</b>		<b>Hours</b>
GED6142	General Education Elective	42.0
<b>Level: 04</b>	<b>Courses</b>	<b>Hours</b>
DSN5330	Residential Decorating	42.0
DSN5341	AutoCAD for Decorators II	42.0
DSN5343	Studio Techniques II	42.0
DSN5345	Bath Design	42.0
DSN5347	Professional Practice	42.0
DSN5348	Field Placement	84.0

## Fees for the 2023/2024 Academic Year

Tuition and related ancillary fees for this program can be viewed by using the Tuition and Fees Estimator tool at <https://www.algonquincollege.com/fee-estimator>.

Further information on fees can be found by visiting the Registrar's Office website at [http://file:///C:/Users/wingraph/AppData/Local/Apps/2.0/85J89O2J.M29/57NR9QLR.4D2/test..tion\\_e800ab5aa35904b3\\_0001.0000\\_d5a94ace07199376/www.algonquincollege.com/ro](http://file:///C:/Users/wingraph/AppData/Local/Apps/2.0/85J89O2J.M29/57NR9QLR.4D2/test..tion_e800ab5aa35904b3_0001.0000_d5a94ace07199376/www.algonquincollege.com/ro).

Fees are subject to change.

Additional program-related expenses include:

- Books and supplies cost approximately \$2,000 in the first year and \$1,500 in the second year. Included in the cost are three equipment kits, required for the first week of classes, worth approximately \$200 each. The college's campus store prepares these kits for Interior Decorating students.

- A Portable Drafting table, at a cost of approximately \$150, is also recommended and available at the campus store.

## Admission Requirements for the 2024/2025 Academic Year

### College Eligibility

- Ontario Secondary School Diploma (OSSD) or equivalent. Applicants with an OSSD showing senior English and/or Mathematics courses at the Basic Level, or with Workplace or Open courses, will be tested to determine their eligibility for admission; OR
- Academic and Career Entrance (ACE) certificate; OR
- General Educational Development (GED) certificate; OR
- Mature Student status (19 years of age or older and without a high school diploma at the start of the program). Eligibility may be determined by academic achievement testing for which a fee of \$50 (subject to change) will be charged.

### Program Eligibility

- English, Grade 12 (ENG4C or equivalent).
- Successfully complete a home test. Please contact the Program Coordinator directly for detailed information.
- Submit a portfolio showing evidence of creative ability as well as some basic drawing skills. (Basic drawing skills, although an asset, are not required).
- Interested applicants are welcome to address any portfolio-related inquiries to <mailto:design@algonquincollege.com>.
- Portfolio submission details can be found on the Algonquin College Additional Admission Requirements website: <https://www.algonquincollege.com/admissionspackages>.
- Applicants who have a colour blindness condition will not be able to work effectively in this profession.
- Computer/software skills in MS Word and Excel are an asset but not required.
- Applicants with international transcripts must provide proof of the subject-specific requirements noted above and may be required to provide proof of language proficiency. Domestic applicants with international transcripts must be evaluated through the International Credential Assessment Service of Canada (ICAS) or World Education Services (WES).
- IELTS-International English Language Testing Service (Academic) Overall band of 6.0 with a minimum of 5.5 in each band; OR TOEFL-Internet-based (iBT)-overall 80, with a minimum of 20 in each component: Reading 20; Listening 20; Speaking 20; Writing 20; OR Duolingo English Test (DET) Overall 110, minimum of 110 in Literacy and no score below 95.

Not sure if you meet all of the requirements? Academic Upgrading may be able to help with that: <https://www.algonquincollege.com/access/>.

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### Application Information

#### INTERIOR DECORATING Program Code 6142X01FWO

Applications to full-time day programs must be submitted with official transcripts showing completion of the academic admission requirements through:

ontariocolleges.ca  
60 Corporate Court  
Guelph, Ontario N1G 5J3  
1-888-892-2228

Students currently enrolled in an Ontario secondary school should notify their Guidance Office prior to their online application at <http://www.ontariocolleges.ca/> .

Applications for Fall Term and Winter Term admission received by February 1 will be given equal consideration. Applications received after February 1 will be processed on a first-come, first-served basis as long as places are available.

International applicants please visit this link for application process information: <https://algonquincollege.force.com/myACint/> .

For further information on the admissions process, contact:

Registrar`s Office  
Algonquin College  
1385 Woodroffe Ave  
Ottawa, ON K2G 1V8  
Telephone: 613-727-0002

Toll-free: 1-800-565-4723  
TTY: 613-727-7766  
Fax: 613-727-7632  
Contact: <https://www.algonquincollege.com/ro>

## **Additional Information**

In the final term there is a requirement to successfully complete a work placement to acquire industry experience.

## **Contact Information**

### **Program Coordinator(s)**

- Sandra Gibbons, <mailto:gibbons@algonquincollege.com> , 613-727-4723, ext. 5541

## **Course Descriptions**

### **DSN2100M Design Thinking**

Human-centred approaches are among the best methods of generating innovative solutions for people at work, at home or within your community. Design thinking is a user-centred method of creative problem solving applicable any time you need to generate new ideas. It is about embracing mindset shifts and tackling problems from the user's perspective. Students learn the five-step process while involving the user each step of the way. Through research discussions and analysis, students work, first independently, then with a team, to emphasize with their users, define a problem, and then ideate, prototype and test an original solution that places people at the heart of a challenge.

Prerequisite(s): none  
Corerequisite(s):none

### **DSN5315 Basic Drafting Skills**

Manual drafting is the industry standard that Interior Designers use to create designs for clients. Students use basic skills and traditional techniques and equipment to create accurate plans and elevations to scale. Emphasis is placed on professional presentation, either as rendered presentation drawings for clients, or measured and dimensioned working drawings for contractors.

Prerequisite(s): none  
Corerequisite(s):none

### **DSN5317 Hard Materials and Finishes**

Interior Decorators must be experts in hard materials and finishes that they specify to meet their client's preferences and budget. Students explore various factors used to specify products, which includes sustainability during production and installation, durability, cost and life-cycle cost. Interior and exterior hard materials and finishes information and application are taught through a series of discovery-based exercises using product samples and specifications.

Prerequisite(s): none  
Corerequisite(s):none

### **DSN5318 Drawing Techniques**

Drawing skills with an emphasis on structured freehand sketches and rendering techniques are used by Interior Decorators to communicate design concepts to their clients. Students execute professional concept renderings and perspective sketches through the completion of visually correct and balanced compositions of furniture and interior finishes. Shading, balance, cropping, view selection and focal point analysis are studied through instructional drawing sessions and critiques.

Prerequisite(s): none  
Corerequisite(s):none

**DSN5319 Period Styles and Decoration I**

Interior Decorators must be well-versed in specific period styles, in order to successfully make recommendations of furniture, finishes and accessories to their clients. By considering how different social climates influenced these periods, students explore how to take elements from the past and make them relevant for present-day clients. Periods from ancient civilizations to the height of the Georgian period are explored through discussion, analysis and research.

Prerequisite(s): none  
Corerequisite(s):none

**DSN5320 Soft Materials and Finishes**

Interior Decorators must be experts in soft materials and finishes that they specify to meet their clients' preferences and budget. Students discover current trends in soft finishes and surfaces, how they are manufactured, where they can be used in interior spaces and how to calculate quantities. Topics include natural and manmade materials focusing on sustainable products and cradle to cradle ideology, material calculations of various covering/recovering techniques as well as basic furniture construction and quality. Through case study analysis, research, field trips and guest speakers, students integrate the knowledge of specification and estimating into the design process.

Prerequisite(s): DSN5317  
Corerequisite(s):none

**DSN5322 Period Styles and Decoration II**

Interior Decorators must be well-versed in specific period styles, in order to successfully make recommendations of furniture, finishes and accessories to their clients. In the latter half of history, students explore decor trends from the end of the Georgian period through to furniture designers of the 21st century. Sustainable materials in furniture and decoration are explored. Students identify specific styles and how they can be used in residential interiors through exercises, and develop decorating concepts for period style set decoration.

Prerequisite(s): none  
Corerequisite(s):none

**DSN5324 Furniture and Layout**

Interior Decorators are required to be specialists in selecting furniture and arranging it to meet the needs of their clients. Students assess clients' needs and meet those needs by selecting and arranging furniture in a creative layout. Through analysis of anthropometrics, client questionnaires, written proposals, furniture layouts, product specifications and presentation drawings, students communicate their design concepts to clients.

Prerequisite(s): DSN5315 and DSN5318  
Corerequisite(s):none

**DSN5325 Window Treatments and Accessories**

Interior Decorators source and specify window treatments and accessories that complete interiors. Students consult with clients to determine practical requirements and aesthetic preferences, research and gather information of product manufacturers and suppliers, calculate and price required materials and products, accessorize using the elements and principles of design, write work orders and use various presentation methods following industry terminology and standards. Through field trips, research, case study analysis and group work, students develop decorating skills to meet clients' needs.

Prerequisite(s): DSN5318  
Corerequisite(s):none

**DSN5327 Digital Communication**

Digital software for designing interior spaces enhances decorating concepts that assist the Interior Decorator to communicate and sell their concepts to clients. Students develop technical drawing, rendering and perspective skills that are used to create digital drawings of residential interiors. Through 3D visualization software, students produce professional scaled hard copy and digital outputs of interior spaces, colour renderings and 3D drawings to communicate their ideas to others.

Prerequisite(s): none  
Corerequisite(s):none

**DSN5330 Residential Decorating**

To be a successful Interior Decorator, advanced problem solving skills and attention to detail must be applied when designing for residential interiors. Students develop imaginative solutions to residential decorating problems based on specific fictional or actual client requirements. Emphasis is placed on creative ways to coordinate furnishings, finishes and accessories. Through case study analysis, projects and drawings, students integrate knowledge of residential interiors to meet the design solution.

Prerequisite(s): DSN5317 and DSN5320 and DSN5324 and DSN5325 and DSN5327  
Corerequisite(s):DSN5343

**DSN5331 Studio Techniques I**

Decorating and design skills are integrated and applied each time Interior Decorators work with a client on a design concept. Students apply decorating solutions using a variety of presentation methods based on client requirements. Through case study analysis, research and programming, 2D drawings, model making and oral presentations, students demonstrate their creativity within a creative studio atmosphere.

Prerequisite(s): DSN5324 and DSN5327  
Corerequisite(s):none

**DSN5333 Lighting**

Interior Decorators use lighting for functional and aesthetic purposes in creating inviting interiors. Students analyze practical uses of lighting and lighting techniques for creating atmosphere. Discussions of the sources, characteristics, types, locations and quantities of light, styles of fixtures and the effects of light on people and colours are included. Students create a lighting plan for a residential project that embraces both practical and aesthetic considerations.

Prerequisite(s): DSN5315  
Corerequisite(s):none

**DSN5334 AutoCAD for Decorators I**

Interior Decorators use industry software to communicate their design concepts to clients and trades people. Using computer aided drafting, students develop the skills to produce architectural drawings that are required for Interior Decorating. Through case study analysis, projects and drawings, students learn how to produce computer generated floor plans and elevations for a residential setting.

Prerequisite(s): DSN5315  
Corerequisite(s):DSN5342

**DSN5335 Kitchen Design**

Interior Decorators have knowledge of home kitchens, including basic industry methods and standards, to create interesting and functional spaces. Students examine cabinet materials, fabrication and installation methods, style and industry trends, appliance specifications and plumbing, electrical and ventilation placement. Through case study analysis, research, working



drawings and using the National Kitchen and Bath Associations guidelines while abiding by the Ontario Building Code, students design detailed kitchens to meet clients' needs.

Prerequisite(s): DSN5317 and DSN5320 and DSN5327  
Corerequisite(s):none

### **DSN5337 Project Management for Decorators**

Possessing outstanding project management skills in the interior decorating field is essential for successfully managing a decorating project. Students apply project management principles to the execution of a decorating project. Students engage in discussions on professional standards, ethics and legal responsibilities, to build confidence in these important areas. Using various standard business forms, students effectively communicate with their clients and trade professionals from decorating concept to project completion.

Prerequisite(s): none  
Corerequisite(s):none

### **DSN5341 AutoCAD for Decorators II**

Interior Decorators use industry 3D software to communicate their design concepts to clients and trades people. Using computer aided drafting, students develop the skills to produce architectural drawings that are required for Interior Decorating. Students prepare detailed orthographic projections and three-dimensional representation of interior space through CAD, 2D and 3D software to support their Commercial Decorating course. Emphasis is placed on communicating clearly to clients and trades people and is practiced through case study analysis, projects and drawings and computer generated drawings, 2D and 3D views.

Prerequisite(s): DSN5334  
Corerequisite(s):DSN5330 and DSN5343

### **DSN5342 Commercial Decorating**

Interior Decorators can specialize in small scale commercial projects. Students apply decorating knowledge and design skills to commercial settings. Special attention to building codes and the application of commercial products and materials prepare students to effectively design for this setting. Through case studies, discussions, analysis, space planning and studio classes, students focus on the specialized needs of commercial environments.

Prerequisite(s): none  
Corerequisite(s):DSN5334

### **DSN5343 Studio Techniques II**

Decorating and design skills are integrated and applied each time Interior Decorators work with a client on a design concept. Students apply advanced decorating solutions using a variety of design methods to meet the needs of residential and commercial clients. Through case study analysis, research and programming documentation, detailed cabinetry and working drawings, refined lighting plans, product specifications and innovative presentation skills, students meet the needs of residential and commercial environments.

Prerequisite(s): DSN5331 and DSN5333 and DSN5334  
Corerequisite(s):DSN5330 and DSN5341

### **DSN5345 Bath Design**

Interior Decorators have knowledge of home bathrooms, including basic industry methods and standards, to create interesting and functional spaces. Students examine cabinet materials, fabrication and installation methods, style and industry trends, plumbing fixture specifications, electrical and ventilation placement. Through case study analysis, research, working drawings and using the National Kitchen and Bath Associations guidelines while abiding by the Ontario Building Code, students design detailed bathrooms to meet clients' needs.

Prerequisite(s): DSN5335  
Corerequisite(s):none

### **DSN5347 Professional Practice**

To be a successful Interior Decorator, maintaining client relationships and creating a personal selling style is essential. Students develop a comprehensive selling technique in order to sell their decorating concepts. Students produce promotional materials to support employment, create a career portfolio and resume, establish a professional image and learn strategies to maintain client relationships essential for repeat business and referrals. Through group discussion, self-analysis, research and documentation students gain the tools to promote their skills and themselves.

Prerequisite(s): none  
Corerequisite(s):none

### **DSN5348 Field Placement**

Through a supervised field placement in the interior decorating industry, students put into practice their knowledge and skills. To help the transition from classroom to workplace, this experience gives students the opportunity to work in the decorating field and to collaborate with industry professionals. Students apply the knowledge of decorating and the skills they have gained in the classroom to professional practice.

Prerequisite(s): DSN5315 and DSN5317 and DSN5318 and DSN5319 and DSN5320 and DSN5322 and DSN5324 and DSN5325 and DSN5327 and DSN5331 and DSN5333 and DSN5334 and DSN5335 and DSN5337  
Corerequisite(s):none

### **DSN5354 Design Elements and Principles**

Interior Decorators apply the elements and principles used in design to create visually appealing and functional interiors with an emphasis on colour schemes. Students examine how to use balance and proportion of space, unity, emphasis, contrast, patterns, light, colour and texture to strengthen their design concepts. Students expand their awareness of visual environments based on physiological and psychological, cultural context as well as aesthetics and function. Through analysis, research projects, group discussions, and discovery-based exercises, students explore the power that design can have to optimize the user-experience in interior spaces.

Prerequisite(s): none  
Corerequisite(s):none

### **ENL1813M Communications I**

Communication remains an essential skill sought by employers, regardless of discipline or field of study. Using a practical, vocation-oriented approach, students focus on meeting the requirements of effective communication. Through a combination of lectures, exercises, and independent learning, students practise writing, speaking, reading, listening, locating and documenting information, and using technology to communicate professionally. Students develop and strengthen communication skills that contribute to success in both educational and workplace environments.

Prerequisite(s): none  
Corerequisite(s):none

### **ENL1814M Communications II**

Interior decorators require strong written, oral and interpersonal communication skills when working with clients, colleagues and other industry professionals. Through group presentations, mock interviews, and role-play activities, students develop effective oral presentation techniques and hone their interpersonal communications skills and customer relations abilities. Students also improve their writing and persuasive skills by creating concept statements, resumes, cover letters and other industry documents.

Prerequisite(s): ENL1813M  
Corerequisite(s):none

**GED6142 General Education Elective**

Students choose one course, from a group of general education electives, which meets one of the following five theme requirements: Arts in Society, Civic Life, Social and Cultural Understanding, Personal Understanding, and Science and Technology.

Prerequisite(s): none  
Corerequisite(s):none

**GED6142 General Education Elective**

Students choose one course, from a group of general education electives, which meets one of the following five theme requirements: Arts in Society, Civic Life, Social and Cultural Understanding, Personal Understanding, and Science and Technology.

Prerequisite(s): none  
Corerequisite(s):none