Area of Interest: Arts and Design

**Interior Decorating**

Ontario College Diploma  
2 Years  
Ottawa Campus  

**Our Program**

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

The two-year Interior Decorating Ontario College Diploma program develops your creativity and artistic flair in commercial and residential interiors. Recognized by the Decorators & Designers Association of Canada (DDA), 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 42-hour field/work 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
- set decorator
- staging and colour consultant
- exhibit designer
- 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 working 40 to 60 hours per week (including class time).
Employment

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

Learning Outcomes

The graduate has reliably demonstrated the ability to:

- Analyze the client’s needs and goals using research techniques and taking psychological, sociological and physiological needs into consideration.
- Collaborate in the preparation of a design proposal/contract to define the scope of services for the decorating project.
- Analyze existing space conditions and decorating components in order to determine what modifications are required to meet the client’s needs.
- Prepare a design concept which meets all the criteria (i.e., historical context, accessibility) of a given decorating project using the creative process.
- Communicate the design concept to the client in verbal and written formats.
- Use a variety of media and rendering techniques to communicate the character of the space.
- Prepare technical documents (i.e. plans, elevations) needed for the implementation of the decorating solution.
- Collaborate with a variety of design and decoration professionals for the implementation of the decoration solution.
- Evaluate the effectiveness of the final decoration solution.
- Develop strategies and plans to implement and maintain a decorating business.
- 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

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<td>DSN5315</td>
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<td>DSN5331</td>
<td>Studio Techniques I</td>
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DSN5332  Kitchen and Bath Remodeling  42.0  
DSN5333  Lighting  42.0  
DSN5334  AutoCAD for Decorators I  42.0  
MKT5205  Business Skills for Decorators  42.0  

Choose one from equivalencies:  
Courses | Hours  
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GED6142  General Education Elective  42.0  

Level: 04  
Courses | Hours  
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DSN0036  Visual Communication  42.0  
DSN5340  Visual Display  42.0  
DSN5341  AutoCAD for Decorators II  42.0  
DSN5342  Commercial Decorating  42.0  
DSN5343  Studio Techniques II  42.0  
DSN5344  Field Placement  42.0  
MKT5210  Marketing Techniques  42.0  

Fees for the 2019/2020 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](https://www.algonquincollege.com/fee-estimator).  

Further information on fees can be found by visiting the Registrar’s Office website at [https://www.algonquincollege.com/ro](https://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 2020/2021 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 design@algonquincollege.com.
• For portfolio submission information and deadline, please refer to Portfolio Information on our website.

• 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.

• International applicants must provide proof of the subject specific requirements noted above along with proof of either: (IELTS / TOEFL) IELTS-International English Language Testing Service (Academic) Overall band of 6.5 with a minimum of 6.0 in each band; OR TOEFL-Internet-based (iBT)-overall 88, with a minimum of 22 in each component: Reading 22; Listening 22; Speaking 22; Writing 22.

• Applicants with international transcripts must provide proof of the subject specific requirements noted above and may be required to provide proof of language proficiency.

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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:

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
Email: mailto:AskUs@algonquincollege.com

Additional Information

Programs at Algonquin College are Bring Your Own Device (BYOD). To see the BYOD requirements for your program, please visit: https://www7.algonquincollege.com/byod/.

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

For more information, please contact the program coordinator, Sandra Gibbons, at 613-727-4723 ext. 5541 or mailto:gibbons@algonquincollege.com.

Course Descriptions

DSN0036 Visual Communication

Students explore various graphic software programs to enhance their rendering and presentation options. Expertise is gained by using multiple techniques (manual and/or digital) within the same project. Students’ personal portfolios and renderings from their Commercial Decorating course are used as the basis for their projects.

Prerequisite(s): DSN5330 and DSN5331 and DSN5334
Corerequisite(s): none

DSN2100M Design Thinking

Design Thinking uses a designer mindset to produce business innovations in products and services, with a focus on deep understanding of and empathy with the people who use them. Following a holistic innovation process for an area of interest or organization, students build an initial business case and apply design thinking and creative problem-solving strategies to make innovation a sustainable practice.

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

DSN5314 Colour in Decor
An overview of colour properties and the effects created by colour interactions is provided. Areas of study include the physiological, psychological and cultural responses to colour. Students use paint samples to better understand the composition of colours. Students also use colour to create mood by preparing a colour scheme for a client.

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

**DSN5315 Basic Drafting Skills**

Manual drafting is taught using traditional techniques and equipment allowing students to learn the basic skills and industry standards needed 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

**DSN5316 Design Elements and Principles of Our Environment**

Students focus on the elements and principles used in design and how they relate to the global environment. Students expand their awareness of visual environments based on cultural context, appropriateness, aesthetics and function. Students explore the creative process that contributes to multicultural spaces and have the opportunity to evaluate the historical and modern development of these concepts and their impact on society.

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

**DSN5317 Hard Materials and Finishes**

Interior and exterior hard materials and finishes information and application are taught through a series of discovery-based exercises using actual products and specifications. Students research specific products and report on sustainability components of production and installation, durability, cost and life-cycle cost to develop a better understanding of the various important factors, which should be considered when specifying products.

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

**DSN5318 Drawing Techniques**

Students improve their drawing skills with an emphasis on realistic graphite and marker rendering techniques. They learn how to execute professional concept renderings 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.

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

**DSN5319 Period Styles and Decoration I**

Being well-versed in period styles, and acquiring the skills to choose furniture, accessories and finishes from these specific period styles, are important assets to have as an interior decorator. Through the understanding of how the 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 also explored.

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

**DSN5320 Soft Materials and Finishes**
Students discover the current trends in soft finishes and surfaces, how they are manufactured and where they can be used in interior spaces. Topics include natural and manmade materials focusing on sustainable products and cradle to cradle ideology, material calculation of various covering/recovering techniques, as well as basic furniture construction and quality. Students demonstrate project estimating techniques.

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

**DSN5322 Period Styles and Decoration II**

Students continue their exploration of different periods from the end of the Georgian period through to furniture designers of the 21st century. Sustainable materials in furniture and decoration are covered in more depth. Exercises assist students in identifying specific styles and how they can be used in residential interiors. Students develop decorating concepts for period style set decoration.

Prerequisite(s): DSN5319
Corerequisite(s): none

**DSN5323 Perspective Sketching**

Basic perspective grids and freehand drawings are developed and used by the students to produce three dimensional views of interior spaces. Emphasis is placed on both formal and informal drawing techniques using markers and mixed medium.

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

**DSN5324 Furniture and Layout**

Focus is placed on selecting and arranging creative furniture layouts based on anthropometrics, specific client-based information and assessment of needs. Students prepare proposals for residential settings using sustainable practices, creative writing and presentation drawings.

Prerequisite(s): DSN5315 and DSN5316 and DSN5318
Corerequisite(s): DSN5323

**DSN5325 Window Treatments and Accessories**

Focus is placed on sourcing and specifying window treatments and accessories. Students learn how to consult with clients to determine practical requirements and aesthetic preferences; how to research and gather information of product manufacturers and suppliers; how to calculate and price required materials and products; how to accessorize using the elements and principles of design; how to write work orders; and how to use various presentation methods using industry terminology and standards.

Prerequisite(s): DSN5314 and DSN5315 and DSN5316
Corerequisite(s): none

**DSN5330 Residential Decorating**

Students are given the opportunity to apply the knowledge and skills acquired. They 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.

Prerequisite(s): DSN5320 and DSN5322 and DSN5323 and DSN5324 and DSN5325
Corerequisite(s): DSN5331

**DSN5331 Studio Techniques I**
Within a creative studio atmosphere, students learn the various skills needed to develop and present projects to their full potential: research and programming; 2D, 3D (model making), and oral presentation techniques; and fabrication methods of small structures.

Prerequisite(s): DSN5323 and DSN5324
Corerequisite(s): none

**DSN5332 Kitchen and Bath Remodeling**

Students are introduced to industry methods and standards to create interesting and functional kitchens and bathrooms. They examine plumbing fixtures and cabinet materials, fabrication and installation methods, styles and industry trends. Through projects and critiques, students learn how to optimize kitchen and bathroom components and produce basic working drawings.

Prerequisite(s): DSN5320 and DSN5323 and DSN5324
Corerequisite(s): none

**DSN5333 Lighting**

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**

Students are introduced to computer-aided drafting. Students learn how to produce floor plans and elevations for a residential setting.

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

**DSN5340 Visual Display**

Merchandising and techniques in visual display are explored through a series of two dimensional and three dimensional exercises. Lectures cover retail exteriors, layout, use of props, lighting, fixtures and mannequins. Students engage in designing practical applications setting up store displays and windows as individuals and as part of a team in the classroom or on site.

Prerequisite(s): DSN5314 and DSN5315 and DSN5316 and DSN5323 and DSN5325 and DSN5333
Corerequisite(s): none

**DSN5341 AutoCAD for Decorators II**

Students prepare detailed orthographic projections and three-dimensional representation of interior space through CAD and 3D software to support their Commercial Decorating course. Emphasis is placed on communicating clearly to contractors.

Prerequisite(s): DSN5334
Corerequisite(s): DSN5342 and DSN5343

**DSN5342 Commercial Decorating**

Focus is placed on the space planning and decorating of commercial environments. Students apply their previous schooling to resolve acquired knowledge challenges inherently found in commercial settings: challenges presented by either fictional or actual clients.

Prerequisite(s): DSN5330 and DSN5331 and DSN5333 and DSN5334
Corerequisite(s): DSN5340 and DSN5341 and DSN5343
DSN5343 Studio Techniques II

Students expand skills by developing detailed research and programing documents, innovative presentation methods, and refined lighting solutions. Students also understand and design custom-built cabinetry/millwork, and more. As in Studio Techniques I, many of the assignments are designed to support their Commercial Decorating course.

Prerequisite(s): DSN5330 and DSN5331 and DSN5333 and DSN5334
Corerequisite(s): DSN5341 or DSN5342

DSN5344 Field Placement

To help the transition from classroom to workplace, this experience gives students the opportunity to work in the decorating field. Students apply the knowledge and skills they have gained in the classroom to professional practice.

Prerequisite(s): DSN5314 and DSN5315 and DSN5316 and DSN5317 and DSN5318 and DSN5319 and DSN5320 and DSN5322 and DSN5323 and DSN5324 and DSN5325 and DSN5330 and DSN5331 and DSN5332 and DSN5333 and DSN5334 and MKT5205
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

Students develop effective oral presentation techniques, and improve their writing, grammar and persuasive skills in proposals to clients.

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

MKT5205 Business Skills for Decorators

Possessing outstanding business skills in the interior decorating field is essential. Students use role-play in the promotion and management of a decorating businesses, and engage in discussions on professional standards, corporate networking, and ethics, to build confidence in these important areas. They also learn various techniques to promote the sale of retail and wholesale merchandise.

Prerequisite(s): none
Corerequisite(s): none
MKT5210 Marketing Techniques

Focus is on the fundamental techniques of marketing. Students develop a comprehensive marketing plan for a proposed business venture. In addition, students are given opportunities to produce promotional materials geared towards attracting clients, create a career portfolio and resume, establish a professional image and learn strategies on how to maintain client relationships.

Prerequisite(s): MKT5205
Corerequisite(s): none