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# OHIO LEGISLATIVE SERVICE COMMISSION

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Office

**H.B. 402\***  
**133<sup>rd</sup> General Assembly**

## Occupational Regulation Report

[Click here for H.B. 402's Bill Analysis / Fiscal Note](#)

**Primary Sponsors:** Reps. Lang and Sweeney

**Impacted Profession:** Interior designers

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LSC is required by law to issue a report for each introduced bill that substantially changes or enacts an occupational regulation. The report must: (1) explain the bill's regulatory framework in the context of Ohio's statutory policy of using the least restrictive regulation necessary to protect consumers, (2) compare the regulatory schemes governing the same occupation in other states, and (3) examine the bill's potential impact on employment, consumer choice, market competition, and cost to government.<sup>1</sup>

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## SUMMARY OF PROPOSED REGULATIONS

### Certified interior designers

The bill creates a voluntary certification for interior design; a profession that is not currently regulated by state law. Individuals who obtain the certification gain authority to independently sign and submit *some* construction documents for the purpose of obtaining building permits. Currently, construction documents require the seal and signature of a registered architect or engineer unless an exception applies. (Notable exceptions include documents related to residential buildings, accessories to residential buildings, residential energy conservation design, and installation of equivalent replacement devices, equipment, or systems.)

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\* This report addresses the "As Introduced" version of H.B. 402. It does not account for changes that may have been adopted after the bill's introduction.

<sup>1</sup> R.C. 103.26, not in the bill.

Under the bill, a certified interior designer’s signatory authority extends only to projects within the “practice of interior design,” which includes interior alteration and construction projects that do not “substantially affect the existing mechanical or structural systems.”<sup>2</sup>

Individuals who do not obtain the certification will still be able to work in interior design, but may not hold themselves out as “certified interior designers.”

### **Issuance of certification**

A person seeking an interior design certificate must:

- Submit an application to the Ohio Interior Design Examiners, created by the bill;
- Pay a fee established by the Board;
- Provide satisfactory evidence of good moral character;
- Pass the National Council of Interior Design Qualification Examination (NCIDQ) or an equivalent exam as determined by the Board;
- Satisfy requirements established by the board regarding financial responsibility and professional liability insurance.

The Board must issue a certificate to a person who meets the bill’s requirements.<sup>3</sup>

### **Reciprocity**

The Board must adopt rules for granting an interior design certificate to any person who provides satisfactory evidence of certification, registration, or licensure in another state or country with substantially equal requirements.<sup>4</sup>

### **Renewal and continuing education**

Unless the Board adopts a rule extending or shortening a renewal cycle, an interior designer certificate is valid for two years. Before a certificate expires, an applicant for renewal must pay a renewal fee established by the Board. The applicant also must provide satisfactory evidence that the applicant has met the continuing education requirements, which generally require 20 hours of continuing education every two years.<sup>5</sup>

### **Duties and prohibited conduct**

The bill sets forth certified interior designers’ obligations with respect to interior technical submissions they prepare, or that were prepared under their supervision, or are signed by them after preparation by another certified interior designer. All scenarios require

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<sup>2</sup> R.C. 3791.04(A) and 4703.60; O.A.C. 4101:1-1-01, Section 106.2.1.

<sup>3</sup> R.C. 4703.64(A)(2), (5), and (10) and 4703.66.

<sup>4</sup> R.C. 4703.64(A)(5) and 4703.67.

<sup>5</sup> R.C. 4703.64(A)(3), (A)(4), (B), and (C)(1), 4703.69, and 4703.70.

the certified interior designer signing the submission to assume all related responsibility and liability.<sup>6</sup>

In addition, the bill prohibits certified interior designers from engaging in certain conduct, including:

- Recklessly engaging in conduct prohibited by the Board’s rules;
- For a certified interior designer who had a certificate reinstated following disciplinary action, knowingly using a different name than the name used before the action, except as permitted by law and after notice to, and approval by, the Board;
- Impersonating another certified interior designer, except as permitted by law;
- Permitting the designer’s signature and certificate number to be attached to an interior technical submission, except as permitted by the bill or other law.<sup>7</sup>

To enforce the duties and prohibitions established by the bill, the Board may subpoena witnesses and records in connection with its investigations, and may incur any necessary expenses. The Board may also discipline applicants and certified interior designers by, for instance, issuing fines, reprimands, or suspensions, or take enforcement action against uncertified individuals who claim to be certified.<sup>8</sup>

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## **LEAST RESTRICTIVE REGULATION COMPARISON**

### **Ohio’s general regulatory policy**

The general policy of the state is reliance on market competition and private remedies to protect the interests of consumers in commercial transactions involving the sale of goods or services. For circumstances in which the General Assembly determines that additional safeguards are necessary to protect consumers from “present, significant, and substantiated harms that threaten health, safety, or welfare,” the state’s expressed intent is to enact the “least restrictive regulation that will adequately protect consumers from such harms.”

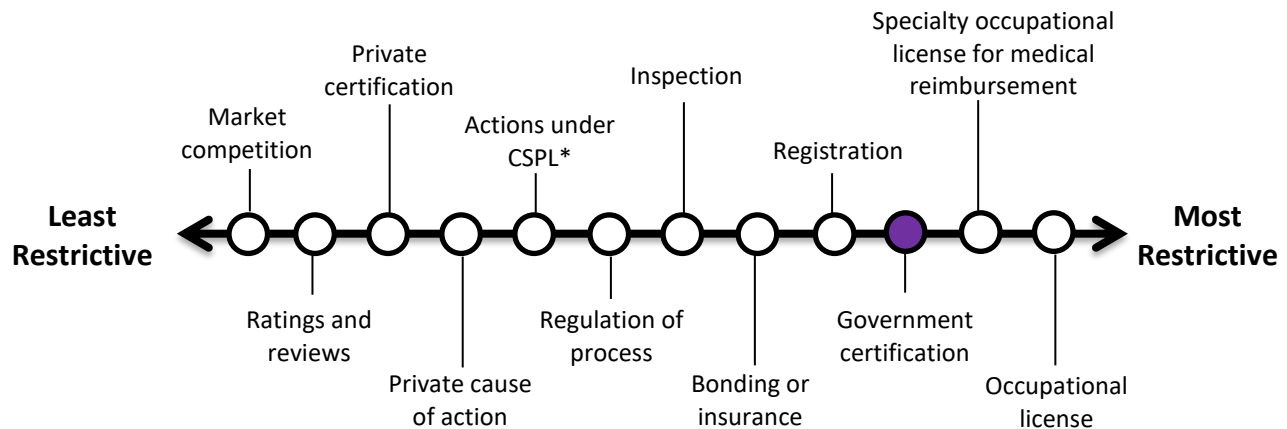
The degree of “restrictiveness” of an occupational regulation is prescribed by statute. The following graphic identifies each type of occupational regulation expressly mentioned in the state’s policy by least to most restrictive:

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<sup>6</sup> R.C. 4703.68.

<sup>7</sup> R.C. 4703.61(C) through (E) and 4703.64(A)(1).

<sup>8</sup> R.C. 4703.64(D), 4703.71, and 4703.72.



\*CSPL – The Consumer Sales Practices Law

The regulations enacted by H.B. 402 have some characteristics of an occupational license but, overall, more closely resemble a voluntary government certification. Under continuing law, unchanged by the bill, a “certification” is a voluntary program by which recognition is granted to individuals who meet certain personal qualifications. Conversely, an “occupational license” is an authorization required for an individual to engage in a lawful occupation for compensation. A certification confers recognition whereas an occupational license confers authority. The interior design certificate appears to do both.<sup>9</sup>

The bill is analyzed below as a government certification because (1) the additional authority granted to certificate holders (signing off on some construction documents) is limited in the context of the broad scope of duties performed by interior designers, (2) the bill expressly preserves the right of noncertified individuals to engage in activities traditionally performed by interior designers,<sup>10</sup> and (3) the bill refers to the regulations as a certification.

## Necessity of regulations

The bill’s sponsors, Representatives Lang and Sweeney, say that H.B. 402 is needed to allow commercial interior design professionals to compete in the marketplace. Their testimony suggests that the education and training associated with interior design work is sufficient to allow individuals engaged in the profession to prepare, sign, and submit construction documents for nonstructural commercial design projects without the endorsement of an architect or engineer. Involving third-party architects and engineers in such projects impedes efficiency and increases costs for interior designers and consumers.

Representative Lang asserts that H.B. 402 allows commercial interior design professionals to “practice and pursue their professional goals to their fullest capabilities while

<sup>9</sup> R.C. 4798.01 and 4798.02, neither in the bill.

<sup>10</sup> R.C. 4703.62(A).

protecting the public, retaining talent, and increasing job creation..."<sup>11</sup> Representative Sweeney testified that the bill increases efficiency, promotes growth of small businesses, and entices recent graduates of Ohio's six Certified Interior Design Accreditation (CIDA) institutions to "remain in Ohio to utilize their skills and put their degree to use."<sup>12</sup> Both sponsors emphasized that the certification is voluntary and is not intended to inhibit interior designers who choose not to obtain the certification.

## **Restrictiveness of regulations**

Voluntary certification is a moderately restrictive option within the continuum of occupational regulations. According to the state's policy, it is an appropriate means to protect consumers against asymmetrical information between a seller and a buyer. The policy favors privately offered certifications when available.<sup>13</sup> The interior design certification created by H.B. 402 appears to align with the state's policy in that it would give consumers an additional tool to use in evaluating the qualifications of interior design professionals. A person who obtains the certification exhibits a certain degree of relevant education, experience, and trustworthiness. Whether a government certification is necessary to accomplish this objective is a policy decision.

There are numerous private certifications for interior designers that might serve similar purposes. In fact, the bill expressly references the NCIDQ certification, which purports to be "the industry's recognized indicator of proficiency in interior design principles and a designer's commitment to the profession."<sup>14</sup> Applicants for the Ohio certificate must pass the NCIDQ examination or another equivalent test.<sup>15</sup> This examination requirement also includes education and experience requirements because, to sit for the NCIDQ examination, the applicant must first complete 60 semester hours or 90 quarter credit hours of post-secondary interior design coursework and 3,520 to 7,040 hours of relevant work experience (the amount depends on the type of post-secondary degree earned by the applicant).<sup>16</sup> The Ohio certificate created by H.B. 402 and the NCIDQ certificate both appear to bolster consumer awareness of an interior designer's credentials. However, by creating a state-level certificate, H.B. 402 would allow for additional oversight of these professionals' interactions with Ohio consumers.

## **Other regulatory policies**

Interior designers are not currently regulated by state law. H.B. 402 does not include a general statement expressing the state's intent in regulating the profession.

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<sup>11</sup> Representative George Lang, [H.B. 402 Sponsor Testimony](#), February 12, 2020.

<sup>12</sup> Representative Bride Sweeney, [H.B. 402 Sponsor Testimony](#), February 12, 2020.

<sup>13</sup> R.C. 4798.02(B)(5), not in the bill.

<sup>14</sup> NCIDQ, [The Value of NCIDQ Certification](#).

<sup>15</sup> R.C. 4703.66(A)(1)(b).

<sup>16</sup> NCIDQ, [NCIDQ Examination Eligibility Paths](#).

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## **IMPACT STATEMENT**

### **Opportunities for employment**

The bill will not limit opportunities for employment directly, because certification would be voluntary for interior designers. However, it could potentially lead to a two-tier market, in which interior designers with state certification might have a competitive edge in seeking new business or retaining their current customers. For contracts requiring state certification of persons working on the contracts, the creation of a state certification program could result in increased employment opportunities. Applicants for an interior designer certificate must show evidence of good moral character and ability to satisfy financial responsibility and professional liability insurance requirements. In addition, applicants must have passed the examination of the NCIDQ or its equivalent. Those satisfying NCIDQ's education and experience requirements, and who passed that organization's examination, are certified by NCIDQ.

### **Consumer choice and cost**

Because Ohio certification for interior designers would be voluntary, its direct impact on consumer choice and cost would be limited. Those interior designers who become certified by the Ohio Interior Design Examiners Board presumably will seek to pass along to their customers the application fee and other costs to become certified, and costs to satisfy continuing education requirements to remain certified. Their ability to do so will depend on the state of the market for their services at any given time. A strong market will tend to attract additional persons to become interior designers. A weak market will tend to lead interior designers to seek other employment. Resulting changes in numbers as well as qualifications of interior designers will affect the ability of those in the field to pass along these additional costs.

### **Market competition**

Because Ohio certification for interior designers would be voluntary, its direct impact on market competition for interior design services would be limited. Some consumers might choose to deal with interior designers who lack the Ohio certification, or to limit their dealings to those with the certification. On the supply side of the market, the added requirements might tend to limit the number of providers of these services. The extent to which numbers of providers would be limited would depend on the amount of the fee which the bill specifies is to be set by rule by the Ohio Interior Design Examiners Board, and on the difficulty of meeting the other requirements.

### **Cost to government**

The new Ohio Interior Design Examiners Board is to operate under the existing Ohio Architects Board and Ohio Landscape Architects Board, sharing staff, facilities, and budget. The bill may increase administrative costs to issue and renew interior design certifications. These costs would be at least partially offset by application and renewal fees. Depending on the number of interior designers who seek the Ohio certification, the workload could increase significantly. Ohio had 2,170 interior designers, not including those who are self-employed, as of May 2018, according to U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics occupational data. Separately, a

report found in an Internet search from StudentScholarships.org states that roughly 59% of interior designers are self-employed.<sup>17</sup> If this ratio, presumably national, is applicable to Ohio, then perhaps roughly 5,300 persons work as interior designers in the state.

The bill would not impose costs on units of local government.

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<sup>17</sup> [https://studentscholarships.org/careers\\_salary/199/self\\_employed/interior\\_designers.php#sthash.uGOQBS8f.dpbs](https://studentscholarships.org/careers_salary/199/self_employed/interior_designers.php#sthash.GOQBS8f.dpbs). LBO cannot vouch for the quality of this estimate.

## STATE BY STATE COMPARISON

Of the five states bordering Ohio, only Indiana and Kentucky offer state-level interior design certification. The table below summarizes the qualifications, fees, continuing education, and permitting privileges (i.e., ability to sign off on construction documents).

Interior Design Certifications					
State	Certification	Qualifications	Duration and registration fees	Continuing education	Permitting privileges
Indiana	Voluntary <sup>18</sup>	Pass the NCIDQ examination or the National Council of Architectural Registration Boards Architectural Registration Exam.  Lack of certain convictions, and civil judgments relating to competence in practice. <sup>19</sup>	Two-year duration; \$100 initial registration and renewal fee. <sup>20</sup>	12 continuing education hours to renew. <sup>21</sup>	No <sup>22</sup>
Kentucky	Voluntary <sup>23</sup>	Pass the NCIDQ examination;  Obtain an accredited four- or five-year degree;  At least two years of acceptable full-time employment in the performance of interior design services. <sup>24</sup>	One-year duration (generally).  Initial application, \$100;	12 professional development units (50 minutes per unit) in year prior to renew. <sup>26</sup>	No <sup>27</sup>

<sup>18</sup> Ind. Code Ann. 25-20.7-5-2

<sup>19</sup> Burns Ind. Code Ann. 25-20.7-2-5, 25-20.7-2-7, and 25-20.7-5-3

<sup>20</sup> Ind. Code Ann. 25-20.7-2-11 and 25-20.7-3-1.

<sup>21</sup> Ind. Code Ann. 25-20.7-2-10.

<sup>22</sup> Ind. Code Ann. 25-20.7-1-5(c).

<sup>23</sup> Ky. Rev. Stat. 323.402.

<sup>24</sup> Ky. Rev. Stat. 323.410; 201 Ky. Admin. Reg. 19:315.



Interior Design Certifications					
State	Certification	Qualifications	Duration and registration fees	Continuing education	Permitting privileges
			Initial certification, \$250; Initial certification for licensed architect: \$150; Initial reciprocal certification: \$400; Renewal: \$200. <sup>25</sup>		
Michigan	No <sup>28</sup>	--	--	--	--
Pennsylvania	No	--	--	--	--
West Virginia	No	--	--	--	--

<sup>26</sup> Ky. Rev. Stat. 323.416; 201 Ky. Admin. Reg. 19:330 and 19:340.

<sup>27</sup> See, e.g., Ky. Building Code, 2018 Version, Sec. 201.3, available [here](#).

<sup>25</sup> 201 KAR 19:335.

<sup>28</sup> MCLS 339.601(10)(a).

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## **INFORMATION FROM SPONSORS**

Sponsors of bills involving occupational regulations are expressly permitted by law to provide LSC with information that may be relevant to this report. The information below was submitted by Representatives Lang and Sweeney. It has been reformatted to fit the structure of the report but is otherwise reproduced in its entirety. Inclusion of sponsor provided information in this section of the report is not an endorsement or affirmation of accuracy by LSC.

## Responses to LSC memo HB 402 CO – 133-0060

### 1. Evidence of present, significant, and substantiated harms to Ohio consumers;

Qualified by means of education, experience, and examination, interior designers have a moral and ethical responsibility to protect consumers and occupants through the design of code-compliant, accessible, and inclusive interior environments that address well-being, while considering the complex physical, mental, and emotional needs of people.<sup>29</sup> With detailed knowledge and understanding of building, fire, life-safety, energy, and accessibility codes, standards, regulations and guidelines, qualified interior designers safeguard the health, safety, and welfare of Ohio residents and Ohio's environment by:

- Minimizing fire and toxic smoke hazards;
- Ensuring safe evacuation from interior spaces;
- Providing clear circulation pathways within interior spaces;
- Understanding requirements for fire ratings of partitions, door assemblies, and interior finishes and content that affect the spread of fire and smoke;
- Providing proper lighting that ensures physical safety, the ability of occupants to clearly see transitions in floor levels, read directional signage, and that meets electrical code;
- Reducing accidental injuries due to falls by understanding technical properties of flooring materials such slip resistance;
- Safeguarding indoor air quality by specifying products and materials that do not contain volatile organic compounds (VOCs) and other biological and chemical pollutants (or require them to maintain the

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<sup>29</sup> Council for Interior Design Qualification, Inc., "The Definition of Interior Design," CIDQ: Council for Interior Design Qualification, 2019, <https://www.cidq.org/definition-of-interior-design>.

materials) that contribute to occupant illness, decreased productivity of workers and excessive abatement cost building owners;

- Designing inclusive, universal spaces that provide access for individuals of all ability levels;
- Selecting materials and products that are environmentally responsible, including impact at all levels of the supply chain;

As humans spend more than 90 percent of their lives in interior spaces, our commercial interior designers use evidence-based and humancentric design to enhance the comfort, accessibility, safety, wellness, and sustainability of their client projects. Commercial interior designers showcase the impact of design on the human experience and the value interior designers provide using data, science, building codes, and regulatory standards to construct better spaces where we live, work, play, and heal.

The importance of building codes and standards to the profession of interior design cannot be understated. Interior designers are trained to interpret and consistently use national model and state-adopted codes and standards to construct safe, sustainable, affordable, accessible, and resilient structures including commercial and public spaces where large groups of people congregate, such as convention centers, hotels, airport terminals, and more.

Examples of codes and standards which designers utilize in their projects are the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), WELL (a building standard that is the premier standard for buildings, interior spaces and communities seeking to implement, validate and measure features that support and advance human health and wellness), LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design), the Ohio non-residential building and state fire codes. Their knowledge and skills help to ensure the safety of the public every day. As one of the

guardians of the public's health, safety, and welfare in the built environment, it is the responsibility of interior designers to be involved with codes and standards work.

## **Continuing Risks to the Ohio Public**

The hard fact is that structure fires in public and high-risk buildings continue to harm Ohioans. In the United States during 2018, there were:

### **Deaths & Injuries to Civilians**

- 460 civilian deaths and 3,800 civilian injuries in public and high-risk residential occupancies including hotels, motels, dormitories, boarding houses, condominiums, apartment complexes. These numbers have increased over 2017. Deaths in hotels, motels, college dormitories and boarding houses increased by 25%, injuries have increased by 29%. Civilian deaths and injuries in apartments and condominiums (excluding one- and two-family homes and apartments) have increased by 6% and 9%, respectively.<sup>30</sup>
- 90 civilian deaths and 1,100 civilian injuries in public assembly, educational, institutional, office, mercantile, utility, storage, and special structure properties.<sup>31</sup>

### **Property Losses**

- 15,500 fires in assembly occupancies including clubs, nightclubs, amusement or recreation facilities, libraries, museums, court rooms passenger terminals, theatres and/or studios, worship spaces, eating and drinking establishments, and funeral properties, costing Americans \$384,000,000 in direct property losses. Assembly occupancy fires have increased 7% over 2017 while direct property losses from these fires

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<sup>30</sup> Ben Evarts, *Fire Loss in the United States During 2018*, National Fire Protection Association (Quincy, MA, 2019), 3-11.

<sup>31</sup> *Ibid.*

increased 35% during that same year.<sup>32</sup>

- 4,500 fires in educational occupancies, including primary through high schools, college classroom buildings or adult education centers, day care centers, costing Americans \$109,000,000 in direct property losses. There was a year-over-year increase of 18% in educational occupancy fires from 2017 to 2018; direct property losses increased 113%.<sup>33</sup>
- 6,500 fires in institutional facilities including health care, detention, and correctional facilities. These fires resulted in \$44,000,000 in direct property losses, an increase of 10% from 2017.<sup>34</sup>
- 24,000 fires in public and high-risk residential occupancies including hotels, motels, dormitories, boarding houses, condominiums, apartment complexes (excluding 1 and 2-family homes and apartments), an increase of 9% over 2017. Direct property loss from these fires was \$264,000,000, a 65% increase from the prior year.<sup>35</sup>
- 18,000 fires in offices and stores which cost Americans \$778,000,000 in direct property loss, an increase of 2% over 2017.<sup>36</sup>

While the numbers represented here are not broken down by state, it is important to note that Ohio's death rate from fire is 2% on average higher than the national average over the past 5 years.<sup>37</sup> Moreover, according to forensic research, "if interior content is a first ignition source, risk of injury and death dramatically increases, particularly in occupancy types that present the greatest challenges in

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<sup>32</sup> Ben Evarts, *Fire Loss in the United States During 2018*, National Fire Protection Association (Quincy, MA, 2019), 3-11. Direct property loss includes loss to contents, structures, machinery, vegetation, or anything else involved in the fire. It does not include indirect losses, e.g., business interruption or temporary shelter costs. No adjustment was made for inflation in the year-to-year comparison.

<sup>33</sup> Ben Evarts, *Fire Loss in the United States During 2018*, National Fire Protection Association (Quincy, MA, 2019), 3-11.

<sup>34</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>35</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>36</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>37</sup> National Fire Protection Association, "Research: Compare Fire Death Rates by State: All Fire Death Rate per Million Population per Year for –US Overall & Ohio", NFPA.org, 2019, <https://www.nfpa.org/News-and-Research/Data-research-and-tools/US-Fire-Problem/Fire-deaths-by-state>.

code compliance and enforcement over the useful life of the building.”<sup>38</sup>

There is little doubt that the current regulatory system, which favors new construction and substantial renovation at the expense of overseeing a majority of interior space content provided outside of its jurisdiction, is, on its own, unable to fully ensure the health, safety, and welfare of the public. Interior designers are uniquely qualified to provide an added and necessary level of protection to the public that the current system of regulatory control provided through architectural and engineering practice and through the involvement of codes enforcement officials cannot provide in the current market.

It should also be noted that when incorrect interior design decisions are made, and when improper materials are installed, citizens can be exposed to unnecessary risks. If these improper materials are used in publicly-owned buildings the taxpayer is ultimately the payer to settle lawsuits filed by an injured party.

2. An explanation of why existing laws and procedures are inadequate to prevent those harms;

Current Ohio statute does allow some practitioners in the built environment to protect Ohioans from harm in public buildings. However, current Ohio statute does not allow all individuals who are qualified to prevent these harms to practice, due to the outdated state law and the relatively new profession of commercial interior design.

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<sup>38</sup> Katherine S. Setser, “Through the Cracks: Failures in the Implementation of Fire and Life Safety Standards in the Selection, Specification, and Installation of Interior Content,” in *The State of the Interior Design Profession*, edited by Caren S. Martin and Denise A. Guerin (New York: Fairchild, 2010), 251-263.

In order for commercial interior designers to be able to maintain the ownership of the intellectual property of the designs created for which they are highly educated and experienced, state law must be altered. Currently, state law requires that either a registered architect or a licensed engineer sign and seal construction documents for their submittal to local jurisdictions for building permits. General contractors may also submit construction documents, though a typical general contractor lacks the same specialized education a commercial interior designer receives.

Furthermore, commercial interior designers' education and experience is directly connected to the human experience in the built environment. Whereas others in the design professions design for an overall project, a commercial certified interior designer is at the crux of how all individuals interact with all spaces. This includes being the experts at the design table for ADA codes, WELL standards, interior fire codes, and the designs, materials, and products necessary to comply with all those standards.

Current law assumes that architects and engineers are as engaged in the interior environment as they are in the exterior and the structure of the environment. However, course work for engineers and architects focus on different components of the built environment, such as structure, stairwells, load calculations, overall building, etc. But as the built environment becomes more complex, there is a greater and greater need for specialists.

3. An explanation of why a less restrictive regulation is not proposed;



The International Interior Design Association (IIDA) carefully reviewed all existing interior design legislative bills across the U.S. as well as existing and proposed professional regulation in Ohio prior to the introduction of HB 402. As listed in the bill, interior designers would be under the same executive director as the architects and the landscape architects. Both of these professions are fully licensed in Ohio, which means they limit the right of anyone to practice those professions. HB 402 is a permissive certification that does not limit the right of anyone to pursue our profession of commercial interior design. Despite the complexities of the profession, anyone may call themselves an “interior designer” or a “commercial interior designer.” Any practicing interior designer or a related profession, like architecture, would still be able to practice exactly as they do today. The only title that is limited is the proposed designation of “certified interior designer.” This ensures that everyone is able to practice as they have always been able to do, but gives an additional economic opportunity for those designers seeking additional responsibility.

Any lesser form of government intervention does not allow highly qualified commercial interior designers to be able to submit their interior construction documents for permits at the local building departments. International Building Code (IBC) refers to a professional only being able to submit construction documents only if they are registered with the state. This is a nationwide standard to ensure all occupants are safe in the built environment. The IBC refers to “registered design professionals” as a catch all for all the professions that can permit for construction projects. The IBC says these professionals need to be registered in the state which they work. If interior designers cannot be registered or certified by the state, then IBC building code officials will reject their plans.

Furthermore, federal government projects often require subcontractors to be registered or licensed in the state in which they work. At the very least, they require that the commercial interior designer is National Council for Interior Design Qualification (NCIDQ)-certified, meaning they have passed the NCIDQ exam. HB 402 would expand opportunities for female commercial interior designers to become subcontractors on federal government projects in Ohio.

4. The names of associations, organizations, or other groups representing the occupation and the approximate number of Ohio members in each;

International Interior Design Association (IIDA)

American Society for Interior Designers – approximately 400 members.

5. The functions typically performed by members of the occupation and a list of any other occupations that perform the same or similar functions.

See the attachment labeled *ResponsibilitiesID*. This document will show the duties of an architect, an interior designer, and an interior decorator. The document shows clearly why the architects argue that interior designers will be practicing architecture. Architects technically can perform the functions of an interior designer (as seen in the graphic), but they cannot hold themselves out as interior designers (see the response to the next question). Due to the strict prohibitions placed in HB 402, an interior designer cannot perform the duties of an architect. However, it should be noted that the

“crossover” activities are those not related to the structural function of the building project so an interior designer may perform them.

6. An indication of whether or not specialized training, education, or experience is required to engage in the profession and a description of how that training, education, or experience is acquired by current practitioners;

As conceptualized by House Bill 402, an interior designer, in order to become a certified interior designer, must be eligible for and pass the NCIDQ exam. The current national standard for a designer to be eligible to sit for this exam is a Bachelor or master’s degree in interior design from a Council of Interior Design Accreditation (CIDA) school or non-CIDA school. CIDA is an independent, non-profit accrediting organization for interior design education programs at colleges and universities in the United States and Internationally, and is recognized as a reliable authority on interior design education by the Council for Higher Education Accreditation (CHEA).

A Bachelor or master’s degree in another major, plus an interior design degree. Each of these paths require 3,520 work hours (2 years full time) in order to sit for the exam. If a candidate obtained an Associate Degree, Certificate or Diploma, the applicant must complete 5,280 work hours (3 years full time).

If an applicant has a Bachelor or master’s degree in architecture from a NAAB or CAAB program, they must complete 5,280 work hours (3 years full time) or if they have a Bachelor or master Degree from a Non-NAAB or Non-CAAB program the applicant must complete 7,040 hours (4 years full time).

The work experience requirements must be obtained under direct supervision or by a sponsor. Direct supervision is defined as a design professional, defined as someone who meets at least one of the following three criteria:

1. NCIDQ Certified Interior Designer.
2. State/Provincial Licensed/Registered/Certified Interior Designer in the US or Canada.
3. State/Provincial Licensed/Registered Architect in the US or Canada who provides interior design services.

A Direct Supervisor is a design professional, as defined above, who provides substantial oversight and control of a candidate's (for the NCIDQ exam) work and possesses detailed knowledge of the tasks performed.

A Sponsor is a design professional, as defined above, who agrees to review a candidate's professional progress and affirm interior design work experience hours. A sponsor may or may not work within the same firm as a candidate (for the NCIDQ exam).

However, for the general commercial interior designer there is no requirement to seek additional training or work experience, unless it is intended to obtain the NCIDQ certification and then apply for the certified interior designer designation created by HB 402.

7. A description of any way in which the bill would change how practitioners of the occupation acquire necessary specialized training, education, or experience;

For the majority of IIDA members, it would not change their training or education in anyway. Although there is no

state certification for interior designers, the NCIDQ exam is the industry standard for competency. It's seen an **over 54% growth of number of test takers over the last 6 years**, which is a testament to the growth of the industry and the value of the exam. The average IIDA member is a female with a four-year degree from a CIDA accredited university with a bachelor's degree in interior design or interior architecture, who has taken or is taking the NCIDQ exam.

8. An indication of whether or not current practitioners in Ohio lack necessary training, education, or experience and a description of how the bill addresses that deficiency;

The majority of practitioners that would utilize HB 402 currently meet the fundamental requirements of HB 402. Since passage of the NCIDQ exam is the industry standard for employment at many architectural, engineering, and design firms, most designers that would be intending to submit their own work to local jurisdictions, already have the qualifications. In fact, Ohio is the nation's leader in public commercial interior design education with 6 CIDA accredited programs at public universities across the state:

1. Kent State University, Bachelor of Arts in Interior Design
2. Miami University, Bachelor of Fine Arts in Interior Design
3. The Ohio State University, Bachelor of Science in Interior Design
4. Ohio University, Bachelor of Fine Arts
5. The University of Akron, Bachelor of Arts in Interior Design
6. University of Cincinnati, Bachelor of Science in Interior Design

9. An indication of whether or not new entrants into the occupation or current practitioners would be required to provide evidence of training, education, or experience, or to pass an examination;

Because the current legislation is a permissive certification, it would not impact new entrants into the occupation. Anyone could still call themselves an interior designer; anyone could open an interior design business.

10. The expected impact of the bill on the supply of practitioners of the occupation and on the cost of services or goods provided by the occupation;

The bill is expected to assist in the retention of interior designers in Ohio who graduate from CIDA and non-CIDA schools. Ohio's institutions provide excellent interior design programs that prepare their students for success in the interior design field. For example, Miami University's interior design program has a 100% graduation rate and an excellent record of student success in their field. In 2018, 22% of Miami's May graduation had secured full-time, professional employment in a field related to interior design and/or architecture.<sup>39</sup> 100% of the 2018 secured employment or began graduate studies within three months of their graduation.<sup>40</sup> 11% of the students from the May 2018 graduating class applied to graduate

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<sup>39</sup> Miami University, "Student Achievement Data for Interior Design: 2017/18 Academic Year," Department of Architecture + Interior Design, Miami University, 2020, <https://www.miamioh.edu/cca/academics/departments/arch-id/academics/majors/bachelor-of-fine-arts-in-interior-design/student-achievement-data-for-interior-design/index.html>.

<sup>40</sup> Ibid.

school; 100% were accepted.<sup>41</sup>

While first jobs are important, so is a graduate's ability to build a secure and lasting career in their chosen field. A full 97.7% of Miami's Interior Design program graduates work in design-related jobs 6 years after graduation.<sup>42</sup> Unfortunately, a significant number of those jobs are outside of Ohio, many located where interior designers receive greater recognition for their role in the protection of public health, safety, and welfare. Between 2014 and 2017, only 45% of Miami University Interior Design graduates took jobs in Ohio's design industry.

Creating a law that allows for a certified interior designer will encourage practitioners to remain in Ohio and balanced with our favorable tax environment it is hoped to attract commercial interior designers to Ohio. Allowing a certified interior designer to draft and submit their own plans is a significant improvement over the current practice and will generate competition in the marketplace and lower prices for customers who otherwise would utilize the services of an architect for interior design services.

For every 1 interior design position an additional 0.98 additional jobs is created. For every \$1.00 in revenue it can generate \$0.47 in other industries. As of 2016, commercial interior design generated \$16.6m in payroll taxes, \$1,991.8m in direct Ohio impact from firms. The direct Ohio impact of revenue from firms creates 8,634 jobs either in or related to interior design.

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<sup>41</sup> Ibid.

<sup>42</sup> Katherine S. Setser, "Program Statistics: Interior Design Graduate Data, AY 2013-2017," 2017, in the author's possession.

11. Information from others knowledgeable about the occupation and the related economic factors.

See the Chmura Economics and Analytics report *“The Economic Impact of Interior Design in the Nation and States”*.





# The Economic Impact of Interior Design in the Nation and States

Prepared for International Interior Design Association  
September 23, 2016

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# 1. Executive Summary

The interior design sector generates significant economic impact in both the nation's and states' economies, which is evaluated in this report. In this study, the **interior design sector** is defined in broad terms. It includes not only all firms in interior design industries, but also interior design occupations in other industries such as retail and construction.

## **Nearly 200,000 people nationwide were employed in the interior design sector in the first quarter of 2016.**

- Among the total, 110,141 workers were employed in interior design industries, and the rest were interior design workers in other industries.
- The annual average wage of the interior design sector is \$59,969—higher than the national average for all industries at \$51,614 during this time period.
- Of the interior design occupations, interior, industrial, graphic, and other specialized design industries employ over one-third of interior design occupations (34%). Other common industries for interior design occupations include architectural, engineering, and related services; furniture stores; and management of companies and enterprises.

## **The total annual economic impact (direct, indirect, and induced) of the interior design sector in the United States is estimated to be \$96.3 billion in 2016, which can support 522,400 jobs annually.**

- Total revenue for the interior design sector is estimated to be \$49.0 billion, generating 199,264 jobs.
- The interior design sector generates an additional \$47.3 billion in ripple effects each year, supporting 323,136 more jobs in the country in 2016.

## **In 2016, the interior design sector will generate an estimated \$4.5 billion in U.S. federal tax revenues.**

- At \$2.2 billion, individual income tax accounts for nearly half of federal tax revenue for the interior design sector.
- Payroll tax totals \$1.8 billion, and corporate income tax adds another \$399 million in federal tax revenue in 2016.

## **The interior design sector generates significant economic impact in state economies, and contributes sizable tax revenue to the state governments as well.**

- Based on 2016 data, California, New York, and Texas comprise 33% of the nation's interior design employment and generate 38% of the sector's nationwide total industry revenue (sales).
- The top 10 states constitute 62% of national interior design employment and 66% of interior design total revenue.
- In terms of total economic impact (direct, indirect and induced), the top states are California, New York, Texas, Florida and Michigan.
- For state tax revenue generated by the interior design sector, the top three states in 2016 are California, New York, and Michigan.
- The top three states generating federal tax revenue are California, New York, and Texas. With \$1.7 billion in tax revenue, they account for 37% of federal tax revenue generated by the interior design sector in 2016.

## 2. Background

The International Interior Design Association (IIDA) was founded in 1994 as the result of a merger of the Institute of Business Designers (IBD); the International Society of Interior Designers (ISID); and the Council of Federal Interior Designers (CFID). The goal of the merger was to create an international association with a united mission that would represent interior designers worldwide. Since that date, IIDA has worked to convene communities of interior designers across regions and specialties, representing their interests for the entire collective community.<sup>1</sup>

IIDA supports design professionals, industry affiliates, educators, students, firms, and their clients through their network of more than 15,000 members across 58 countries. IIDA promotes advancements in education, design excellence, legislation, leadership, accreditation, and community outreach to increase the value and understanding of interior design as a profession that enhances business value and positively impacts the health and well-being of people's lives every day.

IIDA wants to demonstrate the importance of interior design industries and occupations (collectively referred to as the interior design sector) in the national and state economies. More specifically, IIDA wants to understand the economic and fiscal impact of the interior design sector in the United States and in each individual state. Chmura Economics & Analytics (Chmura) was contracted to perform this study.

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<sup>1</sup> Source: IIDA website, available at: <http://www.iida.org/content.cfm/story>



### 3. Methodology

In this study, the interior design sector is defined in broad terms. It includes not only all firms that are in interior design and industrial design industries, but also interior designers that work in other industries such as architectural services, retail, and construction industries. More specifically, the **interior design sector** is defined as follows:

**Interior Design Industries:** this includes the following three 6-digit North American Industrial Classification System (NAICS) industries (all employment in these three industries are included in the study even if some of the workers are not in the interior design occupations):

- Interior Design Services (NAICS 541410)
- Industrial Design Services (NAICS 541420)
- Other Specialized Design Services (NAICS 541490)

**Interior Design Occupations:** this includes the following three 6-digit Standard Occupation Classification (SOC) occupations (this study includes the impact of these three occupations working in the interior design industries defined above as well as working in industries other than the interior design industries defined above):

- Interior Designers (SOC 27-1025)
- Commercial and Industrial Designers (SOC 27-1021)
- Designers, all other (SOC 27-1029)

For interior design industries, businesses in interior design services are primarily engaged in planning and designing **interior spaces** to meet the physical and aesthetic needs of the people using them. On the other hand, businesses in industrial design services are involved in creating and developing designs that optimize the use, value, and appearance of **industrial products**. Common examples are automobile and furniture design.<sup>2</sup>

The employment and total revenue associated with interior design industries and interior design occupations constitute the direct economic impact of the interior design sector in the nation and states. The total economic impact of the interior design sector also includes economic ripple effects from the direct impact. Ripple effects, categorized as indirect and induced impacts<sup>3</sup> (see Appendix 2 for definitions), measure secondary benefits generated by the interior design sector. For example, when an interior design firm purchases computer equipment and office supplies, this generates indirect impact in the economy. An example of induced impact is the benefit for national and state businesses where employees of an interior design firm spend their income—termed induced impact or household spending impact.

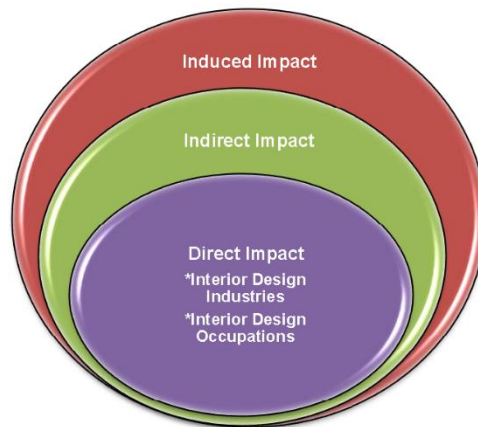
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<sup>2</sup> Source: U.S. Census, available at: <https://www.census.gov/eos/www/naics/>.

<sup>3</sup> Induced impact is also called household spending impact—these are interchangeable.

The direct impact is estimated by Chmura based on the latest employment and wage data from Chmura's JobsEQ® technology platform.<sup>4</sup> The indirect and induced effects were estimated with the economic multipliers from JobsEQ after the direct impact was determined. Different interior design industries and occupations were inputs into the JobsEQ economic impact model to estimate the indirect and induced impact for each interior design industry and occupation. Those impacts were eventually aggregated to reach an estimate of the overall economic impact of the interior design sector in the nation and states. Figure 3.1 illustrates the economic impact framework.

**Figure 3.1: Economic Impact Analysis Framework**



This study also estimates fiscal benefits of the interior design sector to federal and state governments. For the federal government, Chmura estimated the individual income tax, payroll tax (which includes social security, Medicare, and unemployment tax), and corporate income tax contributions from the sector. For state governments, Chmura estimated individual, payroll (unemployment), and corporate income tax contributions as well.

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<sup>4</sup> The latest data is for the first quarter of 2016. Chmura estimated the annual economic impact based on the first quarter employment and wage data.

## 4. Economic Impact in the Nation

### 4.1. Sector Employment and Wages

The latest data show that in the first quarter of 2016, the three 6-digit NAICS industries that comprise the interior design industries employed a total of 110,141 workers, with an average wage of \$61,347 (Table 4.1). The 6-digit industry with the most employed individuals was interior design services (69,126 workers), followed by industrial design services (20,678 workers) and other specialized design services (20,337 workers).

From an occupational perspective, in the first quarter of 2016, there were 61,096 interior designers, 39,607 commercial and industrial designers, and 9,347 other designers in the nation. Some of those interior designers work in interior design industries, while many of them work in other industries, such as architecture and engineering services or retail—which will be analyzed later.

Combining total employment in the interior design industries with interior design occupations outside the interior design industries, total employment in the interior design sector reached 199,264 in the first quarter of 2016. The average annual wage for those employees was \$59,969—higher than the average wage of all industries, which was \$51,614.<sup>5</sup> Compared with selected industries, the average wage of the interior design sector is higher than the broad health care sector, at \$47,804, and lower than other professional services such as accounting, at \$66,375 per year.<sup>6</sup>

**Table 4.1: Employment and Wages of the Interior Design Sector (2016)**

		Employment	Average Annual Wage
Interior Design Industries	Interior Design Services (541410)	69,126	\$54,099
	Industrial Design Services (541420)	20,678	\$83,222
	Other Specialized Design Services (541490)	20,337	\$63,740
Interior Design Occupations	Interior Designers (27-1025)	61,096	\$53,558
	Commercial and Industrial Designers (27-1021)	39,607	\$65,363
	Designers, all other (27-1029)	9,347	\$54,046
<b>Total Interior Design Sector</b>		<b>199,264</b>	<b>\$59,969</b>

Note: There is overlap among interior design industries and interior design occupations.<sup>7</sup>

Source: JobsEQ and Chmura

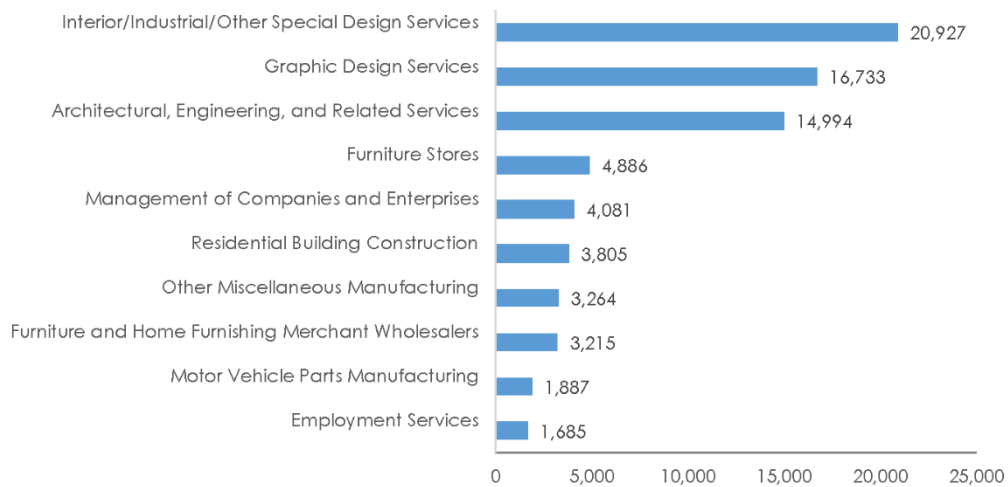
<sup>5</sup> Source: JobsEQ, Industry Snapshot, 2016Q1.

<sup>6</sup> Source: JobsEQ, Industry Snapshot, 2016Q1. Health care sector is represented by NAICS 62, and accounting services are represented by NAICS 5412.

<sup>7</sup> For example, the employment in the interior designer occupations (61,096) is included in the employment of interior design services (69,126).

Outside of the three interior design industries—interior/industrial/other special design services—many other industries also employ interior designers. As Figure 4.1 shows, of all interior design occupations, 20,927 of them work in the interior design industries as defined in this study. A large number (16,733) work in graphic design services. There are overlaps between skills required for interior designers and graphic designers, and those two professions are not mutually exclusive. Many interior designers are also trained as graphic designers. As a result, it is not surprising that graphic design service industries employ a larger number of interior design workers. In addition, 14,994 work in architectural, engineering, and related services. Those three major industries employ close to half (48%) of all interior design occupations. After those top industries, other major industries employing interior design workers include furniture stores, management of companies and enterprises, residential building construction, and other miscellaneous manufacturing.

**Figure 4.1: Top Industries in U.S. Employing Interior Design Occupations, 2016**



## 4.2. Economic Impact

The interior design sector generates significant economic impact in the national economy. The direct impact includes both total revenue (sales) of the sector and the number of workers employed by the sector. The direct impact is \$49.0 billion, which is the estimated total annual revenue (sales) of the interior design sector in 2016 (Table 4.2). To arrive at this estimate, Chmura assumes the total employment of the sector is 199,264 with annual average salary of \$59,969 and annual revenue per worker of \$246,144.<sup>8</sup> As a result, the total annual revenue of the sector is estimated to be \$49.0 billion in 2016.

<sup>8</sup> For interior design occupations in other industries, Chmura chose to use the multipliers for NAICS industry 541430 (Graphic Design Services) as an approximation, since graphic design services has the largest number of interior design occupations outside the three interior design industries.



**Table 4.2: Annual Economic Impact of the Interior Design Sector in 2016, United States**

		Direct	Indirect	Induced	Total
Interior Design Industry	Spending (\$ Million)	\$27,110.5	\$14,201.8	\$11,926.5	\$53,238.9
	Employment	110,141	75,138	105,154	290,433
Interior Design Occupations in Other Industries	Spending (\$ Million)	\$21,937.1	\$11,491.8	\$9,650.4	\$43,079.2
	Employment	89,123	59,828	83,015	231,967
<b>Total Interior Design Sector</b>	<b>Spending (\$ Million)</b>	<b>\$49,047.6</b>	<b>\$25,693.6</b>	<b>\$21,576.9</b>	<b>\$96,318.1</b>
	<b>Employment</b>	<b>199,264</b>	<b>134,967</b>	<b>188,169</b>	<b>522,400</b>

Source: Chmura and JobsEQ

The indirect impact benefits other national businesses supporting industrial design firms and occupations. The total indirect impact is estimated to be \$25.7 billion that could support 134,967 jobs in the U.S. in 2016. Some examples of industries receiving benefits include engineering services, temporary help services, and commercial printing services. The induced impact (or household spending impact) is estimated to be \$21.6 billion that can support 188,169 jobs in the U.S. Since the source of the induced impact is wages and salaries, the main beneficiaries of the induced impact are consumer services businesses such as retail shops, restaurants, and healthcare services.

In summary, the total annual economic impact (direct, indirect, and induced) of the interior design sector in the United States is estimated to be \$96.3 billion in 2016, which can support 522,400 jobs in the country.

### 4.3. Federal Fiscal Impact

In addition to injecting billions of spending dollars into the national economy and creating hundreds of thousands of jobs, the interior design sector also generates significant revenue for the federal government.<sup>9</sup> To be conservative, only tax from the direct economic impact was estimated.<sup>10</sup>

Federal tax revenue resulting from the interior design sector comes from three main tax categories: individual income, payroll, and corporate income tax. For all workers in interior design industries and occupations, their wages and salaries are subject to federal individual income tax. The estimated federal individual income tax rate is 18.5% for workers making about \$60,000 per year.<sup>11</sup> As a result, Chmura estimated the federal individual income tax from the interior design sector in 2016 at \$2.2 billion.

<sup>9</sup> The tax revenue for state governments is included in the state impact summary for each state.

<sup>10</sup> This approach is recommended by Burchell and Listokin in *The Fiscal Impact Handbook*.

<sup>11</sup> The average wage of the sector is assumed to be \$59,969 in 2016.

**Table 4.3: Estimated Federal Tax Revenue, 2016 (\$ Million)**

Individual Income	\$2,215.2
Payroll	\$1,836.7
Corporate Income	\$399.1
<b>Total Federal Tax</b>	<b>\$4,450.9</b>

Source: Chmura

Payroll tax includes social security, Medicare, and unemployment tax. The social security tax rate is 12.4% of wages and salaries, and Medicare tax is 2.9% of wages and salaries.<sup>12</sup> The federal unemployment tax is 6.0% of the first \$7,000 of wages and salaries, but employers can take a 5.4% credit if they pay state unemployment tax. As a result, the typical federal unemployment tax rate is 0.6% of the first \$7,000 of an employee's pay.<sup>13</sup> Based on total wages and salaries of the interior design sector, Chmura estimates that the federal government can receive \$1.8 billion in total payroll tax in 2016.

Corporate income tax is estimated based on the profit margin of the interior design sector and the federal corporate income tax rate. Data from the Bureau of Economic Analysis indicates that the corporate profit margin is 4.6% of gross sales for interior design industries.<sup>14</sup> Corporate income tax rates depend on the amount of profit each firm earns, and Chmura estimates that the average corporate income tax rate is 17.5%.<sup>15</sup> As a result, the federal corporate income tax in 2016 is estimated at \$399.1 million.

In summary, total federal tax from the national interior design sector is estimated to be \$4.5 billion in 2016. Federal taxes are used to provide national defense, social security, unemployment insurance, health care, and economic development, benefiting society at large.

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<sup>12</sup> Source: Internal Revenue Service (IRS). <https://www.irs.gov/publications/p15/ar01.html>. These two taxes are split evenly between employers and employees.

<sup>13</sup> Source: Center for Budget & Policy Priorities. <http://www.cbpp.org/research/federal-tax/policy-basics-federal-payroll-taxes>.

<sup>14</sup> Source: Bureau of Economic Analysis, <http://www.bea.gov/iTable/iTable.cfm?ReqID=9&step=1#reqid=9&step=3&isuri=1&903=243>.

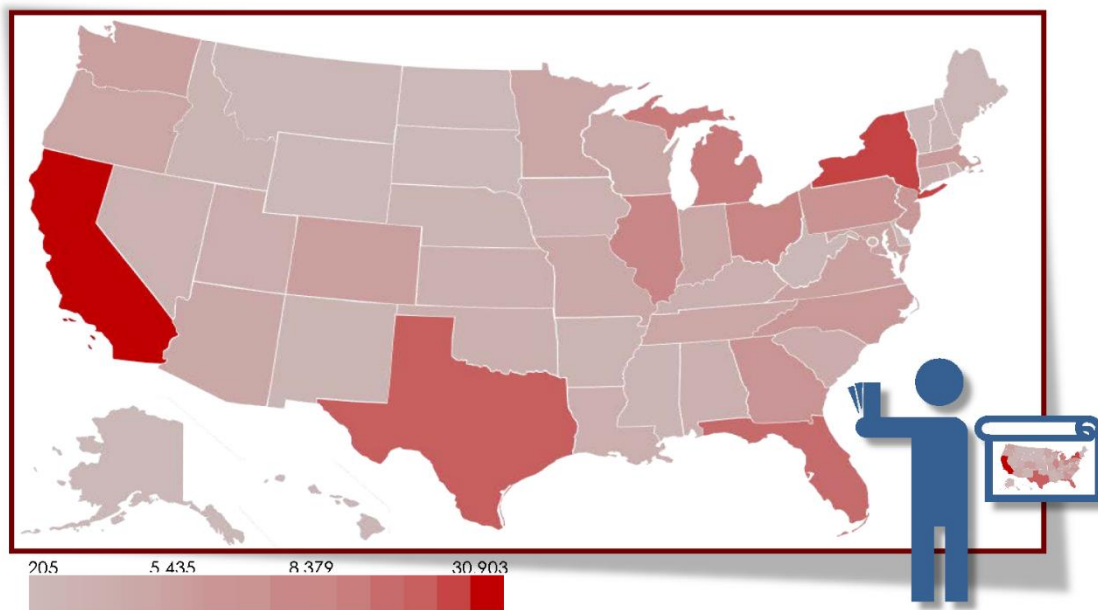
<sup>15</sup> This is estimated based on the average size of profit of interior design firms. In addition, for self-employed interior designers, their business income is taxed at the individual tax rate. This rate blends business income from firms with self-employed interior designers.

## 5. Economic Impact Summary in the States

Chmura utilized the same methodology to estimate economic impact of the interior design sector in the 50 states and the District of Columbia. This section compares state-wide economic impact in a summary format, while Appendix 1 includes tables where economic and fiscal impacts for each state are detailed.<sup>16</sup>

In terms of the direct employment of the interior design sector in each state, data from JobsEQ show that California has the largest interior design workforce in the nation, reaching 30,903 as of the first quarter of 2016. Despite not having the second-largest employment base in the nation in terms of total employment,<sup>17</sup> New York comes in second in terms of interior design workforce—amounting to 19,702. Texas (15,125), Florida (13,011), and Michigan (10,214) round out the top five states. These top five states account for 45% of total interior design workforce of the nation, while the top three states account for 33%. On the other end of the spectrum, Wyoming, Alaska, North Dakota, and South Dakota have the smallest interior design workforces in the nation.

**Figure 5.1: Interior Design Employment**

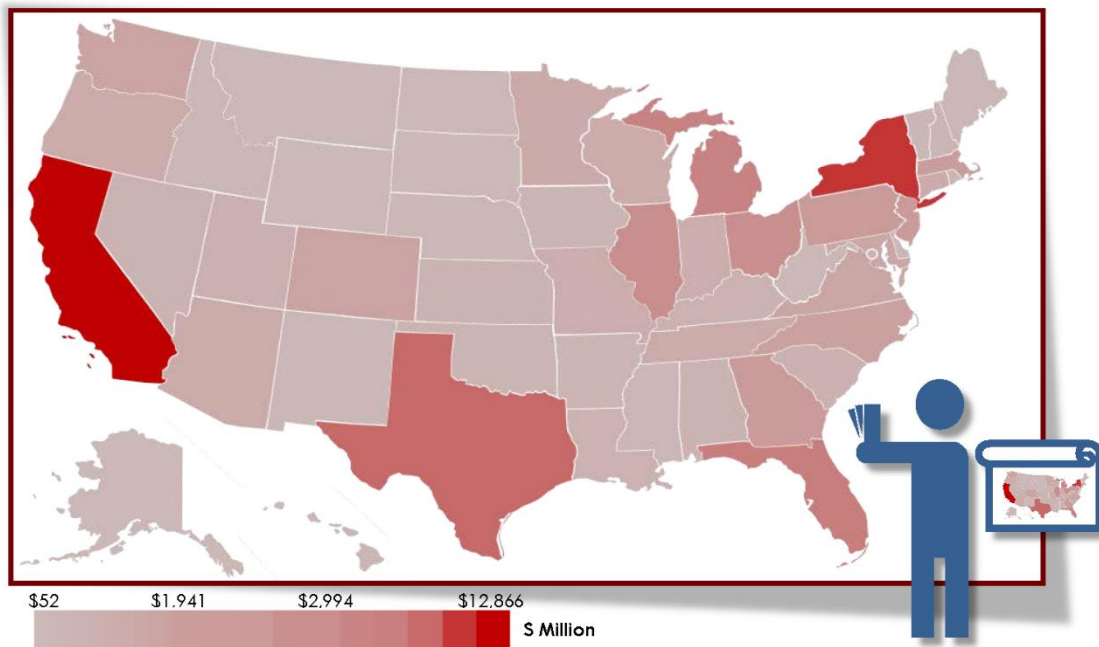


<sup>16</sup> Chmura also prepared separate documents for each state, including a graphic presentation of the state economic and fiscal impact of the interior design sector.

<sup>17</sup> In terms of total population and total employment, Texas, not New York, is the second largest state.

In terms of total economic impact (direct, indirect, and induced), the top five states also were the top contributors in terms of direct employment. In California, total economic impact of the interior design sector is estimated to be \$12.9 billion in 2016, supporting 57,811 jobs in the state. In New York, total economic impact of the interior design sector is estimated to be \$9.2 billion in 2016, supporting 39,205 jobs in the state. On the other hand, Alaska has the lowest total economic impact, even though its employment is slightly higher than that of Wyoming. The reason is that the economic multiplier in Alaska is smaller than that of Wyoming, resulting in less total economic impact.

**Figure 5.2: Total Economic Impact of Interior Design (Direct + Indirect + Induced)**



Finally, not only does tax revenue for each state depend on employment size and average wages, but it also depends on state tax rates on personal income and corporate profits. In California, the state interior design sector is estimated to contribute \$782.7 million in federal tax and \$161.4 million in state tax in 2016 (Figure 5.3 and 5.4). In the state of New York, annual tax revenue from the interior design sector is estimated to be \$546.1 million in federal tax and \$116.5 million in state tax in 2016. On the other hand, interior design sectors in Wyoming, Alaska, North Dakota, and South Dakota are expected to generate the lowest federal and state tax revenue due to smaller workforces and relatively lower wages.

Figure 5.3: Federal Tax Revenue from Interior Design

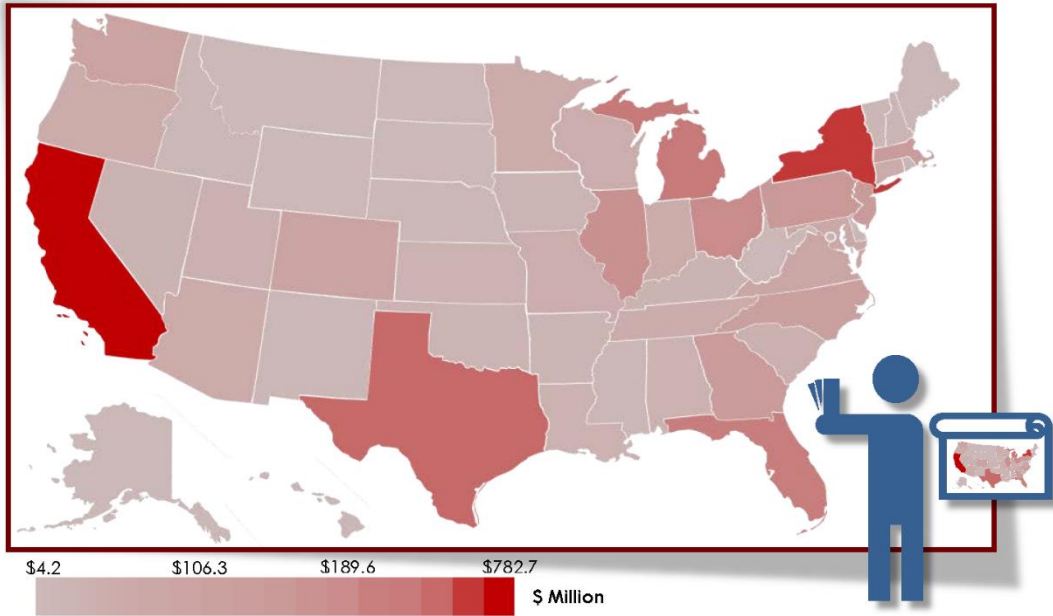
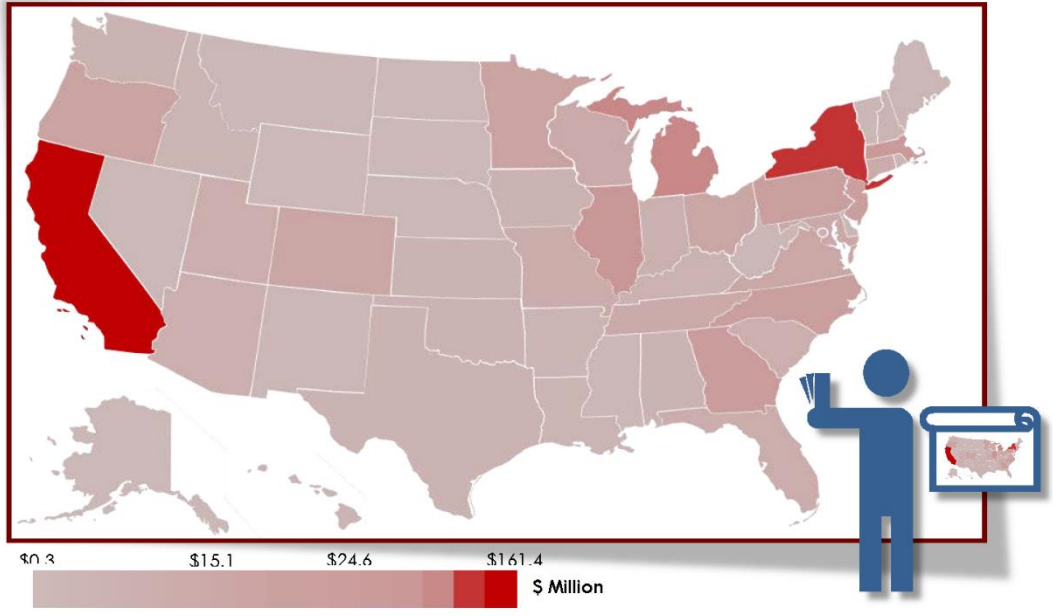


Figure 5.4: State Tax Revenue from Interior Design



## 6. Summary and Conclusion

In conclusion, the interior design sector contributes significant economic impact to the national economy. In 2016, the total annual economic impact (direct, indirect, and induced) of the interior design sector in the United States is estimated to be \$96.3 billion, with the total revenue of the sector estimated at \$49.0 billion.

The interior design sector creates jobs across the country and these jobs are largely skilled jobs paying higher-than-average wages. At the time of this study, the sector employs 199,264 workers who work in a wide range of industries such as architectural and engineering services, retail, and manufacturing. Adding economic ripple impact, the interior design sector supports 522,400 jobs annually in the nation.

In addition, interior design generates an estimated \$4.5 billion in U.S. federal tax in 2016. Individual income tax is estimated to be \$2.2 billion. Payroll tax totals \$1.8 billion, and corporate income tax adds another \$399 million in federal tax revenue in 2016.

The interior design sector makes important contributions to state economies as well—generating job opportunities in a wide range of industries and tax revenue for state governments. In terms of total economic impact (direct, indirect and induced), the top five states are California, New York, Texas, Florida and Michigan.

## Appendix 1: Summary Impact for States

State Summary of Economic and Fiscal Impact, 2016

State	Output (\$ Million)		Employment		Taxes (\$ Million)	
	Direct	Total	Direct	Total	State	Federal
Alabama	\$291.0	\$425.1	1,659	2,969	\$5.3	\$29.7
Alaska	\$36.5	\$51.9	233	406	\$0.3	\$4.4
Arizona	\$664.6	\$961.7	2,992	5,394	\$8.6	\$63.0
Arkansas	\$200.3	\$292.6	1,001	1,892	\$3.1	\$18.2
California	\$8,747.1	\$12,865.7	30,903	57,811	\$161.4	\$782.7
Colorado	\$1,058.4	\$1,536.8	4,401	7,995	\$16.5	\$94.6
Connecticut	\$660.4	\$957.6	2,180	3,955	\$11.3	\$55.2
District of Columbia	\$346.2	\$502.0	940	1,790	\$7.6	\$30.3
Delaware	\$80.2	\$117.2	348	652	\$1.4	\$7.5
Florida	\$2,809.9	\$4,117.6	13,011	24,967	\$10.5	\$249.8
Georgia	\$1,425.5	\$2,083.3	6,202	12,052	\$24.6	\$126.1
Hawaii	\$139.4	\$191.9	628	1,047	\$3.6	\$12.6
Idaho	\$125.1	\$180.3	705	1,301	\$3.6	\$12.2
Illinois	\$2,036.8	\$2,993.6	8,379	16,135	\$29.7	\$172.5
Indiana	\$537.9	\$792.6	2,998	5,801	\$7.8	\$55.9
Iowa	\$222.7	\$325.1	1,250	2,275	\$5.4	\$22.1
Kansas	\$319.5	\$466.8	1,621	3,018	\$4.6	\$31.4
Kentucky	\$327.2	\$481.1	1,602	3,159	\$5.7	\$29.0
Louisiana	\$356.3	\$519.0	1,773	3,317	\$4.3	\$33.5
Maine	\$107.3	\$153.7	626	1,045	\$2.5	\$11.4
Maryland	\$822.7	\$1,209.4	3,429	6,626	\$13.6	\$70.9
Massachusetts	\$1,338.0	\$1,941.2	4,908	9,295	\$26.8	\$124.9
Michigan	\$2,544.7	\$3,730.5	10,214	20,437	\$42.9	\$266.1
Minnesota	\$728.0	\$1,066.0	3,194	5,896	\$18.8	\$61.3
Mississippi	\$137.9	\$201.3	830	1,491	\$2.5	\$14.8
Missouri	\$595.0	\$874.9	2,806	5,259	\$11.0	\$50.7
Montana	\$84.6	\$121.1	468	836	\$1.9	\$7.6
Nebraska	\$152.3	\$220.9	887	1,547	\$2.6	\$14.8
Nevada	\$300.0	\$429.6	1,307	2,342	\$1.0	\$28.0
New Hampshire	\$214.7	\$310.1	813	1,508	\$3.8	\$18.1
New Jersey	\$1,444.6	\$2,124.8	5,488	10,738	\$21.7	\$125.0
New Mexico	\$106.3	\$152.6	718	1,175	\$2.1	\$12.0
New York	\$6,296.3	\$9,235.4	19,702	39,205	\$116.5	\$546.1

**State Summary of Economic and Fiscal Impact, 2016**

State	Output (\$ Million)		Employment		Taxes (\$ Million)	
	Direct	Total	Direct	Total	State	Federal
North Carolina	\$1,156.1	\$1,701.2	5,381	10,528	\$22.5	\$106.3
North Dakota	\$53.7	\$76.8	271	485	\$0.6	\$4.4
Ohio	\$1,991.8	\$2,930.9	8,634	17,070	\$16.6	\$189.6
Oklahoma	\$266.6	\$389.4	1,406	2,533	\$5.1	\$24.7
Oregon	\$630.2	\$914.6	3,107	5,447	\$19.1	\$57.1
Pennsylvania	\$1,475.9	\$2,184.3	6,484	13,000	\$22.1	\$137.9
Rhode Island	\$155.8	\$223.6	702	1,229	\$2.8	\$14.4
South Carolina	\$399.0	\$585.2	2,207	4,065	\$8.7	\$41.2
South Dakota	\$48.8	\$70.0	313	534	\$0.2	\$4.8
Tennessee	\$683.0	\$998.3	3,100	5,896	\$12.8	\$58.2
Texas	\$3,745.2	\$5,567.9	15,125	29,581	\$5.4	\$339.9
Utah	\$426.2	\$612.6	2,028	3,722	\$9.1	\$41.8
Vermont	\$95.3	\$134.0	447	766	\$1.7	\$9.0
Virginia	\$911.4	\$1,340.8	4,073	8,003	\$15.1	\$80.7
Washington	\$1,018.8	\$1,487.7	4,337	7,732	\$5.4	\$93.1
West Virginia	\$72.8	\$106.3	424	805	\$1.2	\$7.0
Wisconsin	\$614.1	\$900.5	2,804	5,496	\$12.5	\$54.1
Wyoming	\$45.5	\$64.6	205	383	\$0.3	\$4.2

Source: Chmura Economics & Analytics



## Appendix 2: Impact Analysis Glossary

*Input-Output Analysis*—an examination of business-business and business-consumer economic relationships capturing all monetary transactions in a given period, allowing one to calculate the effects of a change in an economic activity on the entire economy (impact analysis).

*Direct Impact*—economic activity generated by a project or operation. For interior design firms, this represents the total sales and direct employment of the firm.

*Indirect Impact*—secondary economic activity that is generated by a project or operation. An example might be interior design firms generating demand for computer equipment or office supplies.

*Induced (Household) Impact*—economic activity generated by household income resulting from direct and indirect impacts.

*Ripple Effect*—the sum of induced and indirect impacts. In some projects, it is more appropriate to report ripple effects than indirect and induced impacts separately.

*Multiplier*—the cumulative impacts of a unit change in economic activity on the entire economy.

# Exam & Eligibility



## CIDA Degree

(ROUTE 1)

<b>Education</b> Bachelor's or Master's degree from a CIDA-accredited interior design program.  BY END OF YEAR 3 96 sem/144 qtr credits completed			Up to 1,760 hours of work experience can be earned before education is completed.  BY END OF YEAR 4 Education completed		APPLY FOR IDFX	<b>Work Experience</b> 3,520 hours qualified interior design experience. <sup>2</sup>  Final 1,760 hours must be earned after all education is completed.		APPLY FOR IDPX/ PRAC TO COMPLETE THE EXAM
YEAR 1	YEAR 2	YEAR 3	YEAR 4	YEAR 5		YEAR 6		

## Interior Design Degree — Non-CIDA

(ROUTE 2)

<b>Education</b> Bachelor's degree (minimum) in an interior design program not accredited by CIDA. <sup>1</sup>  Including: No less than 120 semester or 180 quarter credits, of which no less than 60 semester or 90 quarter credits are interior design coursework.  BY END OF YEAR 3 96 sem/144 qtr credits completed			Up to 1,760 hours of qualified work experience can be earned before education is completed.  BY END OF YEAR 4 Education completed		APPLY FOR IDFX	<b>Work Experience</b> 3,520 hours qualified interior design experience. <sup>2</sup>  Final 1,760 hours must be earned after all education is completed.		APPLY FOR IDPX/ PRAC TO COMPLETE THE EXAM
YEAR 1	YEAR 2	YEAR 3	YEAR 4	YEAR 5		YEAR 6		

## Other Degree + Interior Design Degree

(ROUTE 3)

<b>Education</b> Bachelor's degree (minimum) in any other major and no less than 60 semester or 90 quarter credits of interior design coursework that culminates in a certificate, degree or diploma.  BY END OF YEAR 3 30 sem/45 qtr interior design credits completed			Up to 1,760 hours of qualified work experience can be earned before education is completed.  BY END OF YEAR 4 Education completed		APPLY FOR IDFX	<b>Work Experience</b> 3,520 hours qualified interior design experience. <sup>2</sup>  Final 1,760 hours must be earned after all education is completed.		APPLY FOR IDPX/ PRAC TO COMPLETE THE EXAM
YEAR 1	YEAR 2	YEAR 3	YEAR 4	YEAR 5		YEAR 6		

## Associates Degree (60 Hrs) in Interior Design

(ROUTE 4)

<b>Education</b> No less than 60 semester or 90 quarter credits of interior design coursework that culminates in a certificate, degree or diploma.  BY END OF YEAR 3 Education completed			Up to 1,760 hours of qualified work experience can be earned before education is completed.  BY END OF YEAR 4 Education completed		APPLY FOR IDFX	<b>Work Experience</b> 5,280 hours qualified interior design experience. <sup>2</sup>  Education must be complete before work experience can be earned.		APPLY FOR IDPX/ PRAC TO COMPLETE THE EXAM
YEAR 1	YEAR 2	YEAR 3	YEAR 4	YEAR 5		YEAR 6		

▶ Go to [www.cidq.org](http://www.cidq.org) to learn more and apply online!

## Associates Degree (40 Hrs) in Interior Design Route 5 ENDS December 31, 2018 (ROUTE 5)

<b>Education</b> No less than 40 semester or 60 quarter credits of interior design coursework that culminates in a certificate, degree or diploma.  <small>BY END OF YEAR 2</small> Education completed		<b>Work Experience</b> 7,040 hours qualified interior design experience. <sup>2</sup>  Education must be complete before work experience can be earned.				APPLY FOR EXAM
YEAR 1	YEAR 2	YEAR 3	YEAR 4	YEAR 5	YEAR 6	

## NAAB or CACB Degree (ROUTE 6)

<b>Education</b> Bachelor's or Master's degree from an NAAB or CACB accredited architecture program. <sup>3</sup>  <small>BY END OF YEAR 5 - 6</small> Education completed		APPLY FOR IDFX	<b>Work Experience</b> 5,280 hours qualified interior design experience. <sup>2</sup>  Education must be complete before work experience can be earned.			APPLY FOR IDPX/ PRAC TO COMPLETE THE EXAM
5 - 6 YEARS			3 YEARS			

## Architecture Degree – Non-NAAB or CACB (ROUTE 7)

<b>Education</b> Bachelor of Science or Bachelor of Arts in Architecture  <small>BY END OF YEAR 4</small> Education completed				<b>Work Experience</b> 7,040 hours qualified interior design experience. <sup>2</sup>  Education must be complete before work experience can be earned.				APPLY FOR EXAM
YEAR 1	YEAR 2	YEAR 3	YEAR 4	YEAR 5	YEAR 6	YEAR 7	YEAR 8	

Do not see a route that matches your background?  
 Please give our offices a call to discuss your options at 202.721.0220

**Go to [www.cidq.org](http://www.cidq.org) to learn more and apply online!**

- 1 CIDA – the Council for Interior Design Accreditation – was formerly known as FIDER. To qualify, the degree program must have been CIDA-accredited at graduation or must have become CIDA-accredited within two years following graduation.
- 2 NAAB – the National Architectural Accrediting Board
- CACB – the Canadian Architectural Accrediting Board
- To qualify, the degree program must have been accredited at graduation or within two years of graduation.

The NCIDQ Certificate: Professionalism. Prestige.



[www.cidq.org](http://www.cidq.org)

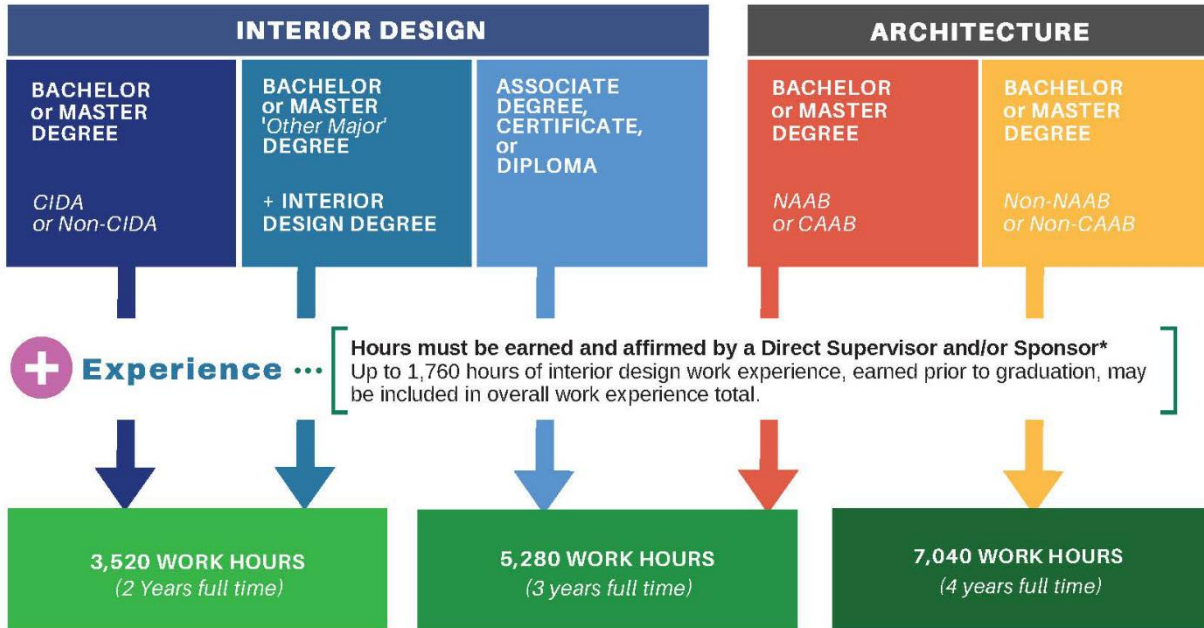
# NCIDQ Examination Eligibility Paths

Specific education and work experience requirements exist to be eligible to sit for the NCIDQ Examination.



## Education ...

Official education transcripts must include a minimum of 60 semester or 90 quarter credit hours of post-secondary interior design coursework that encompasses a certificate, degree, or diploma from an accredited institution, for an application to be reviewed.



Meeting CIDQ's education and work experience requirements does not guarantee that a candidate will meet their jurisdiction's requirements to be a licensed/registered/certified interior designer. Individuals are reminded to check with their jurisdiction regarding those specific requirements.

### \*Who can be a Direct Supervisor and/or Sponsor?

A direct supervisor and/or sponsor must be a design professional, defined as someone who meets at least one of the following three criteria:

- NCIDQ Certified Interior Designer
- State/Provincial Licensed/Registered/Certified Interior Designer in the US or Canada
- State/Provincial Licensed/Registered Architect in the US or Canada who provides interior design services

A **Direct Supervisor** is a design professional, as defined above, who provides substantial oversight and control of a candidate's work and possesses detailed knowledge of the tasks performed.

A **Sponsor** is a design professional, as defined above, who agrees to review a candidate's professional progress and affirm interior design work experience hours. A sponsor may or may not work within the same firm as the candidate.

# advocacy

THE RESPONSIBILITIES OF NCIDQ-CERTIFIED INTERIOR DESIGNERS AND ARCHITECTS

## NCIDQ\*-CERTIFIED INTERIOR DESIGNER

Selection/specification, planning, procurement, and coordination of:

- modular systems, furniture, and movable partitions.
- Furniture, Fixtures, and Equipment (FF&E) specifications, bidding, and procurement services.
- interior finishes in compliance with applicable codes and regulations.
- graphics, way finding, and signage systems in compliance with applicable codes and regulations.
- artwork and decorative elements for the purposes of aesthetic and functional improvements to non-code-impacted interior environments.

- Programming, planning, design, and project management of interior environments.
- Design of non-structural/non-seismic interior partitions and openings.
- Design of non-structural built-in elements.
- Application of design strategies to support health, wellness, environmental sustainability, and human experience.
- Development of construction documents.
- Bidding, construction administration services, and post-occupancy evaluations.

## ARCHITECT

- Coordination with civil engineers to place building, structural systems, utilities, roadways, parking surfaces, walking paths, and plantings on site.
- Coordination with landscape architects and designers for building landscaping.
- Design of overall building in compliance with applicable codes and regulations.
- Design of vertical circulation.
- Design of core and shell of a building.
- Coordination with structural and MEP engineers to select and locate building structural systems.

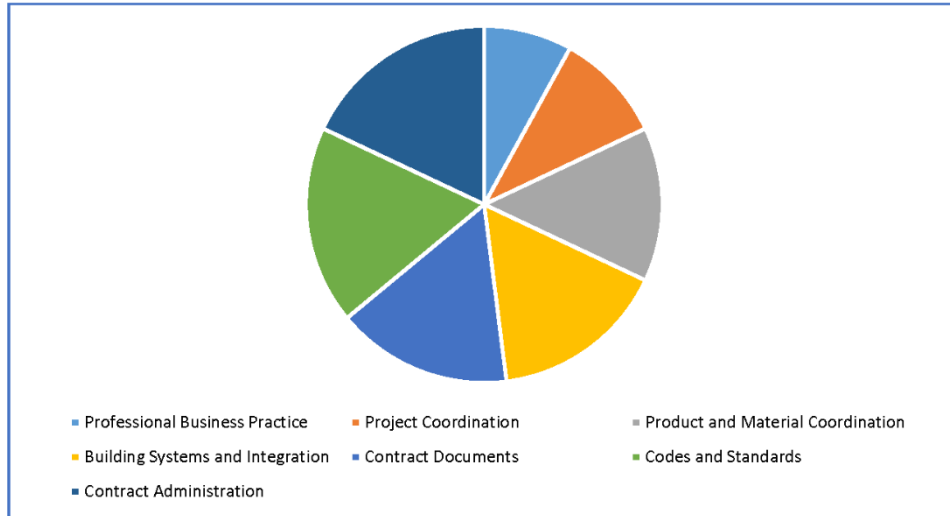
\*NCIDQ is the National Certification for Interior Design Qualification. More information can be found at [www.cidq.org](http://www.cidq.org).

# NCIDQ EXAM BLUEPRINTS

## Interior Design Professional Exam (IDPX)

175 Questions

4 Hours to Complete



Knowledge Areas	Distribution
<b>Professional and Business Practice</b>	8%
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Scope of practice</li> <li>• Proposals e.g., time and fee estimation, RFP process, project scope)</li> <li>• Budgeting principles and practices (project specific)</li> <li>• Contracts</li> <li>• Phases of a project</li> <li>• Business licenses (e.g., sales and use tax, resale certificates)</li> <li>• Accounting principles (office/business)</li> <li>• Legal considerations (e.g., liabilities and forms of business)</li> <li>• Insurance</li> <li>• Professional licensure, certification, registration</li> <li>• Economic factors</li> </ul>	
<b>Project Coordination</b>	10%
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Critical path (i.e., design milestones, sequencing)</li> <li>• Project team dynamics</li> <li>• Project budgeting,/tracking during design phases</li> <li>• Architects</li> <li>• Engineers (e.g., electrical, structural, mechanical, civil)</li> <li>• Specialty consultants (e.g., landscape, lighting A/V, acoustical, food service, graphics/signage)</li> <li>• Contractors/construction managers</li> <li>• Real estate professionals (e.g., realtor, landlord, leasing agent, developer, property owner)</li> </ul>	
<b>Product and Material Coordination</b>	14%

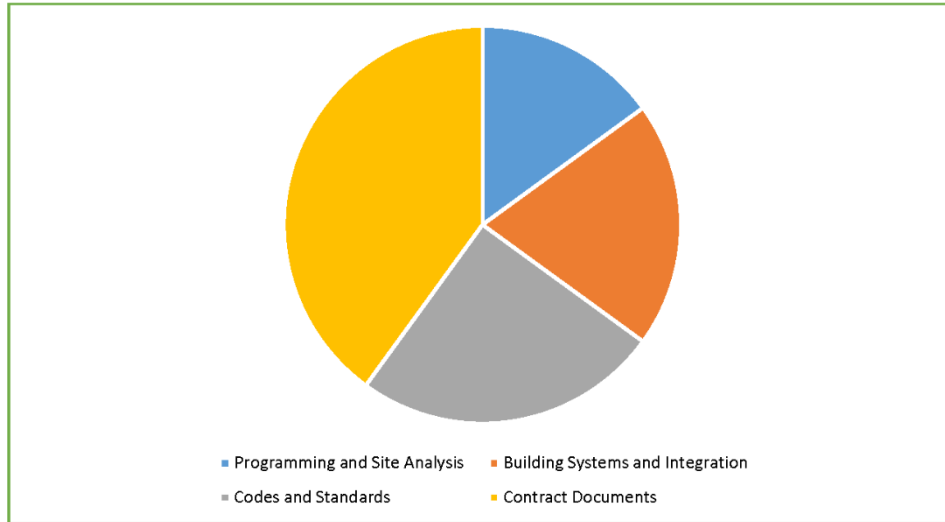
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cost estimating</li> <li>• Product components (e.g., types, assembly, methods)</li> <li>• Material detail drawings (e.g., custom products)</li> <li>• Lead time (e.g., manufacturing time, delivery)</li> <li>• Installation</li> <li>• Life safety (e.g., flammability, toxicity, slip resistance)</li> <li>• Technical specifications</li> <li>• Maintenance documents (e.g., warranties, manuals)</li> <li>• Existing FF&amp;E inventory documentation</li> <li>• Procurement procedures (e.g., purchase orders, prepayment requirements)</li> </ul>	
<b>Building Systems and Integration*</b>	<b>16%</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Building construction types (e.g., wood, steel, concrete)</li> <li>• Building components (e.g., doors, windows, wall assemblies)</li> <li>• Mechanical systems</li> <li>• Electrical systems</li> <li>• Lighting systems (e.g., zoning, sensors, daylighting)</li> <li>• Plumbing systems</li> <li>• Structural systems</li> <li>• Fire protection systems</li> <li>• Low voltage systems (e.g., data and communication, security, A/V)</li> <li>• Acoustical systems</li> <li>• Sequencing of work (e.g., plumbing before drywall)</li> <li>• Permit Requirements</li> </ul>	
<b>Contract Documents*</b>	<b>16%</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cover sheet (e.g., General Conditions and Notes, drawing index)</li> <li>• Code required plans (e.g., egress, accessibility, specialty codes)</li> <li>• Elevations, sections and details (e.g., partition types, millwork)</li> <li>• Consultant drawings (e.g., MEP, structural, security, specialty consultants)</li> <li>• Specification types (e.g., prescriptive, performance, and proprietary)</li> <li>• Specification formats (e.g., divisions)</li> </ul>	
<b>Codes and Standards*</b>	<b>18%</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Universal/accessible design</li> <li>• Life safety (e.g., egress, fire separation)</li> <li>• Zoning and building use</li> <li>• Environmental regulations (e.g., indoor air quality, energy conservation, renewable resources, water conservation)</li> <li>• Square footage standards (e.g., code, BOMA, lease)</li> </ul>	
<b>Contract Administration</b>	<b>18%</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Project management (e.g., schedule, budget, quality control)</li> <li>• Forms (e.g., transmittals, change orders, bid/tender, addenda, bulletin, purchase orders)</li> <li>• Punch list/deficiency lists</li> <li>• Site visits and field reports</li> <li>• Project meetings/meeting management/meeting protocol and minutes</li> <li>• Shop drawings and submittals</li> <li>• Construction mock-ups</li> <li>• Value engineering</li> <li>• Project accounting (e.g., payment schedules, invoices)</li> <li>• Contractor pay applications</li> <li>• Project close-out</li> <li>• Post-occupancy evaluation</li> </ul>	

# NCIDQ EXAM BLUEPRINTS

## Practicum Exam (PRAC 2.0)

120 Questions

4 Hours to Complete



Knowledge Areas	Distribution
<b>Programming and Site Analysis*</b>	15%
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Analyze relevant qualities of interior space plan as they relate to a program</li> <li>Determine appropriate block plans/square footage allocations</li> <li>Identify necessary adjacencies and demonstrate appropriate use of bubble diagram, matrices and renderings</li> <li>Assess the human factors related to the interior space (e.g., ergonomics, anthropometrics, proxemics)</li> <li>Demonstrate understanding of zoning and building use requirements</li> </ul>	
<b>Building Systems and Integration*</b>	20%
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Demonstrate knowledge of and application of relevant consultant drawings such as MEP, structural, security and specialty consultants</li> <li>Demonstrate knowledge of and application of relevant building components such as doors, windows and wall assemblies</li> <li>Demonstrate knowledge of and application of relevant building construction types such as wood, steel and concrete</li> <li>Determine appropriate lighting systems for interior spaces such as zoning, sensors, and daylighting</li> <li>Integrate fire protection systems into design</li> </ul>	
<b>Codes and Standards*</b>	25%
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Demonstrate understanding of universal/accessible design standards</li> <li>Demonstrate understanding of square footage standards (e.g., code, BOMA, lease)</li> <li>Integrate life safety elements into design such as paths of egress and fire separation</li> </ul>	
<b>Contract Documents*</b>	40%
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ability to develop, analyze, and/or review a detailed floor plan including construction plans, dimensions, demolition plans</li> </ul>	



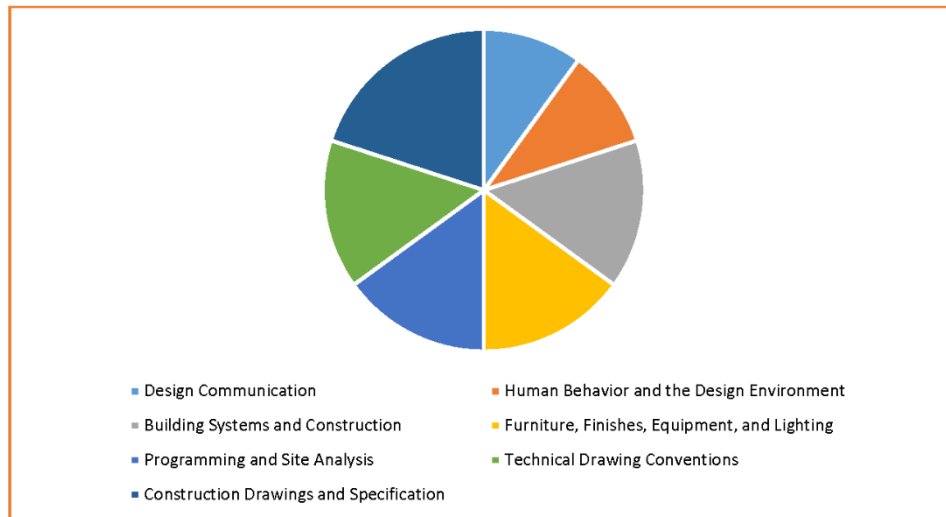
- Ability to develop, analyze, and/or review a **finished plan** for an interior space
- Ability to develop, analyze, and/or review a detailed **furniture plan**
- Ability to develop, analyze, and/or review a preliminary **elevation, sections, and details** including partition types and millwork
- Ability to develop, analyze, and/or review **code required plans** such as egress, accessibility, specialty codes)
- Ability to develop, analyze, and/or review a **reflected ceiling plan** including a lighting plan
- Ability to develop, analyze, and/or review **schedules**
- Ability to develop, analyze, and/or review **power, data, and communications plans**

# NCIDQ EXAM BLUEPRINTS

## Interior Design Fundamental Exam (IDFX)

125 Questions

3 Hours to Complete



Knowledge Areas	Distribution
<b>Design Communication</b>	10%
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Functional parti diagrams</li> <li>• Models (e.g., physical, virtual)</li> <li>• Rendering (e.g., 2-D, perspective)</li> <li>• Material and finish presentations (e.g., boards, binders, digital)</li> <li>• Bubble diagrams</li> <li>• Adjacency matrices</li> <li>• Charts (e.g., flow chart, Gantt chart)</li> <li>• Stacking/zoning diagrams</li> <li>• Block plans/square footage allocations</li> <li>• Floor plans</li> <li>• Mock-ups and prototypes</li> </ul>	
<b>Human Behavior and the Design Environment</b>	10%
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Influences (environmental, social, psychological, cultural, aesthetic, global)</li> <li>• Human factors (e.g., ergonomics, anthropometrics, proxemics)</li> <li>• Sensory considerations (e.g., acoustics, lighting, visual stimuli, color theory, scent, tactile)</li> <li>• Universal Design</li> <li>• Special population considerations (e.g., Aging in Place, pediatric, special needs)</li> </ul>	
<b>Building Systems and Construction</b>	15%
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Building construction types (e.g., wood, steel, concrete)</li> <li>• Building components (e.g., doors, windows, studs)</li> <li>• Mechanical systems</li> </ul>	

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Electrical systems</li> <li>• Lighting systems (e.g., zoning, sensors, daylighting)</li> <li>• Plumbing systems</li> <li>• Structural systems</li> <li>• Fire protection systems</li> <li>• Low voltage systems (e.g., data and communication, security, A/V)</li> <li>• Acoustical system</li> </ul>	
<b>Furniture, Finishes, Equipment, and Lighting</b>	15%
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Life safety (e.g., flammability, toxicity, slip resistance)</li> <li>• Textiles</li> <li>• Acoustics</li> <li>• Wall treatments</li> <li>• Floor coverings</li> <li>• Ceiling treatments</li> <li>• Window treatments</li> <li>• Lighting (e.g., light sources, fixtures, calculations, distribution color rendering)</li> <li>• Furniture and equipment (e.g., types, uses, space needs)</li> </ul>	
<b>Programming and Site Analysis*</b>	15%
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Research methods (interviewing, surveying, case studies, benchmarking/precedent)</li> <li>• Analysis tools (e.g., spreadsheets, site photographs, matrices, bubble diagrams)</li> <li>• Project context (e.g., space use, culture, client preference)</li> <li>• Site context (e.g., location, views, solar orientation)</li> <li>• Existing conditions</li> <li>• Sustainable attributes (e.g., indoor air quality, energy conservation, renewable resources)</li> </ul>	
<b>Technical Drawing Conventions</b>	15%
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Measuring conventions (e.g., scale, unit of measure, dimensioning)</li> <li>• Construction drawing standards (e.g., line weights, hatching, symbols)</li> </ul>	
<b>Construction Drawings and Specification</b>	20%
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Demolition plan</li> <li>• Floor plan (e.g., partitions, construction, dimensions, enlarged)</li> <li>• Reflected ceiling plan</li> <li>• Lighting plan</li> <li>• Power and communication plan</li> <li>• Furniture plan</li> <li>• Finish plan</li> <li>• Elevations, sections, and details (e.g., partition types, millwork)</li> <li>• Schedules</li> <li>• Specifications (e.g., prescriptive, performance, and proprietary)</li> </ul>	

# Qualified Work Experience



## Route Work Experience

### Requirements

When your work experience counts as “qualified” depends on which route you take for entry into the examination:

For Routes 1, 2, & 3	For All Other Routes
After you have completed 96 semester/144 quarter credits	After you have completed your education

When your direct supervisor is an NCIDQ Certificate holder, a licensed/registered interior designer or an architect who offers interior design services, your qualified hours are counted at 100% value. When you work in other supervisory relationships, your hours accrue lower values.

Use the chart below to see the value at which you can accrue your qualified interior design work experience hours.

## Employment Setting

Type of Supervisor	Value for Work Hours	
	Direct Supervision <sup>1</sup>	Sponsorship <sup>2</sup>
NCIDQ Certified interior designer	100%	100%
State/provincial licensed/registered interior designer in the U.S. or Canada	100%	100%
Architect who provides interior design services	100%	100%
Interior designer who is neither NCIDQ Certified nor licensed/registered in the U.S. or Canada	75%	50%
Not supervised by a design professional	25%	
Not supervised at all (self-employed)	25%	

### EXAMPLES

<b>100% value:</b> 700 hrs worked = 700 hrs valued	<b>75% value:</b> 700 hrs worked = 525 hrs valued	<b>50% value:</b> 700 hrs worked = 350 hrs valued	<b>25% value:</b> 700 hrs worked = 175 hrs valued
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**Go to [www.cidq.org](http://www.cidq.org) to learn more and apply online!**

- 1 A “direct supervisor” is a person who has detailed knowledge and direct control over your work, such as your immediate supervisor. This person may or may not work in the same physical location.
- 2 A “sponsor” is a design professional who agrees to oversee your work but does not have detailed knowledge and direct control over your work, such as an interior designer outside your firm.

The NCIDQ Certificate: Professionalism. Prestige.



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