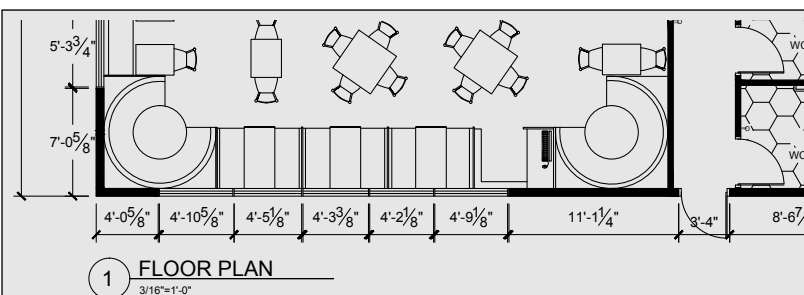


INTERIOR DECORATING

PROGRAM AND PORTFOLIO INFORMATION



Algonquin College's Interior Decorating two year diploma program is designed to provide students with the essential decorating skills, business, project management and client relations training required to succeed as an interior decorator.

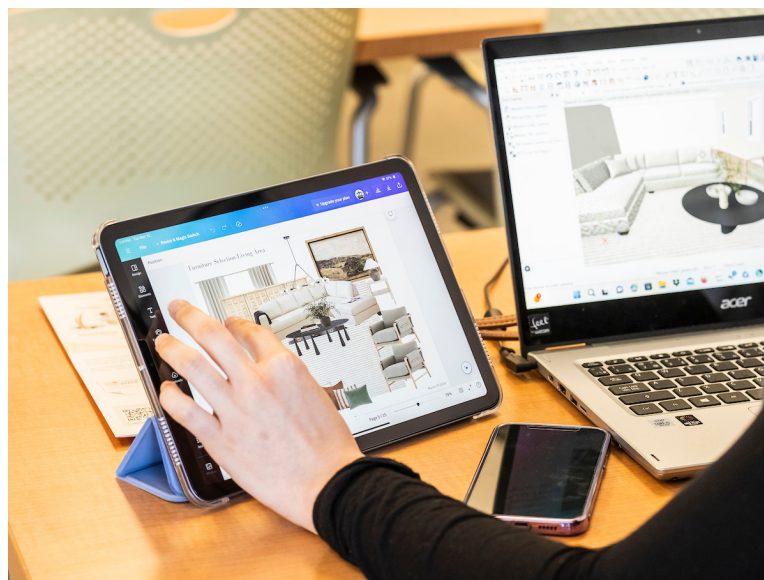
Program description

In the Interior Decorating program we help you hone your creativity and artistic flare in choosing colour, finishes and furniture arrangements for the wonderful and exciting field of residential and small-scale commercial decorating. You will learn through a series of lectures, demonstrations, guest speakers, and field trips. You will also complete a field placement component during your last semester to better prepare you for the workforce as well as help you explore your potential.

Through a hands-on approach, strong emphasis is placed on developing your confidence in finish and furniture selection, colour theory, lighting, drawing and drafting, as well as business development and professionalism. You will eventually apply your knowledge and skills in culminating projects where you will complete complex residential and small scale commercial decorating proposals, in a creative manner.

This program is well-suited for students who are imaginative and enjoy solving problems, think visually and creatively, and are planners who enjoy putting ideas into action.

After graduating, you may initially be employed at an assistant level performing duties such as sample and furniture selection, colour consultation, window display design, staging, and presentation board preparation to name a few. Later, in your career once you have become an experienced Interior Decorator, you will be able to lead and implement various residential and small scale commercial projects either for established firms and developers, or as the owner of your own firm.



What you need to buy

Books and supplies cost approximately \$2,000 in the first year and \$1,500 in the second year.



MARKER KIT

The Algonquin College Connections Bookstore has put together a selection of markers for a starter kit suggested by the drawing instructor. The set of markers is available for sale starting mid-August for students to purchase at a reduced cost instead of buying them one by one. Approximate cost is \$75.00. Additional markers with specific colours will most likely have to be purchased individually as needed.



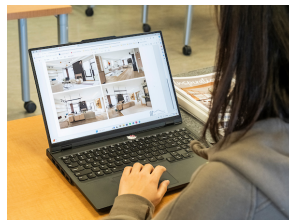
DRAFTING KIT

The drafting kit contains all the drafting equipment needed for the two year Interior Decorating program of study and is available in a zipped envelope at Algonquin College Connections Bookstore for approximately \$200.00.



DRAWING KIT

The drawing kits are preassembled by the bookstore to make it affordable to students. It contains equipment for drawing and general program work materials at an approximate cost \$225.00.



LAPTOP

This program is PC based with hardware and software needs that are very specific. This is a prerequisite for acceptance to our program. Laptop specifications can be found at: <http://www7.algonquincollege.com/byod/device.htm>.

Additional costs should be budgeted for materials to complete assignments and projects. Lost, broken or equipment that is not working correctly will also need to be replaced occasionally .

Portfolio Requirements

As part of the application process, you are required to:



Submit a portfolio of 10 -12 items of personal work to be viewed and evaluated

Organize your work into a cohesive presentation, labelling each item, as well as including the size of the actual work. Example:

Title: A Closer Look at Canada
Medium: Pencil and Ink
Size: 8.5"x11"
Date: February 2025

Applicants should be careful not to submit too many similar works (same themes or medium), but try to demonstrate a breadth of ideas and skills (maximum of two or three of the same).

The following are examples of what can be used for portfolio submissions:

- Freehand drawings, completed with pencil, pen and ink, and/or markers
- Perspectives
- Sketch book of thumbnail sketches and concept development
- Paintings
- Manual drafting
- Computer drawing or drafting
- Creative photography techniques
- Photographs of pottery, jewelry, sculptures, woodwork, fashion sewing, quilting, weaving, needlework, theatre makeup, etc. that you created
- Interior decorating projects photographed Before & After with written concept

Portfolio Requirements continued

This work can be self-initiated or developed in a classroom setting. There should be at least one hand drawn sketch and a limited amount of computer aided work.

Your submission **MUST** be submitted online as an attached single PDF. A link to a server/cloud will **NOT** be accepted. Be sure to include your name, email address, telephone number and student number on the title/cover page.



When sending your portfolio, please label your PDF file as “Interior Decorating Portfolio” and include your name. Email your electronic portfolio to: **design@algonquincollege.com** as a single attached PDF document, and include your name, email address, telephone number and student number in the email.

Successful applicants will be awarded space on a first-come, first-served basis and will only be awarded space once their portfolio has been assessed.

Acceptability to the program is based on the quality and creativity of work submitted in the portfolio, as well as the portfolio presentation itself. Technical drawing skills are not an important requirement when applying to the program. We look for creative and dedicated applicants who demonstrate strong potential.

Plagiarism is not acceptable. Portfolio pieces must be created by the applicant **without the use of AI**. If an item is a joint effort, please attach written credit of who collaborated on it and which portion was created by you. Applicants who submit someone else’s work, and not their own, will not be accepted into the program and will be singled out to other programs.

Portfolios can be submitted anytime up until the deadline the first week of June. After the deadline, we will continue reviewing portfolios, if required, until the program is full. The earlier you submit your portfolio and confirm your acceptance, the better your chance of securing a spot in the program as it fills up quickly.

Should you require tips and guidance on how to prepare your portfolio, the School of Media and Design offers portfolio information sessions. Please visit our website for dates.

School of Media and Design
613-727-4723 ext. 7657
1-800-565-4723
design@algonquincollege.com
algonquincollege.com/mediaanddesign

INTERIOR DECORATING

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the difference between Interior Design and Interior Decorating?

Design is the creation of a structure; it is the foundation of decorating. It identifies the architectural components that in turn provide a blank canvas for decorators. Designers create the space through planning according to the building code, and decorators utilize finishes, furniture and accessories to create individual spaces for clients. Interior Designers are the architects of interior spaces. Interior Decorators enhance these visual architectural details with finishing techniques and unique solutions. Decorators concentrate on the selection of furniture, finishes and proper layout suitable for a given space. To decorate is to create an atmosphere that will inspire while tailoring space to individual needs.

What kind of classes are there?

Classes are held in a combination of design studios, drafting labs, computer labs and classrooms. Some of our courses are hybrid and some are online. All courses have a strong hands-on approach to help develop students' skills.

Do I need a computer?

Yes, you must purchase your own laptop computer. Algonquin College's Interior Decorating program is PC based with hardware and software needs that are very specific. This is a prerequisite for acceptance to our program. Strong knowledge in Microsoft Word and Excel is desirable. Laptop specifications can be found at: <http://www7.algonquincollege.com/byod/>.

Do I need a drafting table?

Although students usually have access to our drafting labs, it is strongly recommended, but not required, that students should purchase a small portable drafting table. The table can be purchased at the College Connections Store or local art stores or architectural suppliers.

Do I need a Portfolio?

Although advanced drawing skills are not required, every student who applies to the Interior Decorating program is required to submit a portfolio for entry. Information regarding portfolio submissions can be found on the web site under the portfolio tab and FAQs.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT

Michele Zanetti

Professor, Interior Decorating
613-727-4723 ext. 5749 or
zanettm@algonquincollege.com

algonquincollege.com/mediaanddesign/interior-decorating