



Policy 1.2: Position Statement on Commercial Interior Design Certification

- Purpose:** To update the Association’s position on certification of interior design
- Intent:** To promote the certification of commercial interior designers. The association recognizes and supports a commercial interior designer’s contribution to the built environment

Position:

The International Interior Design Association recognizes and commends the technical, transformative, and inspiring work that commercial interior designers do every day to create and improve interior environments. Furthermore, the average American spends nearly 90% of their day in the interior environment demonstrating the need for well-designed, well-planned, and well-executed interior spaces

As such, the International Interior Design Association ardently advocates on behalf of the commercial interior design profession and to allow commercial interior designers to work to the fullest extent of their ability.

IIDA encourages its members to seek enforceable legislation that include the following components as requirements for commercial interior design certification:

- a. Education: An interior designer must graduate from a Council of Interior Design Accreditation [CIDA] 4- or 5-year interior design program, or equivalent program, prior to certification; and an interior designer must complete continuing education annually to the satisfaction of the state;
- b. Experience: A commercial interior designer must complete at least 3,500 verifiable hours of experience, prior to certification, in the following areas:
 - a. Programming
 - b. Schematic design
 - c. Design development
 - d. Contract documents
 - e. Contract administration
 - f. Professional practice;
- c. Examination: A commercial interior designer must pass the National Council for Interior Design Qualification [NCIDQ] Exam, the sole acceptable examination for certification;
- d. Empowerment: A commercial interior designer must be enabled to stamp and seal construction documents they prepare for submission to local building departments for plan check and permits.
- e. Ethics: An interior designer must maintain the highest standards of professional practice;
- f. Exclusion: Commercial interior design certification does not and should not hinder any interior designer from practicing as they already do.

As the champion of the commercial interior design industry domestically and internationally, IIDA proudly empowers our members to advocate on behalf of their profession and for the certification of commercial interior designers through their chapters and state coalitions.