HSID

2025-2026

School Catalog

159 W Broadway SLC, UT 84101
877-726-1158 | heritageschoolofinteriordesign.com

Published on January 1, 2025

Vision, Values and Objectives 2
Mission Statement 2
Our Core Values 2
From the Executive director 3
Education Goals and Objectives 3
Criteria for Enrollment 4
Enrollment Process 4
Reapplication Process 4
Admission of Physically or Mentally Challenged Student 4
Transfer of Credits 5
Prior Credits and/or Experience 5
Refresher Courses 5
Auditing Courses 5
Graduation 5
The School 5
Facilities 5
Instructional Aids 5
Advisory Board 5
About the Owner 6
Attendance 6
Makeup Work 6
Appearance 6
Student Conduct Policy 6
Leave of Absence 8
Withdrawal 8
Personal Property 8
Placement Assistance & Career Guidance 8
Termination 8
Academic Probation 8
Appeals 9
Readmission 9
Grievance Policy 9
Student Records 9
Course Incompletes/Repetitions 9

Program Investment 9
Calendar, School Hours and Holidays 13
Consumer Information 13
Non-Discrimination Policy 13
Right to Terminate 13
Revision Policy 13
Weather Conditions/School Cancellations 14
Placement Rate of heritage grads: 14
Academic Policies 14
Transcripts 14
Grading/Progress Reports 14
Student Final Design Project Receives a Grade 14
Graduation Requirements For Fundamentals of Interior Design Certificate 14
Graduation Certificate 15
Heritage Team Profiles 15
Bridget Vrtiska Meiners, Owner / Executive Director 15
Daylen Brown, Director of Operations & Student Relations Manager 16
, Fundamentals Instructor 16
Amy Hayes, AutoCAD Instructor 16
Severin Villiger, Technical Rendering Instructor, ... **Error! Bookmark not defined.**
Crissy Fuller, Advisory Board Member 16
Jennifer Adams, Advisory Board Member 17

VISION, VALUES AND OBJECTIVES

MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the Heritage School of Interior Design is to empower the creativity of aspiring interior designers with a quality, hands-on education to achieve personal growth and professional success.

OUR CORE VALUES

The Heritage School of Interior Design Core Values provide the unchanging principles that guide our educational philosophy, hiring, admission and recruiting practices and our decision making. We aspire to these values and seek to uphold them in our interactions with staff, students and client relationships.

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

As a proud graduate of Heritage School of Interior Design, I've experienced firsthand the transformative benefits of this program. Before enrolling, I had industry experience but lacked the technical skillset needed to elevate my designs both creatively and financially. After graduating, my ability to tackle larger, more complex projects significantly improved, and my revenue grew substantially as a result.

Through this pivotal experience, I discovered an even deeper passion: sharing what I've learned with others. Empowering aspiring designers to pursue their dreams and experience the joy of creating is one of the most rewarding parts of my journey. I find immense fulfillment in helping people thrive, both personally and professionally, and in building a supportive community that lifts each other up.

HERITAGE CORE VALUES

Empower the success of others

Pursue growth and learning

Be creative and open-minded

Be passionate and determined

Have the courage to change course

Be humble and collaborative

My goal for every student in this program is to help them build the confidence to pursue a career they love and the freedom to express their creativity in ways that are both financially sustainable and fulfilling.

Bridget Meiners, Executive Director

EDUCATION GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

The goal of the Heritage School of Interior Design Interior Custom Design Program is to prepare you for success in a career as an interior design professional which includes self-employment as an independent Interior Custom Designer, sales, or service.

Interior Designers work with the spatial organization, colors, patterns, textures and harmony that define the space in which we live and work. Students of the program learn how to combine these elements to create a mood and style that expresses the individual desires and style of the client. The program focus is on existing interior spaces for residential and light commercial settings.

The instructional design program (288 clock hours of instruction) is personalized to ensure a learning environment in which professional goals can be met. While the development of design and sales skills are the primary focus, we believe that other areas deserve equal attention. Customer service, communication skills and styles, professional practices, business procedures, product knowledge, presentation strategies and paperwork are covered throughout the program. In order to meet these objectives, a highly individualized mode of instruction with limited enrollment of 24 students is offered. This creates a learning environment that encourages a professional attitude and habits and meets the individual needs of each student. A complete curriculum outline is available on the website and on the following pages.

Criteria for Enrollment

HSID accommodates a wide variety of students. Students must be 18 years of age or older and must possess a high school diploma, GED or equivalent. Previous experience is not necessary. The Director of Operations meets with applicants to determine their career interests, skills, attitude and motivation. HSID criteria are based upon demonstrated maturity and the desire to complete and further one's career goals in interior design. Applicants fill out an application which is reviewed prior to acceptance. Heritage School of Interior Design admits only those whom it believes will benefit from the education.

Enrollment Process

The first step of the enrollment process is to arrange a personal interview with the Director of Operations and/or Executive Director to discuss mutual goals and expectations of the program. Information will be made available regarding course offerings, fees for education, registration procedures and payment options.

After the personal interview, interested students must complete and submit an Application. If the student meets the enrollment criteria then they will be notified via email that they have been accepted into the program. Students will receive their acceptance letter no later than one week after submitting their application.

The remaining enrollment paperwork is included in the formal welcome email, which is sent one month prior to the start date of the Fundamentals of Interior Design course. Approximately 2 weeks prior to the start date, students will schedule a tuition call to arrange a payment plan if needed and make sure all paperwork is complete. On the first day of class we will meet 1 hour earlier for orientation. Enrollment may occur up until the day the course begins, space permitting.

Reapplication Process

If an applicant is denied enrollment, they may apply again once circumstances that may have interfered have changed and been discussed to the Director of Operations satisfaction.

Admission of Physically or Mentally Challenged Student

Handicapped or physically challenged persons who meet the "criteria for enrollment" (described in the Criteria for Enrollment section above) are eligible for education.

Transfer of Credits

Heritage School of Interior Design operates on clock hours rather than academic credits. The transferability of coursework to another college, university, or institution is not guaranteed unless a formal written agreement exists. The acceptance of any credit is solely at the discretion of the receiving institution.

We are a certificate-based program focused on providing practical, hands-on education in interior design. While we are not an accredited institution, our curriculum is designed to equip students with the skills, knowledge, and industry experience needed for success in the field.

Prior Credits and/or Experience

Prior educational credits or past experience is not transferable to Heritage School of Interior Design due to the unique nature of our program.

Refresher Courses

Graduates of the program may attend segments of the coursework at no additional cost as space permits. Students may retake the entire course at any time for half of the current published rates.

Auditing Courses

Students may audit courses at the full rate if space is available and the instructor agrees. Auditing students will not receive a grade and class participation may be limited by the instructor. Students enrolled in the Master Certification Program must receive a grade for each course and therefore can not audit a class if they want to receive credit.

Graduation

The graduation ceremony and celebration is held at the school on the last day of class.

The School

Facilities

Heritage School of Interior Design is centrally located in Salt Lake County at 392 East 6400 south Murray, Utah. Parking is available and Wi-Fi internet connectivity is provided for students. There are several restaurants and coffee shops nearby. The space has a small kitchenette equipped with a microwave, refrigerator, sink, filtered water and coffee maker, which are all available for student use.

Instructional Aids

The classroom has a large flat screen monitor for displaying visual aids and Power Point slides. The school provides a variety of samples for school projects including fabric, rugs, window coverings, paint, hard surfaces, design books, magazines, and product catalogs. Students are required to provide their own laptop or tablet. Wi-Fi internet connectivity is provided. Drafting boards and student software for technical courses is provided when it is available.

Advisory Board

The advisory board meets annually to provide input and guidance to the Interior Design Program. The board consists of 3 or more industry specialists that review and update the curriculum with the instructors.

About the Owner

Bridget Meiners, a seasoned design industry professional, is the Owner and Executive Director of the Heritage School of Interior Design (HSID) in Utah. In May 2024, she purchased the licensing agreement from HSID National and expanded its legacy by establishing a new campus in Salt Lake City, Utah-drawing from the rich history and success of HSID.

Bridget's professional background includes founding and operating an independent interior design studio specializing in residential design. Her experience spans custom new builds, remodels, staging for real estate professionals, and furnishings. These experiences not only honed her design expertise but also shaped her leadership abilities and entrepreneurial acumen.

With a thriving design career and a deep appreciation for the value of dedication and perseverance, Bridget discovered her true passion: empowering and inspiring the next generation of designers. This passion led her to the opportunity to acquire Heritage School of Interior Design, Utah, a venture perfectly aligned with her vision.

Under Bridget's leadership, HSID Utah is committed to providing students and alumni with a dynamic educational experience, ongoing support, and meaningful career opportunities. Her mission is to continuously evolve the program to meet the demands of the design industry while fostering creativity, professionalism, and success for all who attend.

Attendance

Attendance and punctuality is critical to success. If for any reason a student will be late to class or absent, we require notification. Tardiness and absence are recorded in the student file and discussed with the students personally. Students can miss a total of 3 days of the Fundamentals of Interior Design course (not consecutive days) and a total of 1 day of each elective course and still qualify to graduate. Allowances are made for absences resulting from emergency situations and are evaluated on a case by case basis. Students may be terminated and pick up in next class session for extenuating circumstances such as personal or family illness. If unexcused absences become excessive and prove detrimental to their education, termination may be required. Students are required to request an excused absence for personal reasons with the instructor. If a student is tardy to class (more than 15 minutes) 3 times, it is considered an unexcused absence for one full class day. After 3 tardies, a written warning will follow. If late arrival to class continues after the written warning the student will be put on probation.

Makeup Work

Daily handouts and assignments are available on our online platform, Moodle. Instructors will provide further instruction on how to get caught up as needed.

Appearance

Students are expected to dress for class and offsite visits in business casual attire, as they would for a meeting with a prospective client.

Student Conduct Policy

Students are expected to treat instructors and each other with respect and consideration. Any student who violates policies or procedures or the spirit and purpose of the school is subject to probation and dismissal. 3 verbal and 1 written warning from staff could result in probation and/or dismissal. Infractions are noted in the student file.

HSID is committed to promoting positive and constructive dialogue among members of the school community. This policy applies to all forms of communication, including verbal and written exchanges, electronic communications, and social media interactions.

Guiding Principles:

The following principles will guide the implementation of this policy:

1. Respectful Communication: All members of the school community are expected to communicate in a respectful and courteous manner. This includes avoiding language that is derogatory, discriminatory, or demeaning.

2. Active Listening: Effective communication requires active listening. Members of the school community are encouraged to listen carefully to each other, seek to understand different perspectives, and be open to feedback.

3. Constructive and Direct Feedback: Feedback should be provided in a constructive and respectful manner. Members of the school community are encouraged to give feedback that is specific, focused, and actionable. Whenever possible, this communication should be provided directly to the people who are impacted.

4. Diversity and Inclusion: The school recognizes and values diversity in all its forms. Members of the school community are expected to respect and celebrate differences, and to be mindful of the impact of their words and actions on others.

5. Confidentiality: Confidentiality is essential to maintaining trust and respect in communication. Members of the school community are expected to respect the confidentiality of others and to avoid sharing sensitive or confidential information without permission.

Implementation:

To implement this policy, the school will take the following actions:

1. Communication Training: The school will provide communication training for all members of the school community, including students, teachers, staff, and other stakeholders. This training will focus on active listening, constructive feedback, and respectful communication.

2. Communication Guidelines: The school will develop and distribute communication guidelines that outline the principles of this policy and provide practical tips for effective communication.

3. Reporting and Follow-up: The school will establish a process for reporting and addressing incidents of disrespectful communication. Members of the school community are encouraged to report incidents to a designated school official, who will investigate the matter and take appropriate action.

4. Review and Evaluation: The school will review and evaluate this policy periodically to ensure that it remains relevant and effective.

The school is committed to promoting positive and constructive dialogue among members of the school community. By adhering to the principles outlined in this policy, we can create a safe and respectful environment in which all voices are heard and valued.

Leave of Absence

Only 1 leave of absence may be granted to a student at the discretion of the Executive Director for medical or serious personal reasons. Certification from a doctor is required for medical leave. Leave of absence will be evaluated on a case by case basis. A leave of absence results in rescheduling and any/all tuition fees paid will be honored.

Withdrawal

Students are encouraged to seek counsel from the Director of Operations before making the decision to withdraw. Withdrawal must be made in writing to the school. The official date of withdrawal is the last date of recorded attendance.

Personal Property

Heritage School of Interior Design will not be responsible for the loss of or damage to personal property. All notebooks and personal property should be labeled for identification.

Placement Assistance & Career Guidance

Career guidance and counseling are an integral part of our program. Specific job search/interview methods are taught and examples provided in class. Students prepare in class for employment and/or self-employment through their independent business based on a series of work-specific studies. Graduates of the Professional Certification Program receive priority consideration for jobs and client leads as opportunities arise. The school maintains employment opportunities in the design industry for graduates through email.

Heritage School of Interior Design cannot guarantee graduate employment.

Termination

Heritage School of Interior Design reserves the right to terminate a student for failure or inability to conform within the general spirit, policies, and rules of the school or conduct detrimental to the reputation of the school or education of other students. Also, student's failure to demonstrate satisfactory academic progress as assessed based on the student's progress report and/or instructor feedback on the student's academic progress, attendance requirements or financial obligations due to the school, can result in termination. In the event of withdrawal or termination, a student's financial responsibility re: tuition, fees, etc. are described under cancellation and refund policy in the school catalog. A terminated student may not reapply for admission.

Academic Probation

A student may be put on probation if they fail to demonstrate satisfactory academic progress as assessed based on the student's progress report and/or instructor feedback on the student's academic progress and attendance or other infractions (listed above). The Instructor/Director begins with 3 verbal warnings (recorded in student file), followed by 1 written warning. If issues are not resolved at that time, a student may be placed on probation for 3 days of class (student will continue to attend class to keep pace with the program). If issues are not resolved during the 3 days, the student will be terminated. Students are allowed 1 probation only. Appeals

Students may appeal their termination in writing to the School Director within one week. The Director will review the circumstances and either reinstate the student or confirm the termination.

Readmission

Students who withdraw in good standing and demonstrate that the factors inhibiting the attendance or academic progress have been addressed (financial obligations, current issues resolved personally or with the school) may re-enroll provided space is available.

Grievance Policy

If a student has an internal grievance, the school shall follow these steps in attempt to reconcile their concerns with the school:

1. Students aggrieved by action of the school should attempt to resolve these problems with appropriate school instructors. Should this step fail go to step number 2.
2. Student shall contact the school Executive Director at the following phone number 877-726-1158. If this step should fail, the student must go to step 3.
3. The student shall submit a written internal grievance to the following email: bridget@heritageschoolofinteriordesign.com. The email shall be labeled, "Student Grievance". Other methods to submit an internal grievance include: certified US mail attn: school director OR the student can submit their internal grievance via school form labeled, "Student Grievance". The school will provide the student a time-stamped copy of this grievance.
4. Once the school receives the time stamped student grievance, the school will have 10 days to do an investigation and provide the student their determination.
5. The school's determination is final.

Student Records

Students may examine their files, records or documents maintained by HSID which pertain to them. Please submit a written request and copies will be furnished upon payment of cost of reproduction.

Course Incompletes/Repetitions

Students that do not complete the Interior Custom Design curriculum as scheduled with their enrollment agreement and because of withdrawal for personal circumstances should refer to the published Readmission Policy.

Program Investment

Financial information including tuition fees and registration fees are listed below.

The registration fee secures your place in class and is required at the time of application acceptance. Tuition fees include online access to the material, access to our resource library, and instruction.

SLC HSID 2026 TUITION TABLE

	Interior Design Fundamentals	Interior Design Fundamentals + Technical Skill	Residential Design Masters Certification	Residential & Commercial Design Masters Certification	Course Tuition
Interior Design Fundamentals	x	x	x	x	$7,495.00
AutoCAD		choose one	x	x	$1,150.00
SketchUp			x	x	$875.00
Adobe Suite			x	x	$875.00
Revit				x	$1,150.00
Kitchen & Bath			x	x	$950.00
Construction Basics				x	$750.00
Intro to Commercial Design				x	$2,750.00
Business & Entrepreneurship				x	$750.00
Master's Portfolio Capstone			x	x	$650.00
Program Bundle Discount	*n/a*	*$75 - $350*	*$500*	*$900*	/
Registration Fee	*$175*	*$175*	*$175*	*$175*	/
Total Tuition (w/o registration fee)	**$7,495**	**$8,370 - $8,645**	**$11,495**	**$16,495**	**$17,395**
Total Tuition (w/ registration fee)	**$7,670**	**$8,545 - $8,820**	**$11,670**	**$16,670**	
Elective Course Information *Electives marked with an 'x' are included in the program. Tuition for electives not included is additional and will be charged separately from the totals listed below.*					

PAYMENT OPTIONS ON FOLLOWING PAGE….

Payment Options

HSID offers tuition payment options that include:

Full-Time Fundamentals Payment Options

Payment in Full: 1 payment due 2 weeks prior to the first day of class.

Payment in 3 Installments:

Payment 1: Due 2 weeks prior to the first day of class.

Payment 2: Due 30 days after the first class

Payment 3: Due 60 days after the first class

Part-Time Fundamentals Payment Options

Payment in Full: 1 payment due 2 weeks prior to the first day of class

Payment in 4 installments:

Payment 1: Due 2 weeks prior to the first class

Remaining payments: due in 3 monthly installments beginning 30 days after the first class.

Full-Time Interior Design Master Certification Payment Options

Payment in Full: 1 payment due 2 weeks prior to the first day of class

Payment in 3 installments:

Payment 1: Due 2 weeks prior to the first class

Payment 2: Due 30 days after the first class

Payment 3: Due 60 days after the first class

Part-Time Interior Design Master Certification Payment Options

Payment in Full: 1 payment due 2 weeks prior to the first day of class

Payment in 6 installments:

Payment 1 due 2 weeks prior to the first day of class

Remaining payments due in 5 monthly installments beginning 30 days after the first class

INTERIOR DESIGN FUNDAMENTALS PAYMENT PLANS				
Program Name	**Program Tuition**	**Program/Payment Plan Duration**	**Reoccurring Payment Total**	**Total Number of Payment**
Interior Design Fundamentals	$7,495	3 months	$2,498	3
Interior Design Fundamentals + Technical Skills (Fast-Track)	$8,295	3 months	$2,765	3
Residential Design Masters Certification	$11,495	4 months	$2,874	4
Residential & Commercial Design Master's Certification	$16,495	4 months	$4,124	4

Cancellation and Refund Policy

The school's cancellation and refund policy is based on, and complies with Utah law. It applies to all terminations for any reason by the student or the school. Please allow 30 days to receive a refund once the original payment has cleared.

The school's cancellation and refund policy is based on, and complies with Utah law. It applies to all terminations for any reason by the student or the school.

1. If an applicant is not accepted, all monies paid will be refunded.
2. If the school discontinues a program, all monies paid will be refunded.
3. An applicant may cancel enrollment prior to entering classes by providing written notice via email to bridget@heritageschoolofinteriordesign.com
    1. If cancellation occurs within 3 business days, you will receive a 100% refund.
    2. If cancellation occurs after 3 business days, the $150 registration fee is not refundable. Registration fees are honored for 1 full year from the original enrollment date.
4. If education is terminated by a student or the school after beginning instruction (unless the school has discontinued the program of instruction), the student is financially obligated to the school for the registration fee and any tuition and supply fees according to the following schedule:
    1. If a student withdraws prior to completion of 50% of the contracted instructional program, the student shall be entitled to a pro-rata refund of the tuition charged and paid for such instructional program, less registration fee, supply fees and any other legitimate charges owed by the student.
    2. For elective courses, a $75 withdrawal fee is charged for all students who cancel registration less than two weeks before class starts, otherwise tuition is fully refundable.
    3. Students who enroll in the professional program (Master Certification Program), and subsequently drop courses will continue to be charged via their established payment

plan. Any cancellations less than two weeks before the commencement of an elective will be charged $75 per elective class dropped.
4. Professional program (Master Certification Program) students who enroll in elective courses and subsequently postpone enrollment to a future term less than two weeks before the commencement of an elective will be charged $75 per elective class postponed.
5. If a student withdraws upon completion of 50% or more of the contracted instructional program, the student shall be obligated for the tuition charged for the entire instructional program and shall not be entitled to any refund.
6. Pro-rata refund means a refund of tuition paid for that portion of the program not received by the student. The date determining that portion shall be the published course schedule start date and the last recorded date of attendance by the student.

Calendar, School Hours and Holidays

Heritage School of Interior Design observes the following holidays:

- New Year's Eve Day and New Year's Day
- Spring Break (as published by the Salt Lake City School District)
- Independence Day
- Thanksgiving and the day after Thanksgiving
- Christmas Eve and Christmas Day

HSID is open from 10:00AM to 5:00PM Monday - Friday. When the Saturday course is in session, the school is open 10:00AM to 5:00PM on Saturday.

Please check our website www.heritageschoolofinteriordesign.com or contact our administrative offices for current start dates of class sessions.

Occasionally, classes will be scheduled at alternate times to accommodate seminars, holidays, illnesses, etc. Notice of such changes shall be provided to students.

Consumer Information

Non-Discrimination Policy

Heritage School of Interior Design does not discriminate with regard to race, national origin, age, sex, sexual orientation, religion or handicap in its education program. Any person unlawfully discriminated against as described in Utah Code 34A-5-106 may file a complaint under ORS 659A.820 with the Utah Anti-discrimination and Labor Division. A staff member of HSID that exhibits discrimination in any form will be terminated. Students are protected against discrimination under Utah Code Title 34A.

Right to Terminate

Heritage School of Interior Design reserves the right to terminate a student at any time during the program or individual class for violation of school standards and policies (academic, attendance and conduct). Registration fee and tuition policy fee is stated in the Cancellation and Refund Policy section of this catalog.

Revision Policy

Heritage School of Interior Design reserves the right to make changes in instructors, guest speakers and charges without prior notice. No change in curriculum, class scheduling, registration or tuition and fees will apply to currently registered or enrolled students.

Weather Conditions/School Cancellations

Classes at Heritage School of Interior Design will be cancelled when weather conditions are considered unsafe. For school closure/delayed start information, please refer to the Salt Lake City School District website.

Placement Rate of Heritage Grads:

Over 80% of Heritage alumni find work within 6 months of graduation

Surety Bond:

Pertaining to Utah Code Chapter 34 Part 1 Postsecondary School and State Authorization Act, Heritage School of Interior Design is required to carry a Surety Bond. The bond information is found below:

Academic Policies

Transcripts

Students receive a copy of their program transcript after graduation. The school may require the student to have their tuition and supplies fees paid in full prior to receiving their transcript from the school.

SOMPO

Endurance Assurance Corporation
Rider

SOMPO INTERNATIONAL

POWER OF ATTORNEY

Grading/Progress Reports

Each course assignment, quiz, exam, and final project/presentation is weighted on an overall percentage scale, as outlined in the course syllabus. It is the basis for the final grade. Students receive progress reports from the instructor or executive director at mid-term based on academic performance.

90 - 100% = A
80 - 89% = B
70 - 79% = C
60 - 69% = D

Student Final Design Project Receives a Grade

Grading criteria is based on a written checklist for the digital portfolio and final presentation boards. Students are provided with complete instructions and expected outcomes.

Graduation Requirements For Fundamentals of Interior Design Certificate

1. Attend the required class sessions.
2. Complete the final project which includes a digital binder and final project design boards with a grade of B or better.
3. Complete I.C.D. Exam with 80% or better accuracy.

   Students earning less than 80% may retake the exam two more times. Student failure on I.C.D. retests will be encouraged to refer back to course materials and may try again once they are more prepared. Students may take the test as many times as necessary to pass within three months from their course completion date.

Graduation Certificate

Graduates of the Fundamentals program will receive their I.C.D. Certificate for Interior Custom Design. The certificate is based on 288 clock hours of instruction. There are additional hours of home study and showroom visits.

NOTE: Design projects/boards may be re-worked with instructor's input and suggestions (to meet the grade level graduation requirements) and returned within 15 days in order to receive their graduation certificate.

Graduates of the Professional Interior Custom Design Program will receive their Professional I.C.D. Certificate. The certificate is based on the completion of the 288 clock hour of instruction Fundamentals program and completion of the Professional Certificate classes which includes at least 7 electives for a total of 448.5 clock hours of instruction. Students must pass each course with a C (70%) or higher average grade based on assignments, tests and projects. Instructors provide criteria for the grades of each class.

Upon completion of the Professional Certificate Program courses, students present a digital portfolio of their final projects from at least 6 of their courses to the Executive Director, guest reviewers, and fellow Professional Certificate Program graduates. Graduates then receive the following:

- Professional Certificate
- Final Transcript
- Letter of Recommendation from the Executive Director
- Priority considerations for internship opportunities

Heritage Team Profiles

Bridget Vrtiska Meiners, Owner / Executive Director

Bridget is the Owner and Executive Director of Heritage School of Interior Design, Utah. Her passion for design began with her love of fashion, where, even as a child, she felt the confidence and self-expression that style can inspire. This early appreciation for aesthetics naturally evolved into a deep interest in interior design and the built environment.

Bridget holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Social Science and a Certificate in Custom Interior Design from Heritage School of Interior Design. She also owns of an independent design studio in Camas, WA, where she has refined her expertise in creating personalized, functional spaces.

Beyond her professional endeavors, Bridget is a dedicated mother of four and has been married for 23 years, balancing her family life with her commitment to fostering creativity and excellence in the field of interior design.

Jeff Meiners, Owner / President

Jeff Meiners is an anesthesiologist, entrepreneur, and lifelong advocate for education—but his love for interior design? That comes straight from his wife. As the co-owner of the Heritage School of Interior Design, Jeff proudly supports her passion for design and the students eager to learn the craft. With a background in Spanish education, he has always valued teaching and mentorship, whether guiding young doctors or future designers as they pursue their dreams.

Originally from Bountiful, Utah, Jeff is an outdoor enthusiast who thrives on adventure. When he's not in the O.R. or supporting the school, you'll find him snowboarding, wing foiling, or mountain biking—often in his favorite place, the Gorge in the Pacific Northwest. Married for 23 years with four incredible kids, Jeff embraces every opportunity to blend his love of family, learning, and the great outdoors.

Daylen Brown, Director of Operations & Student Relations Manager

Daylen grew up in San Diego where she obtained her bachelors in Interior Architecture from NewSchool of Architecture and Design. From an early age, Daylen enjoyed all avenues of creativity, which lead her to her passion for interior design and architecture.

Daylen's passion for interior design and architecture led her to establish her own interior design firm specializing in high-end residential properties, while simultaneously working with major retail companies such as Ross, Amazon, and residential Architecture firms during her time living in San Francisco. As a passionate advocate for innovation and excellence in interior design education, she works to streamline operations, enhance student experiences, and foster an environment where creativity thrives. Daylen is dedicated to empowering aspiring designers with the tools and knowledge they need to succeed in the ever-evolving design world.

Brittany Rasmussen, Fundamentals, AutoCAD, SketchUp Instructor

Amy Hayes, AutoCAD Instructor

Crissy Fuller, Advisory Board Member

Crissy Fuller is the design magic behind FullerStyle houseboats. FullerStyle Houseboats are the result of Crissy's stylistic chemistry of materials, textures, colors, and most importantly, her vision. If you know her, none of this is a surprise. It reflects who she is. Bright, happy, caring, timeless, beyond generous, and beautiful. Like many true artists, Crissy's creative blueprint on how a project will unfold is uniquely hers.

Jennifer Adams, Advisory Board Member

Jennifer's journey began with humble beginnings, where limited resources in her family instilled a strong work ethic from an early age. As a teenager, she worked as a housekeeper, learning firsthand the impact of a well-cared-for home. From organizing and tidying spaces to transforming bedrooms into inviting sanctuaries, she discovered the profound joy of creating environments that brought comfort and happiness to others. Though she didn't realize it at the time, this experience would become the foundation of her life's work—something she remains deeply grateful for today.

Pursuing her passion, Jennifer trained as an interior designer, earning recognition for her expertise in creating exceptional bedrooms and luxurious bedding. Her talent led her to design for Hollywood's elite, five-star resorts, and even private jets, honing her ability to blend elegance with comfort.

With a desire to elevate the sleep experience further, Jennifer embarked on a mission to study the science of sleep. She traveled the world to source the finest fabrics and weaving techniques, culminating in the creation of her first Eternal Collection by Jennifer Adams Home—a line that redefined softness and set a new standard for luxury bedding.

HSID AI Policy

The 12 Do's and Don'ts for using AI at HSID without losing your skills, your voice, or your integrity.

1. Why this Policy Exists

AI is part of the creative world now. Used well, it can support your ideas. Used poorly, it weakens your skills and your voice. At HSID,

AI is here to support learning, not replace authorship or skill development. This guide protects your growth, your portfolio

readiness, and sets clear expectations for ethical, responsible use.

2. Core Principle

AI can assist, but you are the designer. That means you must be able to demonstrate authorship, judgment, and understanding. If

you cannot explain your work, it is not finished, or it is not yours.

3. Classroom Policy

Instructor guidance always takes precedence. Always check your syllabus and assignment instructions, because rules can vary by

course and by project. In general, AI is allowed as support, but the boundaries depend on the task and your instructor's direction. In

the real design world, professionalism matters, so use AI with maturity, discretion, and honesty.

4. Disclosure Expectations

If you use AI at any point, you must disclose it. This is not just a school rule, it is future professional practice. AI disclosure is

increasingly becoming part of design contracts, client expectations, and ethical standards.

Simple disclosure example:

"I used AI to help with brainstorming and early drafting. I reviewed and revised the output, and the final decisions and

work are my own."

5. AI in Written Work

AI can also help with brainstorming, outlining, clarity, tone, summarizing background research, and revising to strengthen your own

communication.

AI may not be used to generate original analysis, reflection, or written assignments that you submit as your own thinking. If you use

AI, you still must revise so the final work reflects your personal voice and understanding.

At a minimum, AI should be used to check grammar and spelling. There is no reason for repeated typos in written work anymore. A

misspelled word might seem small, but it plants doubt. If a future client sees an obvious spelling error, they may wonder what

bigger, more costly details were missed in the design too. Protect your credibility by taking care of your writing.

6. AI in Presentations

AI can help you structure your talking points and draft a script, but it cannot create your full presentation, your final slide content, or

your final narrative for you. You can use AI to support organization, clarity, early concept exploration, and mood and style thinking,

but it cannot become the sole source of your proposal or replace independently developed design decisions.

7. AI-Generated Images

AI can make beautiful images, but only a designer can ensure professional precision. Photorealistic AI imagery is quickly becoming

part of the competitive landscape. That said, your portfolio must represent your skills, not the software's imagination.

• AI images may be included in select assignment submissions only when:

o Your instructor explicitly allows it

o The image is clearly labeled as AI generated

o You include a short explanation of how the image influenced your original work

• AI images may be used for inspiration and early concept exploration work that you do on your own. But if any of these

private process images appear in anything you submit, label it as AI generated and include it in your AI disclosure, as

outlined above.

• AI images are not allowed as final renderings or portfolio work unless explicitly permitted.

• You may use AI to regenerate an image that you created entirely yourself using HSID taught tools (Photoshop, SketchUp,

Revit, etc.) to create a cleaner, more professional looking version, but you must ensure it matches your original work and

you must be able to show your original file version, including the layers and imperfections.

Important Design Reality: AI should never be trusted to mockup COM fabrics or window treatments without you checking pattern

scale, direction, repeat, and color way. The professional consequences of misrepresenting materials can be costly. Always create

your own accurate mockup first, then use AI only as a finishing tool, not the decision maker for the overlay.

8. Uploading Content into AI

Practice future client professionalism now: never upload private, identifying, or proprietary information into AI tools. In your future

career, this includes client names, addresses, budgets, floor plans, and private photos. Treat confidentiality like a real professional

expectation, because it is.

Privacy settings matter. Turn on the strongest privacy controls available first. In ChatGPT, use Temporary Chat and turn off "Improve

the model for everyone" in Data Controls. In other tools, look for similar settings like Training Off or Incognito Mode. These settings

help, but they are not permission to upload proprietary content.

9. Technical Work

AI may not generate floor plans, elevations, sections, technical drawings, or construction documents. Measuring, drafting, layouts,

and technical work must be completed by you.

AI can help explain concepts, definitions, and steps, but it cannot produce the technical output. AI is not a replacement for site

analysis, spatial reasoning, construction logic, materials judgment, or code responsibility.

10. Research and Sourcing

AI can support research, product discovery, codes, and definitions, but you must understand the difference between tools and you

must verify facts. Designers do not get paid for sounding confident. Designers get paid for being correct. A best practice workflow

for designers uses more than one tool on purpose.

Google Search is a discovery tool.

Google is still the strongest option for broad discovery because it helps you find what exists on the open web. It is especially useful

for:

• finding original sources, product pages, manufacturer specs, and PDFs

• reverse image search and "search by image" to identify where an image came from

• finding visually similar images to help you identify styles, patterns, and product families

Google is great for finding what is out there. It is not great at thinking for you. You still must judge what is credible, current, and

relevant.

ChatGPT is best for design thinking and communication.

Use ChatGPT when the task is to think, interpret, decide, or communicate. For example:

• clarifying the real design problem and turning it into a clear brief

• translating a vague aesthetic into sourcing criteria, such as scale, material, tone, and budget

• comparing tradeoffs across multiple options, including longevity, maintenance, and proportion

ChatGPT can be unreliable for precise facts, pricing, citations, codes, and numbers. It may confidently produce information that is

wrong. This is known as hallucinations. Use it to shape your thinking, then verify with sources. Always.

Perplexity is best for sourced retrieval.

Perplexity tends to behave more like a research assistant because it focuses on pulling information with links and actual sources. It

is helpful when you want:

• quick paths to real product pages, press releases, or manufacturer documentation

• a starting set of sources to verify a claim

Perplexity can still be wrong, and sources can still be low quality. You are responsible for checking and confirming.

Grok is best for the social layer.

Grok is useful when you want to understand what people are saying right now. This can help with:

• brand reputation checks, quality complaints, shipping issues, customer service patterns

• trend temperature, what is rising, what is fading, and what is overdone

• scam detection, especially for unfamiliar websites

Social chatter is not a substitute for verified specifications. Use it as context, not as proof.

A clean design workflow example:

1. Use ChatGPT to define the brief and the search criteria.

2. Use Google and Perplexity to find real sources, products, and documentation.

3. Use Grok to check reputation and real world experience.

4. Come back to ChatGPT to evaluate options, explain tradeoffs, and write client ready language.

The rule is simple. Never trust one tool. Always verify before you decide.

11. Academic Integrity and Enforcement

Misrepresentation or failure to disclose AI use may be treated as an academic integrity issue. Instructors may request process

evidence, including drafts, working files, screenshots, or a short walkthrough to confirm authorship and understanding.

Consequences may include resubmission requirements, grade impacts, removal from special projects, probation for repeated

violations, or escalation through HSID's academic integrity process.

This is not about catching students. It is about protecting your growth. Every time you choose honesty and effort, even when the

work feels hard, you are building the kind of designer people trust. That trust matters more than speed. Your integrity matters more

than polish. Your skills matter more than any shortcut.

12. How to Use AI Well - The H.U.M.A.N. Framework for Ethical AI Use

H: Human First

Start with your own ideas. Sketch, write, and think before prompting AI.

U: Use AI for Exploration

Ask AI to generate options, not final answers.

M: Make Intentional Choices

Edit, refine, and reject outputs. Be able to explain every decision.

A: Acknowledge Assistance

Be transparent about AI use when required in academic or professional settings.

N: Never Forget the User

Design for real people. AI doesn't live in the space - you design for those who do.

Example Ethical AI Prompts:

• "Generate three concept directions for a fictional Denver-based residential living room focused on sustainability and

aging-in-place. Do not reference real designers or firms."

• "Help me brainstorm alternative furniture layouts for a 500 sq. ft. studio apartment. I will evaluate them for circulation and

code compliance."

• "Draft a first-pass concept statement for a hospitality lobby inspired by biophilic design. I will revise this to reflect my

personal design voice."

• "List pros and cons of polished concrete vs. engineered wood flooring for a hypothetical retail space."

What to Avoid

- Submitting AI-generated work without editing
- Using AI to skip learning fundamentals
- Letting AI define your personal style
- Designing for trends instead of people

Final Thoughts

Your future clients are paying for judgment, taste, precision, and trust. That can never be automated. AI can support your process,

but it cannot replace designers. Designers who stop thinking critically will replace themselves. Use AI to think bigger, work smarter,

and communicate more clearly - but let your judgment, values, and creativity lead. Keep your voice. Build real skill. That is what will

Harassment Policy

The Heritage School of Interior Design is committed to maintaining a professional, respectful, and safe learning environment for all students, faculty, and staff. Sexual harassment of any kind will not be tolerated. Sexual harassment includes unwelcome verbal comments, inappropriate staring or gestures, unwanted messages or communication, or any behavior of a sexual nature that creates an uncomfortable, intimidating, or hostile environment. Students are expected to conduct themselves in a manner that reflects the professionalism of the design industry. Any student who experiences or witnesses inappropriate behavior is encouraged to report it to school administration immediately. Reports will be taken seriously and addressed promptly. Violations of this policy may result in disciplinary action, including dismissal from the program.

159 W Broadway SLC, UT 84101| 877-726-1158
bridget@heritageschoolofinteriordesign.com | heritageschoolofinteriordesign.com

HSID