



Cal Poly Pomona

ONLINE MASTER OF INTERIOR ARCHITECTURE

YOUR VISION IS ALREADY THERE. HERE IS THE CREDENTIAL THAT OPENS THE DOORS.

CIDA-accredited. Ranked #8 nationally by DesignIntelligence. Two paths in – one credential out.

#8

Ranked nationally by DesignIntelligence — recognized by design employers and licensing bodies

CIDA

Accredited curriculum — the standard serious design professionals recognize

\$72K

Average salary for interior architecture professionals with a master's degree (PayScale, 2025)

100%

Online with live studio critiques and cohort collaboration

TWO PATHS INTO THE MIA

Two distinct candidates enroll in the MIA. Both are welcome. Both graduate with the same CIDA-accredited credential and the same portfolio standard. Where you start does not determine where you finish — the work you do in the program does.

The Credentialing Path

You are already designing. You work in interior design, architecture, or a related field. You have a portfolio. You need the terminal credential to access commercial projects, advance to principal-level roles, and be taken seriously at the level you have already reached.

The Career Change Path

Design has always been the thing. You built a career in another field and have never stopped thinking about space and environment. You are making a deliberate transition. The MIA is built for this. Many career-change applicants bring portfolios from adjacent fields — graphic design, real estate, event design, or personal design projects.

CURRICULUM OVERVIEW

The MIA is a 36-unit program structured as a sequenced studio curriculum: foundation, technical mastery, advanced studio, and capstone. All coursework is delivered online with live evening critique sessions.

#	Course	What It Builds
01	<i>Design Research and Theory</i>	How to frame a design problem, conduct evidence-based research, and connect design decisions to real human outcomes. The analytical foundation for both credentialing and career-change students.
02	<i>Space Planning and Programming</i>	Systematic analysis of how people move through, inhabit, and experience space across healthcare, workplace, hospitality, and civic environments. The thinking behind every great interior.
03	<i>Building Systems and Codes</i>	Life-safety, ADA accessibility, egress, mechanical coordination, and structural integration. The technical literacy that separates interior designers from interior architects.

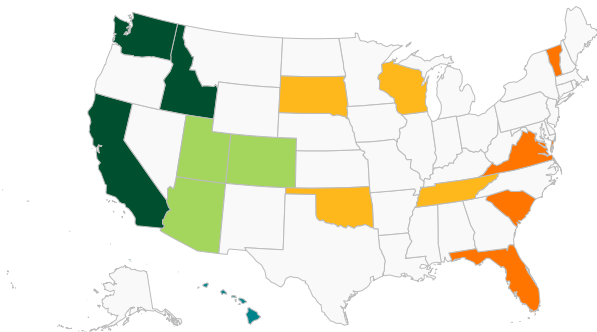
#	Course	What It Builds
04	Revit and Digital Documentation	Professional-grade Revit workflows, construction documentation, and digital coordination. The tools employers require at the project manager and principal level.
05	Materials, Light, and Sustainability	Specification, daylighting, and sustainable design frameworks including LEED and WELL. Increasingly a client requirement, not an elective consideration.
06	Advanced Studio: Human-centered Design	Applied studio work at the full project scale. Real client typologies. Faculty-led critiques with peer review. Where technical mastery and design thinking converge.
07	Professional Practice and Portfolio Development	Fee structures, client relationships, contracts, project management, and the portfolio that demonstrates principal-level capability to any employer or client.
08	Capstone Studio	An advanced design project developed across multiple scales, documented to professional standards, and reviewed by a jury of faculty and industry practitioners.

Electives (Choose 2)

Elective offerings include Healthcare Design, Workplace Strategy, Hospitality and Retail Design, Exhibition Design, and Residential Design Specialization. Elective availability is confirmed by the program office each semester.

THE ONLINE STUDIO EXPERIENCE

The MIA is 100% online — and serious about studio quality. Live critique sessions are scheduled in the evenings, so faculty review your work directly and your cohort is in the room. The program produces work that reflects CIDA accreditation standards, not a lower bar because it is online.



State Authorization Regulations

California State Polytechnic University, Pomona is approved to offer online programs to students residing in the following states. This list will be updated upon additional authorizations/exemptions.

Approved States: Arizona, California, Colorado, Florida, Hawaii, Idaho, Oklahoma, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Utah, Vermont, Virginia, Washington, Wisconsin

For State-based admission limitations and additional information, please visit: [Accreditation and State Regulatory Authorizations](#)

Live Critiques

Scheduled evening sessions. Faculty review your work directly. Cohort peers participate. This is a studio environment delivered online.

Evening Availability

Critique sessions and live meetings are scheduled in the evenings. Workdays stay yours. Most students remain employed throughout the program.

Cohort Model

You move through the program with the same group. The relationships you build are part of the professional network the MIA creates.

Capstone Jury

Your final project is reviewed by a jury of faculty and industry practitioners — the same standard as any campus-based MIA or MArch program.

ADMISSIONS REQUIREMENTS

Credentialing Path Applicants

- Bachelor's degree from a regionally accredited institution
- Portfolio: 8-12 projects demonstrating design thinking, spatial reasoning, and visual communication. Process documentation preferred over polished final images alone.
- Statement of purpose describing your design background and career goals
- Official transcripts from all degree-granting institutions
- Professional resume

Career Change Path Applicants

- Bachelor's degree from a regionally accredited institution (any field)
- Portfolio demonstrating spatial thinking and visual communication. May include graphic design, real estate, event design, or personal design projects — talk to Irma Ramirez before you assume your background does not qualify.
- Statement of purpose explaining your career transition and your commitment to design practice
- Official transcripts
- Professional resume
- Some career-change applicants' complete preparatory coursework — assessed individually based on portfolio and background. Irma Ramirez will advise you specifically on your application path.

Not Required

- GRE or GMAT — neither is required for MIA admission
- A degree in interior design or architecture — career-change applicants are evaluated on portfolio and statement of purpose

TUITION AND FINANCIAL AID

Cal Poly Pomona is a CSU institution. MIA tuition is significantly below comparable to private architecture and design schools. The total program cost varies by per-unit rate and applicable fees and is substantially lower than comparable MFA or MArch programs at private institutions. Current tuition rates are available on the CPP Graduate Admissions website. Financial aid is available.

CAREER OUTCOMES

MIA graduates step into roles including Interior Designer, Design Project Manager, Workplace Strategist, Healthcare Designer, Hospitality Designer, and Interior Architect at multidisciplinary firms. Alumni contribute to architecture and interior design practices, healthcare systems, workplace and retail brands, and civic organizations across Southern California and beyond.

The CIDA-accredited MIA from a DesignIntelligence Top-10 program is recognized by employers, clients, and licensing bodies before you explain it. That is the practical value of a ranked credential in a field where reputation is currency.

Questions? Contact the Program Graduate Coordinator Directly.

IRMA RAMIREZ

MIA Program, Graduate Coordinator

ieramirez@cpp.edu

Apply online: calstate.edu/apply | Program page: cpp.edu/cpge/campaigns/mia/master-interior-architecture.shtml