



Council  
for **Interior**  
**Design**  
Accreditation

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October 26, 2021

Dr. Keith E. Whitfield, President  
University of Nevada, Las Vegas  
4505 South Maryland Parkway  
Las Vegas, NV 89154

Dear President Whitfield:

The CIDA Accreditation Commission reviewed the University of Nevada, Las Vegas interior design program during a July 30, 2021 virtual meeting. In preparation for this discussion, the Commission reviewed the Program Analysis Report prepared by the program and the CIDA Team Report prepared by the team that reviewed the program from February 9, 2021 to March 30, 2021. The CIDA Team Report described numerous weaknesses in Standards 10 and 16.

Under Standard 10, *Interior designers are knowledgeable about history of interiors, architecture, decorative arts, and art*, the CIDA review team described weaknesses related to student learning expectations a, b, d, and e. As a result, the Accreditation Commission determined that Standard 10 is in non-compliance.

Under Standard 16, *Interior designers apply laws, codes, standards, and guidelines that impact human experience of interior spaces*, the CIDA review team described weaknesses related to student learning expectations a, b, and d. As a result, the Accreditation Commission determined that Standard 16 is in non-compliance.

In order to be accredited, a program must comply or partially comply with all sixteen standards. Program non-compliance with one or more standards leads to probation or denial of accreditation. Additional information regarding CIDA's definitions of 'compliance with standards' can be found on page 8 of CIDA's Professional Standards 2020. This document is available for download on the CIDA website at <http://accredit-id.org/professional-standards>.

Notice was sent to the program on August 2, 2021 of the Commission's determination of non-compliance with Standards 10 and 16 (enclosed). The program submitted a response on August 30, 2021.

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**Holly Mattson, Hon. IDC, Hon. FASID**



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Dr. Keith E. Whitfield, President

October 26, 2021

At their September 14, 2021 virtual meeting, the CIDA Accreditation Commission reviewed your interior design program's response to the Commission's notice of non-compliance with Standards 10 and 16. In reviewing the program response, the Accreditation Commission, overall, found nothing to refute the Commission's determination of non-compliance with these Standards.

The Commission, therefore, has placed the interior design program at University of Nevada, Las Vegas on probation for two years. Probation indicates that the Accreditation Commission determined that the quality of the accredited interior design program is at risk due to critical weaknesses, as identified in the Accreditation Report (enclosed). The CIDA Accreditation Report presents the Commission's evaluation of your program and the weaknesses that were identified.

Probation is an accreditation status that requires the program to improve areas of weakness within a specific period of time in order to maintain CIDA accreditation. The program maintains all rights and responsibilities of an accredited program. The CIDA policy on probation is enclosed. During the probation period, the program is expected to improve student achievement in areas noted as weak under Standards 10 and 16, as well as maintain compliance with other CIDA Standards.

No later than November 30, 2023, a site visit must be conducted to determine compliance with Standards 10 and 16, as well as any expectations within the remaining Standards that were marked below the required level of achievement in the September 2021 Accreditation Report. The program coordinator may request a site visit at any time prior to the end of the two years. A two-member team will conduct the probationary visit over two days. If possible, the team will include one individual from the team that reviewed the program from February 9, 2021 to March 30, 2021.

University of Nevada, Las Vegas will be expected to pay the cost of the visit. Specifically, the program will be invoiced for the Site Visit Fee and the Travel Fee, and will cover the team's expenses for lodging, food, and local transportation. For additional information, please see CIDA's Accreditation Policy and Procedure, Section VIII. Fees, which is available for download at <http://accredit-id.org/accreditation/policyandprocedures/>.



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Dr. Keith E. Whitfield, President  
October 26, 2021

The Accreditation Commission has directed the CIDA staff to assist you with managing the details of this visit. Please feel free to correspond with us if you have any questions.

Sincerely yours,

Holly Mattson, Hon. IDC, Hon. FASID  
Executive Director

Enclosure

cc: Nancy J. Uscher, University of Nevada, Las Vegas  
Daniel Ortega, University of Nevada, Las Vegas  
Dak Kopec, University of Nevada, Las Vegas  
Marisela Thompson, University of Nevada, Las Vegas  
Candice Wilcken, University of Nevada, Las Vegas  
CIDA Visiting Team



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August 2, 2021

Dak Kopec, Program Coordinator  
Interior Architecture and Design Program  
School of Architecture  
University of Nevada, Las Vegas  
4505 Maryland Parkway  
Las Vegas, NV 89154-4018

Dear Professor Kopec:

The Accreditation Commission of the Council for Interior Design Accreditation (CIDA) reviewed your program at their July 30, 2021 meeting. In preparation for this meeting, the Commission reviewed all information related to your program's evaluation including the Program Analysis Report, the CIDA Team Report, your program's response to the team report, and compiled feedback from a group of CIDA site visitors.

The CIDA Team Report describes a number of weaknesses in Standard 10. History, and Standard 16. Regulations and Guidelines. Significant deficiencies are noted in student learning for the following expectations:

Standard 10:

Students understand the basic context and framework of history as it relates to:

- a) interior design.
- b) furniture, decorative arts, and material culture.
- d) art.
- e) Students understand the social, political, and physical influences affecting historical changes in design of the built environment.

Standard 16:

- a) Students have awareness of the origins and intent of laws, codes, and standards.

Student work demonstrates understanding of:

- b) standards and guidelines related to sustainability and wellness.

Student work demonstrates the ability to apply:

- d) federal, state/provincial, and local codes including fire and life safety.

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Dak Kopec, Program Coordinator

August 2, 2021

Due to the number and nature of weaknesses in student learning documented in the CIDA Team Report, the Commission concluded that Standards 10 and 16 are in non-compliance rather than partial compliance. In order to be accredited, a program must comply or partially comply with all 16 Standards. A program's non-compliance with one Standard means that the Commission's decision options are to place the program on probation or deny accreditation. For additional information regarding definitions of 'compliance with standards', refer to CIDA's Policy & Procedures, Section II, Professional Standards, page 8.

This letter is notice of the Accreditation Commission's determination of non-compliance with Standards 10 and 16. Your program has the opportunity to provide a written response to the Accreditation Commission prior to a final decision on accreditation status. Any response to this notice must be received in the CIDA office no later than the close of business on August 30, 2021. After that date and after reviewing any response provided by the program, the Commission will make a final decision on accreditation status for the interior design program at University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Your program's current accreditation status with CIDA will not change in the meantime.

If you have any questions at this time, please contact Megan Scanlan, Director of Accreditation, in the CIDA office.

Sincerely yours,

Megan Scanlan  
Director of Accreditation

# Accreditation

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## Probation

Probation is an accreditation status that indicates critical weaknesses have been identified in an accredited program that require improvement in order for the program to maintain accreditation. Probation indicates that the Accreditation Commission, in its discretion, determined the quality of the accredited program is at risk due to critical weaknesses identified. Probation provides the program a specific period of time to improve areas of weakness in order to maintain accreditation.

Probation may be granted for a period of not more than two years at the discretion of the Accreditation Commission. The Commissioners will state in writing specific areas of weakness, which the program must improve within a specified time period. Probationary status may require the program to collect evidence and forward it to the Commission at the conclusion of a specified term, or this status may require a site visit by one or more CIDA representatives to review evidence on site and report to the Accreditation Commission. The Accreditation Commission will then determine whether improvements warranting continuation of accreditation have been made. If the Accreditation Commission determines that improvements warranting continuation of accreditation have not been made, accreditation will be denied.

Probationary status is a public action and is disclosed in CIDA's list of accredited interior design programs. Programs granted probationary status maintain all rights and responsibilities of an accredited program. A decision to place a program on probation may not be appealed under the Appeal Procedure.

A program will be notified of probationary status promptly following the Accreditation Commission meeting at which the decision is made.