

School of Design Teaching Environment

The School of Design in the College of Architecture and Environmental Design is dedicated to undergraduate and graduate education in design. Its mission explicitly includes professional design education in graphic, industrial and interior design at the undergraduate level and design research at the graduate level. All courses are taught either as lecture courses or studio courses. The quality of the School's professional design education is validated through its accreditation by NASAD and FIDER.

In pursuit of its mission to teach design, the School believes that effective learning and teaching excellence can only occur in an environment that is both supportive and challenging. Accordingly, the School provides the following areas of focus in order to meet its teaching and learning mission.

Individual Attention, including

- The respect for diversity in the classroom and the acknowledgement that students have different learning styles and educational needs.
- The building of relationships with students because effective teaching and learning begin with the faculty knowing their students.
- The empowerment of students to meet their potential as designers and as productive members of society.
- The respect of students, because they are capable individuals with something valuable to contribute.

Classroom Engagement, including

- The sharing of new knowledge and insights with students to encourage creative and critical thinking.
- The motivation of students to succeed in their educational experience and their respective design discipline.
- The articulation of class objectives and how they fit in the overall curriculum of the design program.
- The articulation of the expectations of assignments and the criteria for students' evaluation.
- The continuous assessment and development of classes through the use of student feedback.
- The availability and accessibility of faculty to students.
- The mentoring of students including assisting students with issues that impact their ability to be successful in their academic careers.

Relevant Scholarship and Creative Activities, including

- Staying current in the subject matter being taught by way of active research and creative activities, professional reading, and participating in continued education such as classes, conferences and workshops.
- Sharing research and/or creative activities – as appropriate to the content of a course – to support an environment of collaboration and a community of learners.

Note: Please refer to the School of Design's Promotion and Tenure Guidelines for specific teaching criteria as they apply to teaching evaluation.