



**THE STATE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT / THE UNIVERSITY OF THE
STATE OF NEW YORK / ALBANY, NY 12234**

TO: The Honorable the Members of the Board of Regents
FROM: Sarah Benson *Sarah A. Benson*
SUBJECT: Berkeley College: Regents authorization to award the
Bachelor of Fine Arts degree and Master Plan Amendment
to offer a Bachelor of Fine Arts Program in Interior Design
DATE: May 4, 2023

AUTHORIZATION(S):

SUMMARY

Issue for Decision (Consent)

Should the Board of Regents authorize Berkeley College to award the Bachelor of Fine Arts (BFA) degree and approve a master plan amendment for Berkeley College to offer a BFA program in Interior Design?

Reason(s) for Consideration

Required by State statute.

Proposed Handling

The issue will come before the Full Board for action at its May 2023 meeting where it will be voted on and action taken.

Procedural History

A Master Plan Amendment is necessary as this is the institution's first program at the bachelor's level in the engineering disciplinary area, which includes the discipline of interior design. Regents authorization is also required because the College is not currently authorized to award the BFA degree.

Background Information

Berkeley College is seeking the Board of Regents approval for a master plan amendment (MPA) to authorize the College to offer a licensure qualifying BFA program in Interior Design in the standard format and the distance education format.

The BFA in Interior Design program will prepare students for licensure as an interior designer and for many different roles in the architectural/construction industry. The roles range from being a designer/draft person in an interior design/architecture firm to working in the furniture/lighting industry to product sales and project management. Students will be prepared to become critical thinking creative problem solvers.

The proposed BFA in Interior Design program is aligned with the Council for Design Accreditation (CIDA) standards. The 120-credit curriculum includes 42 credits of Liberal Arts and Sciences content and 78 credits of interior design content. The interior design content includes eight interior design studio courses as well as coursework in architectural and interior design history, building codes and regulations, construction methods, lighting, furniture design, computer aided design, and the psychology of design. The proposed program will provide a logical curricular sequence based upon critical skill development that focuses on the creative and technical aspects of the interior design profession, preparing students with the necessary skills and practical knowledge to enter the industry in a diverse range of roles.

Academic review of faculty, curriculum, and other program aspects of the proposed degree program has been completed by the Department. The Department has determined that the proposed degree program meets the standards for registration as set forth in the Regulations of the Commissioner of Education. In March 2023, following its standard protocol, the Department conducted a canvass of degree-granting institutions in the New York City Region and all institutions in the State offering licensure qualifying interior design programs. No objections were received.

Recommendation

It is recommended that the Board of Regents take the following action:

VOTED: That the Board of Regents authorize Berkeley College to award the BFA degree and approve a master plan amendment to authorize the College to offer the BFA program in Interior Design. This amendment will be effective until June 2023, unless the Department registers the program prior to that date, in which case the master plan amendment shall be without term.

Timetable for Implementation

If the Board of Regents authorizes Berkeley College to award the BFA degree and approves the master plan amendment, the Department will register the program.