Summary of Accreditation Decision

Middle Tennessee State University

The interior design program leading to the Bachelor of Science degree meets Council for Interior Design Accreditation (CIDA) Professional Standards and has been awarded accreditation for a term of six years, effective August 2016. The Accreditation Commission is pleased to recognize this achievement.

The Accreditation Commission’s decision was based on the interior design program’s demonstrated achievement of sixteen accreditation standards, which are evaluated within the context and overarching purpose and intent of the program. CIDA accreditation standards broadly address the evolving components of graduate preparation for interior design practice, including:

- critical thinking, professional values, and processes that provide the framework of interior design practice;
- core design and technical knowledge that provide the historical, theoretical, and technical contents of interior design practice.

CIDA accreditation standards also address the institutional systems, structures, and resources that are fundamental to providing an effective higher education learning environment for interior design.

Award of CIDA accreditation attests to the quality of the interior design program and benefits the public and program in many ways. Parents, students, and employers of graduates can be assured that the program meets the rigor of peer review and develops the skills and knowledge required to practice interior design. Furthermore, the accreditation process provides the program with valuable input for continued development and assists the program in adapting to meet evolving professional requirements as CIDA updates standards.

The program was visited in fall 2018 to determine compliance with the following standards:

Standard 1. The interior design program has a mission statement that describes the scope and purpose of the program. Program goals are derived from the mission statement and the curriculum is structured to achieve these goals.

Standard 3. The work of interior designers is informed by knowledge of human factors and theories of human behavior related to the built environment.

Standard 4. Entry-level interior designers need to apply all aspects of the design process to creative problem solving. Design process enables designers to identify and explore complex problems and generate creative solutions that optimize the human experience within the interior environment.

Standard 6. Entry-level interior designers are effective communicators.
Standard 7. Entry-level interior designers use ethical and accepted standards of practice, are committed to professional development and the industry, and understand the value of their contribution to the built environment.

Standard 8. Entry-level interior designers apply knowledge of interiors, architecture, decorative arts, and art within a historical and cultural context.

Standard 9. Entry-level interior designers apply elements and principles of two- and three-dimensional design.

Standard 13. Entry-level interior designers have knowledge of building systems and interior construction.

Standard 14. Entry-level interior designers use laws, codes, standards, and guidelines that impact the design of interior spaces.

The program is scheduled to be revisited in fall 2022 to seek re-accreditation.