November 29, 2022

Dr. Douglas A. Girod, Chancellor
University of Kansas
Strong Hall, Room 230
1450 Jayhawk Blvd.
Lawrence, KS 66045

Dear Dr. Girod:

Congratulations! Your interior design program leading to the Bachelor of Science in Interior Architecture degree has been awarded candidacy status, effective November 2022. The Accreditation Commission is pleased to recognize your program for this achievement.

Award of CIDA candidacy attests to the quality of your interior design program and benefits your program in many ways. Parents, students, and employers of graduates can be assured that the program is progressing towards CIDA accreditation and has the potential to achieve compliance with CIDA Standards within five years. A candidate program has voluntarily placed itself before the scrutiny of the profession and invested time, energy, and money to ensure that the program is a viable candidate for achieving accreditation.

The enclosed Candidacy Report contains the evaluation of your program’s compliance with CIDA Standards. Program quality is assessed primarily through student learning evidenced in student work and interviews with students. In CIDA’s Professional Standards 2020, performance criteria and expected levels of student achievement are clearly described by student learning expectations.

An executive summary is provided for each Standard in the Candidacy Report. This narrative provides valuable information on program compliance with the Standard. In some cases, the interior design program may have fallen below or exceeded the requirements of an expectation. These expectations are considered to be strengths and weaknesses and are addressed in the executive summary.
CIDA monitors candidate programs closely in order to aid in program development. Candidate programs are required to host at least one focused site visit to maintain candidacy status so that CIDA may monitor progress toward accreditation. The focused site visit is required in three years, in fall 2025, to monitor progress toward improvement in the following Standards:

Standard 1. Program Identity and Context. The interior design program provides a professional-level education that prepares graduates for entry-level practice and advanced study. The program has a mission, educational philosophy, and goals appropriate to its context. The program engages in ongoing assessment and planning ensuring the curriculum and resources are structured to achieve its goals. The public is able to access understandable and reliable information about the program.

Standard 2. The interior design program has an effective administrative structure, as well as adequate and appropriate faculty and administrative staff to successfully lead and deliver the program.

Standard 5. Interior designers collaborate and also participate in interdisciplinary teams.

Standard 10. Interior designers apply knowledge of history and theory of interiors, architecture, decorative arts, and art when solving design problems.


The program coordinator will be notified of the details of this focused site visit well in advance.

Because candidacy status is granted for a non-renewable term not to exceed five years, the program must seek accreditation by fall 2027 in order to maintain status with CIDA. Site visits for accreditation must be scheduled at least one year prior to the end of the five-year term of candidacy.

Published information regarding your candidacy status must comply with CIDA’s confidentiality and disclosure policy as stated in CIDA’s Candidacy Status policy, page 7 (enclosed for your review). It is important that all announcements of CIDA candidacy include the name of the program and the degree awarded.
The members of the Accreditation Commission join me in extending congratulations to your program. We look forward to working with your program in the years ahead.

Sincerely yours,

Holly Mattson, Hon. IDC, Hon. FASID
Chief Executive Officer

Enclosures

cc: Dr. Barbara Bichelmeyer, University of Kansas
Dr. Mahbub Rashid, University of Kansas
Dr. Hui Cai, University of Kansas
Dr. Nisha A. Fernando, University of Kansas
CIDA Visiting Team