

1 **STUDIO CULTURE POLICY at Ball State University Department of Architecture**

2 3 **Implementation**

4 This policy affirms the shared goals and values for a productive and supportive educational environment
5 in the Department of Architecture at Ball State University. The Studio Culture Policy is available to all
6 members of the learning community at all times. The current policy is posted in all architecture studios,
7 discussed each semester as part of the syllabus overview for all courses, and is available for reference
8 online. Studio faculty will include the full text of the policy in their syllabus and at the start of each
9 semester discuss the policy with their students as a means of establishing the shared community values it
10 embodies. By using this policy as a guide in studio teaching and learning, the Department of Architecture
11 encourages the symbiotic relationship of rigorous thought, free expression, mutually respectful discourse,
12 and self-assessment that accompanies an intellectually diverse and inclusive learning environment driven
13 towards excellence. The Studio Culture Policy serves as a complement to the Beneficence Pledge,
14 holding all community members (administration, staff, faculty, and students) to an elevated standard of
15 behavior and conduct. The policies outlined in this document serve as a minimum expectation of
16 professional behavior.
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18 **Studio: A Learning Community of Inclusive Excellence**

19 Studio education is at the heart of all academic activity in the Department. The studio is a cooperative
20 educational environment that demands a passionate commitment to learning through thoughtful, productive,
21 innovative, and consistent work effort. Studio is a laboratory that seeks to foster learning through
22 experimentation and collaboration. It is where knowledge is applied, ideas are tested and challenged, beliefs
23 are communicated, and analytical and creative confidence is fostered. Studio is an immersive and often
24 collaborative experience that places students in a context that enables them to acquire knowledge from the
25 faculty *and* from one another. Studio is a place where passion for focused exploration is paramount, and where
26 confidence and critical introspection develop as a result. Studio is where self-driven curiosity and continual,
27 mutually respectful engagement with peers leads to reciprocal cooperative learning and the creation of lifelong
28 relationships.
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30 All members of our collegiate community bear the responsibility of supporting our exceptional learning
31 environment through the continued development of curricula and scholarship. Together, we create an
32 intellectually diverse community of professionals committed to inclusive excellence. Every member of our
33 learning community benefits from the diverse backgrounds, values, and approaches each member brings to
34 the studio environment. The administration and staff provide the supportive structure for faculty and
35 student accomplishment. The faculty acknowledge their vital role as leaders who provide students with an
36 inclusive framework for learning and success. Students cultivate the quality of the studio culture through
37 their work effort and mutually respectful support of colleagues in accordance with Ball State University's
38 Inclusive Excellence Plan. The studio atmosphere should enable students to participate in co-curricular and
39 extra-curricular activities that enhance the learning experience. To fully benefit from this unique learning
40 environment, students must commit to establishing a rigorous work effort in the studio before, during, and
41 after class hours. The ultimate objective for all students is self-discovery; developing a commitment to life-
42 long learning, acquiring architectural knowledge, skills, values, and character traits that can propel their
43 professional and life pursuits.
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45 **Actions Define Culture: Shared Responsibilities within Our Studio Culture**

46 *All community members are responsible for recognizing and respecting the diversity of thought and perspective*
47 *among all members of the learning community along with respecting others' health, safety and welfare.* In
48 addition, the following points highlight the specific responsibilities of the department administration, staff,
49 faculty, and students:
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51 ***Department Administration and Staff are expected to:***

- 52 • Consistently support and communicate the shared sense of mission and values amongst students,
53 faculty, administration, and staff
- 54 • Lead in the creation of this cooperative learning community by modeling best behavior and character
55 expectations
- 56 • Support and foster a diverse and productive educational community that celebrates integrity, respect,
57 work-ethic, professionalism, scholarship, shared values and mission as well as individual responsibilities
58 and initiatives

- 59 • Support and foster diversity of experience and learning through travel
- 60 • Support and foster opportunities for engaging the profession
- 61 • Encourage the aspirations of faculty and students to communicate to the broader international, national
- 62 and university communities through teaching, scholarship, learning, and material accomplishments
- 63 • Establish transparent and reflective assessment methods to continually advance the Department's pursuit
- 64 of excellence and effectiveness in its mission to educate professional architects

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66 **Faculty are expected to:**

- 67 • Consistently support and communicate the shared sense of mission and values amongst students,
- 68 faculty, administration, and staff
- 69 • Lead in the creation of this community by modeling best behavior and character expectations and provide
- 70 a role model for commitment and engagement
- 71 • Provide the necessary preparation to establish thoughtful and effective learning opportunities
- 72 • While offering ALL students equal opportunities for learning, foster development of skillsets,
- 73 responsibility, work-ethic, and productivity to support each student in reaching their full potential
- 74 • Provide constructive and challenging feedback, focusing on the student and the collective learning
- 75 environment
- 76 • Respect the need to balance studio experience within a broader context of learning, well-being, and a
- 77 broad cultural awareness of our responsibilities in accordance with Ball State University's Inclusive
- 78 Excellence Plan.
- 79 • Respect student participation in co-curricular and extra-curricular activities that enhance their learning
- 80 experiences and well-being outside of studio hours

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82 **Students are expected to:**

- 83 • Be responsible for developing the work-ethic, effective time management, proactive communication,
- 84 and engaged design discussion, and substantive productivity required in the study and practice of
- 85 architecture
- 86 • Exhibit full commitment of effort, full participation, and the development of significant work outside of
- 87 studio class hours
- 88 • Foster the values of a shared, collective learning environment through sustained work effort,
- 89 contributions to group discussions, respect for diverse viewpoints, cultural differences, and support of
- 90 the work and ideas of classmates while recognizing patience, tolerance, humility, and empathy as
- 91 important professional virtues in the exchange of different approaches
- 92 • Keep the studio environment safe and secure, and constructively respect each other's studio space,
- 93 materials, and time
- 94 • Respect the acoustic environment of this shared space by limiting loud music/noises which might
- 95 disrupt others' work
- 96 • Respect the goals and initiatives established by the studio faculty
- 97 • Recognize that since students are entering a profession invested in the protection of public health,
- 98 safety, and welfare, with high standards of ethics, integrity, and professionalism, they must align their
- 99 behavior with these standards

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101 **Evaluation & Improvement**

102 The Department of Architecture consistently works to evaluate the success of this policy in creating an
103 inclusive learning environment. This is accomplished through end-of-semester reporting (student course
104 evaluations and faculty year-level meetings) and assessment of each section of studio (full faculty post-
105 semester evaluation). The Department Chair meets with student representatives on a monthly basis and
106 constantly reviews and evaluates the success of the studio culture policy. In addition, the regular meetings
107 with the professional advisory board provide additional feedback.

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109 Each fall by September 30th, the Department of Architecture Chair will appoint and convene an ad hoc
110 committee to identify evolving concerns with the policy and suggest edits to address them. This committee
111 will have any proposed revisions ready by February 1st of the following spring semester. All department
112 stakeholders (students, faculty, staff, administration, and advisory board members) are eligible to be a
113 voting member of the committee, if they confirm interest before September 30th and attend the committee
114 meetings.

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118 **Supporting the Departmental Studio Culture Policy:**

119 The Beneficence Pledge:

120 <https://www.bsu.edu/about/administrativeoffices/student-conduct/policiesandprocedures/beneficence>

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122 University Statement on Inclusive Excellence:

123 <https://www.bsu.edu/about/inclusive-excellence>

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125 University Statement on Freedom of Expression:

126 <https://www.bsu.edu/about/freedom-of-expression>

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128 Code of Student Rights and Responsibilities:

129 <https://www.bsu.edu/about/administrativeoffices/student-conduct/policiesandprocedures/beneficence>

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131 Faculty and Professional Personnel Handbook:

132 <https://www.bsu.edu/web/facultyprofessionalhandbook>

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134 AIA Code of Ethics

135 <https://www.aia.org/pages/3296-aia-code-of-ethics-and-professional-conduct>

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137 NCARB (National Council of Architectural Registration Boards)

138 https://www.ncarb.org/sites/default/files/Rules_of_Conduct.pdf

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140 BSU Counseling Center - Mental Health and wellness resources:

141 <https://www.bsu.edu/campuslife/counselingcenter>

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144 STUDIO CULTURE POLICY –

145 Approved Department of Architecture faculty, 4_24_2018;

146 revision approved by Department of Architecture faculty 7_27_2020

147 revision approved by Department of Architecture faculty 3_11_2021

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