

STUDIO CULTURAL PHILOSOPHY

Ball State University Department of Architecture

Architects generate ideas, envision potential, and execute projects that improve the built environment. They are designers, makers, entrepreneurs, community activists, and writers who have high ethical expectations with regard to social responsibility and personal integrity. Students and faculty in the Department of Architecture at Ball State University align their behavior with these expectations for respectful, inclusive, and professional conduct. The following paragraphs establish guidelines for a positive and rigorous learning environment in which each student, faculty, staff, and administrator can seek to achieve her/his full potential.

Community of Learning

All members of our collegiate community bear the responsibility of supporting our exceptional learning environment through the continued development of curricula and scholarship. The faculty acknowledge their vital role as leaders who provide students with an inclusive framework for learning; students cultivate the quality of the studio culture; the administration and staff provide the groundwork for studio innovation. Together, we create a community of professionals. Every member of our learning community benefits from the diverse values and approaches each other member brings to the studio environment. The ultimate objective for the student is self-actualization—acquiring a unique body of architectural knowledge, skills and values which can be applied in professional practice and other pursuits.

Value of Studio

Studio education is at the heart of all academic activity in the Department. The studio is an educational environment that demands a passionate commitment to learning through thoughtful, productive, innovative, and relentless work effort. Studio is a laboratory that seeks to foster learning through experimentation; where knowledge is applied, ideas are tested, beliefs are communicated, and analytical and creative confidence develops. It is an immersive experience that places students in a context that enables them to acquire knowledge from the faculty *and* from one another; it is a place where passion for focused exploration is paramount, and where confidence and critical introspection develop as a result. Studio is where self-driven curiosity and continual engagement with peers leads to reciprocal learning and the creation of lifelong relationships. To fully benefit from this unique learning environment, students must commit to investing rigorous work effort in the studio before, during, and after class hours.

Adaptation & Evolution

The Department has a history of fostering excellent professional architecture education. The development of each student into a well-rounded professional is achieved through a variety of design processes which vary from student to student, professor to professor, and project to project. Students are expected to accept the challenges given and to take risks well beyond preconceived notions. The faculty are expected to provide thoughtfully conceived opportunities for exploration, creativity and innovation. Each individual is expected to contribute to an atmosphere in which students are given exposure to a structured multitude of content related to architectural design and the rigor of its methods. The studio atmosphere should enable students to participate in co-curricular and extra-curricular activities that enhance the learning experience.

Iterative Work & Time Management

One of the most important skillsets employed by those within the design professions is time management. Toward this end, students and faculty will respect and value each other's time. Attendance, full commitment of effort, full participation, and the development of a considerable amount of work outside of studio class hours are essential.

Responsibilities Accompanying Studio Culture

The following bullet points highlight the responsibilities of the department, faculty, and students.

The Department is expected to:

- Consistently support and communicate the shared sense of mission and values amongst students, faculty, administration, and staff while supporting all members of the learning community;
- Respond to and support respectful dialogue and constructive discussion;
- Recognize, respect, and cultivate diversity of thought and perspective among all members of the learning community;

- Support and foster a diverse and productive educational community that celebrates integrity, respect, work-ethic, professionalism, scholarship, shared values and mission as well as individual responsibilities and initiatives;
- Support the aspirations of faculty and students to communicate to the broader international, national and university communities through teaching, scholarship, learning, and material accomplishments;
- Establish transparent and reflective assessment methods to continually advance the Department's pursuit of excellence and effectiveness in its mission to educate professional architects;
- Serve as a conduit for faculty/student/staff communication within and outside the college/university/department.

Faculty are expected to:

- Consistently support and communicate the shared sense of mission and values amongst students, faculty, administration, and staff to provide the support of all members of the learning community;
- Offer all students equal opportunities;
- Consistently provide students the necessary preparation to establish thoughtful and effective learning opportunities for students;
- Foster development of skillsets, responsibility, work-ethic, and productivity to support each student in reaching his/her full potential;
- Recognize and respect diversity of thought and perspective among all members of the learning community;
- Provide constructive feedback, focusing on the student and the collective learning environment;
- Respect the need to balance studio experience within a broader context of learning and cultural exposure.

Students are expected to:

- Be responsible for developing the relentless work-ethic, effective time management, and substantive productivity required in the study and practice of architecture;
- Recognize and respect the diversity of thought and perspective among all members of the learning community;
- Foster the values of a shared, collective learning environment through rigorous work effort, contributions to group discussions, respect for diverse viewpoints, support of work effort and ideas of classmates while recognizing patience, humility, and empathy as important professional virtues.
- Keep the studio environment safe and secure, and constructively respect each other's studio space, materials, and time;
- Respect the goals and initiatives established by the studio faculty;
- Recognize that since students are entering a profession with high standards of ethics, integrity, and professionalism, they must align their behavior with these standards.

Supporting the Departmental Cultural Philosophy

Additional resources are available that lend support to this document:

*** *The Beneficence Pledge:***

<http://cms.bsu.edu/about/administrativeoffices/studentrights/policiesandprocedures/beneficence>

*** *Student Code of Rights and Responsibilities:***

<http://cms.bsu.edu/-/media/www/departamentalcontent/student%20rights/pdfs/ball%20state%20code%20of%20student%20rights%20and%20responsibilities%2020172018.pdf?la=en>

*** *Faculty and Professional Personal Handbook:***

<http://cms.bsu.edu/-/media/www/departamentalcontent/senate/2017-18%20handbook/20172018%20handbook%2012318.pdf?la=en>

*** *Statement on the Importance of Diversity and Inclusion:***

<https://cms.bsu.edu/about/administrativeoffices/institutionaldiversity>

*** *AIA Code of Ethics*** <http://aiad8.prod.acquia-sites.com/sites/default/files/2017-08/2017%20Code%20Update.pdf>