

Interior Design Career Exploration Curriculum



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Curriculum Structure

The *Interior Design Career Exploration Curriculum* is composed of the following lessons. Approximate lesson times are included.

Lesson	Title	Approximate Time
One	Career as an Interior Designer	60-75 minutes
Two	Career as a Stage Designer	65-85 minutes
Three	Career as a Home Staging Coordinator	55-75 minutes
	Total	5.5-6.5 hours

Lesson Structure

Each lesson begins with a Lesson Overview, Lesson Objectives, and a Lesson at a Glance table, which lists the lesson activities, materials required, suggested preparation steps, and approximate class time.

Lesson Sections

The actual lesson follows the overview, which will contain some of the sections described below.

FOCUS

Every lesson begins with a FOCUS activity intended to capture participants' attention. This may be in the form of a small or large class discussion, a game, a review of previous lesson information, or a demonstration. During this activity, participants are introduced to the topic of the lesson.

LEARN

The LEARN activity in each lesson varies in its presentation mode. It may be a slide presentation, group activity, or demonstration.

REVIEW

The majority of lessons end with a REVIEW activity intended to briefly review the lesson's key messages or main points.

Lesson One – Career as an Interior Designer

Lesson Overview

In this lesson, participants will explore an occupation as an interior designer. Participants will learn about typical job duties, pay, job outlook, and potential for several positions relating to interior design.

Lesson Objectives

After completing this lesson, participants will be able to:

- Identify what an interior designer is and does
- Compare and contrast the roles and requirements of a variety of interior design careers
- Discuss the impact and job outlook of interior designers

Lesson at a Glance

Activity	Materials	Preparation	Approximate class time
FOCUS	• Interior designer video (choose one) • <i>What Is an Interior Designer? Notes Page</i>	1. Print/photocopy the <i>What is an Interior Designer? Notes Page</i> (one per participant).	10-15 minutes
LEARN	• <i>Act It Out</i> cards • <i>Interior Designer Skit Rubric</i> • Props for skits • Timer	1. Print/photocopy 6 sets of the <i>Act It Out</i> cards. 2. Print/photocopy the <i>Interior Designer Career Skit Rubric</i> (one per participant).	25 minutes
REVIEW	• <i>Career Collage</i> • Career Collage Graffiti Space (made with a large piece of bulletin board paper (6 pieces total, 1 for each career)) • Index cards • Glue • Markers	1. Before this activity, create a large poster space for each of the careers on the <i>Career Collage</i> page. 2. Label each space with one of the career titles on the worksheet list.	25 minutes

Lesson One – Career as an Interior Designer

FOCUS: What Is It?

10-15 minutes

Purpose:

Participants gain an overview of what an interior designer is.

Materials:

- Interior designer video (choose one)
- *What Is an Interior Designer? Notes Page*

Facilitation Steps:

1. Share these statistics with the participants:
 - The median annual wage for interior designers was \$60,340 in May 2021.
 - Employment of interior designers is projected to show little or no change from 2021 to 2031.
 - Despite limited employment growth, about 8,200 openings for interior designers are projected each year, on average, over the decade. Most of those openings are expected to result from the need to replace workers who transfer to different occupations or exit the labor force, such as to retire.
2. What is an interior designer?

Define it for students. According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics:

Interior designers make indoor spaces functional, safe, and beautiful by determining space requirements and selecting essential and decorative items, such as colors, lighting, and materials.

They must be able to draw, read, and edit blueprints. They also must be aware of building

codes, inspection regulations, and other considerations, such as accessibility standards.

Ask participants for what they think are the benefits of working as an interior designer. Explain that they are going to watch a short video that introduces them to interior design.

3. Give students the *What Is an Interior Designer? Notes Page*.
4. Play a few interior design videos of your choice. Here are a few suggestions, but there are many more available on YouTube:
[What Does an Interior Designer Actually Do? | ARTiculations - YouTube](#)
[What is Interior Design? - YouTube](#)
[What Does An Interior Designer ACTUALLY Do? - YouTube](#)

If you choose not to watch the video, you can have participants complete the note page using their own research or opinions on the answers.
5. After the video is done, go through the *What Is an Interior Designer? Notes Page* and ask participants to share answers.

What Is an Interior Designer?

Notes Page

1. What do you think would make a good interior designer? What qualities would a good interior designer have?
2. How can you become an interior designer?
3. What types of duties would you do as an interior designer?
4. What kind of job market is there currently for interior design?
5. What would be the most difficult part of being an interior designer?

Lesson One – Careers in Interior Design

LEARN: Adding to What You Know

25 minutes

Purpose:

The purpose of this activity is to have participants understand what it would be like to be an interior designer working with different types of clients.

Materials:

- *Act It Out* cards
- *Interior Designer Skit Rubric*
- Props for skits
- Timer

Facilitation Steps:

1. Divide the class into six small groups. Give each group one of the *Act It Out* cards. Explain to participants that they should use the information on the card and their own research to create a short skit about that interior design scenario.
2. Distribute the *Interior Designer Skit Rubric* so participants understand what they will be held accountable for.
3. Supervise participants as they prepare their skits. Provide help with finding research online if they have additional questions that are not detailed on the *Act It Out* cards.

Encourage participants to outline scenarios in the skit that show a true reflection of the job.
4. After participants have finished preparing their skits, have each group act it out.
5. Following each skit, discuss that group's specific scenario.

Act It Out

Interior Designer Space: Bedroom Include in your scenario: • The client is 45 years old and married • The client wants to update a child's bedroom into a nice guest bedroom	Interior Designer Space: Kitchen Include in your scenario: • The client is a 30-year-old, single male who just purchased his first home • The kitchen is very small and he'd like to knock out walls and expand it
Interior Designer Space: Bathroom Remodel Include in your scenario: • The client is 88 and uses a walker • This client needs a more accessible space since his stroke	Interior Designer Space: Office Foyer Include in your scenario: • The client is a female officer manager • The office space used to be a medical office and now is a real estate office
Interior Designer Space: Restaurant Include in your scenario: • The client is opening up a new Greek restaurant • The space is in a historic building that has to follow strict building codes for remodels	Interior Designer Space: Medical Office Include in your scenario: • The client is taking over a dermatology practice from someone who retired • The former tenant had wild taste in bold colors and the client would like a more muted feeling

Interior Design Skit Rubric

	Excellent 4 points	Good 3 points	Average 2 points	Needs Improvement 1 point	Total
Accuracy	All information is accurate	Almost all information is accurate	Most information is accurate	Very little information is accurate	
Role	Excellent teamwork in skit presentation – responsibility is evenly shared	Good teamwork in presentation, but one person had a bit more responsibility	Fair teamwork with one member responsible for a majority of the presentation	Little or no teamwork exhibited	
Knowledge	The skit shows a thorough understanding of all job responsibilities	The skit shows a fairly clear understanding of job responsibilities	The skit shows only a partial understanding of the job responsibilities	The skit does not reflect knowledge of the job responsibilities	
Creativity	Used several props and added several visuals, like photos or animations	Used one prop and one visual effect	Used a prop or visual effect	Used no props or visual effects	
Required Elements	The skit is appropriate for the scenario provided	The skit is mostly appropriate for the scenario provided	Half of the skit does not apply to the scenario	The skit is off the mark entirely	

20 points 100%

15 points 75%

10 points 50%

Total _____

Lesson One – Career as an Interior Designer

REVIEW: Compare and Contrast

10-15 minute

Purpose:

If you have decorating and design concerns, you may be wondering whether you should contact an interior designer or interior decorator. While these terms are often used interchangeably, there are unique differences. This activity will explore the similarities and differences.

Materials:

- *Compare and Contrast*
- Internet access

Facilitation Steps:

1. Share a short video with the class about the difference between an interior designer and decorator.

[Interior Designer vs. Interior Decorator - What's the difference? - YouTube](#)

[Interior Designer vs. Interior Decorator | What is the difference? - YouTube](#)

[Interior Designer Vs. Interior Decorator: Getting straight to the point - YouTube](#)

2. Distribute the *Compare and Contrast* worksheet. Instruct participants to research more information about each profession and record similarities and differences on the chart.
3. After participants complete the *Compare and Contrast* worksheet, discuss their answers.

Compare and Contrast

Directions: Record similarities and differences for these careers in the respective spaces.

Interior Designer Versus Interior Decorator	
Similarities	Differences

Lesson Two – Career as a Stage Designer

Lesson Overview

In this lesson, participants will explore a stage designer career. Participants will learn about typical job duties, pay, job outlook, and potential for several positions relating to being a stage designer.

Lesson Objectives

After completing this lesson, participants will be able to:

- Identify what a stage designer is and does
- Describe what a typical day is like for a stage designer
- Determine if this is a career path that could be a good choice for them

Lesson at a Glance

Activity	Materials	Preparation	Approximate class time
FOCUS	• Stage design videos • <i>A Day in the Life of a Stage Designer</i>	1. Print/photocopy the <i>A Day in the Life of a Stage Designer</i> worksheet (one per participant).	10-15 minutes
LEARN	• <i>Creating an Infographic: What's the Stage Design Buzz?</i> • Internet access	1. Print/photocopy <i>Creating an Infographic: What's the Stage Design Buzz?</i> (one per participant).	30-45 minutes
REVIEW	• <i>Being a Stage Designer Is/Is Not the Career Field for Me</i> • Infographics created and posted by participants in the LEARN portion of the lesson	1. Print/photocopy <i>Being a Stage Designer Is/Is Not the Career Field for Me</i> (one per participant).	25 minutes

Lesson Two – Career as a Stage Designer

FOCUS: What Is Stage Design?

10-15 minutes

Purpose:

A stage designer may also be known as a set or scenic designer. A set designer creates the look of a set for a theater production. Their role is a combination of creativity and practicality as they must create not only the design but also make it come to life alongside a team.

Students will receive an overview of just how crucial a stage designer is to any theatrical production.

Materials:

- Stage design video
- *A Day in the Life of a Stage Designer*

Facilitation Steps:

1. Share these statistics with the participants:
Vacancies for this career have increased by 25.60 percent nationwide in that time, with an average growth of 1.60 percent per year.

Demand for set and exhibit designers is expected to go up, with an expected 4,410 new jobs filled by 2029. This represents an annual increase of 4.46 percent over the next few years.

2. Ask participants what they think a typical day is like in the life of a stage or set designer. Give participants the *A Day in the Life of a Stage Designer* worksheet.
3. Have participants complete the column about what they already know and what they would like to know about a career as a stage designer.
4. Play a video about stage or set designers. Here are a few to choose from, but there are many more:

[Tips in 60 seconds... How to get into set design - YouTube](#)

[Working In The Theatre: Scenic Design - YouTube](#)

[What I Do: Scenic Design with Deb Sivigny - YouTube](#)

[Set Design, Film And Theatre - Why Is Production Design So Amazing? - YouTube](#)

It may be useful to preview the *Day in the Life of a Stage Designer* worksheet before watching the video. Have them complete the third column identifying what they have learned in the video clips.

5. After the video is done, go through the *A Day in the Life of a Stage Designer* worksheet and ask participants to share answers.

A Day in the Life of a Stage Designer

Notes Page

Directions: Identify what you already know about being a stage designer, what you want to know, and what you learned during the lesson.

Know	Want to Know	Learned

Lesson Two – Career as a Stage Designer

LEARN: Stage Design Deep Dive

30-45 minutes

Purpose:

The purpose of this activity is to have participants better understand what stage designers do.

Materials:

- *Creating an Infographic: What's the Stage Design Buzz?*
- Internet access

Facilitation Steps:

1. Distribute the *Creating an Infographic: What's the Stage Design Buzz?* worksheet. Explain to participants that they will make a digital infographic about this career field.
2. Share a sample infographic so they understand the look and feel of a typical infographic:
<https://www.pinterest.com/pin/73113193928388058/>
3. Encourage participants to make sure their infographics include the required information. Using color, images, and a unique layout will make the infographic visually appealing for others.
4. Have participants print and post their infographics in a conspicuous location for use during the REVIEW part of the lesson. Allow time for participants to view their peers' infographics.

Creating an Infographic: What's the Stage Designer Buzz?

What is an infographic?

An infographic is a collection of pictures, charts, and text that gives an easy-to-understand overview of this occupation.

As you prepare to make your infographic digitally, use the internet to research the following information:

- ☐ Career as a stage designer
- ☐ Education requirements
- ☐ Primary duties/responsibilities
- ☐ Professional organizations
- ☐ Work environment

Other requirements:

- ☐ At least one image or chart
- ☐ Neatness
- ☐ Use of some color
- ☐ Creative layout
- ☐ Large enough fonts ease of reading information

Lesson Two – Career as a Stage Designer

REVIEW: Reflection

20 minutes

Purpose:

Participants will reflect on what they have learned about being a stage designer and decide if this career is or is not a field for them to consider.

Materials:

- *Being a Stage Designer Is/Is Not the Career Field for Me*
- Infographics created and posted by participants in the LEARN portion of the lesson

Facilitation Steps:

1. Distribute the *Being a Stage Designer Is/Is Not the Career Field for Me* worksheet.
2. Instruct participants to review *Being a Stage Designer Is/Is Not the Career Field for Me*. As participants walk through the gallery and look at different participants' infographics, they will respond to facts they observe on the infographic.

Based on the number of participants/infographics to review, provide about 15 minutes for this activity.

3. Once participants have completed *Being a Dental Hygienist Is/Is Not the Career Field for Me*, provide an opportunity for them to discuss what they recorded in each section of the worksheet.
4. Allow participants to share their thoughts about a career in stage or set design before wrapping up this lesson. Specific questions might include: What would you enjoy? What would you find the most challenging?

Being a Stage Designer Is/Is Not the Career Field for Me

Directions: Record information from the infographics in the spaces provided. Circle in the title if this career is or is not for you.

This is interesting!	Shocking Info?!?!?!?	Is this for real?
I want to know more about this:	This sounds like something I would like:	I am not too sure about this:
I have a question:	I want to remember this:	Other (you choose):

Lesson Three – Home Staging Coordinator

Lesson Overview

A home staging coordinator is an interior designer who helps people stage their homes and prepare them for viewings by potential buyers. Their duties include making the living space as appealing as possible, incorporating current design trends into the home, and installing furniture and staging decorations. Understanding what being a home staging coordinator is like is the focal point for this lesson.

Lesson Objectives

After completing this lesson, participants will be able to:

- Define what a home staging coordinator does
- Identify typical job duties performed by home staging coordinators on the job

Lesson at a Glance

Activity	Materials	Preparation	Approximate class time
FOCUS	• Home staging videos • <i>Pros and Cons</i> worksheet	1. Print/photocopy the <i>Pros and Cons</i> worksheet (one per participant). 2. Prepare to share videos.	15-25 minutes
LEARN	• <i>Home Staging Coordinator for a Day</i> worksheet • Internet access	1. Print/photocopy the <i>Home Staging Coordinator for a Day</i> worksheet (one per participant).	20-30 minutes
REVIEW	• <i>Home Staging Coordinator Investigation Station</i> worksheet	1. Print/photocopy the <i>Home Staging Coordinator Investigation Station</i> worksheet (one per participant).	20 minutes

Lesson Three – Home Staging Coordinator

FOCUS: Home Staging Coordinator vs. Interior Designer – How Different Can It Be?

15-25 minutes

Purpose:

This lesson will take a look at what it is like to work as a home staging coordinator versus an interior design professional.

Materials:

- Home staging coordinator videos
- *Pros and Cons*

Facilitation Steps:

1. Share these statistics with the participants via this video:

<https://homestagingresource.com/home-staging-career-outlook/>

There is strong demand for home stagers that continues to grow, making it a good career choice for the future. From the publicity that home stagers are getting to the competitive housing market and reports on home stagers being a growing career, the need for home stagers is clear.

2. Ask participants how they think being a home staging coordinator differs from being an interior designer.
3. Distribute the *Pros and Cons* worksheet.
4. Play one or more of the following videos about home staging:

[How I Started My Home Staging Business - YouTube](#)

[How to Become A Home Stager with No Inventory #shorts - YouTube](#)

[Your First Home Staging Job Checklist - YouTube](#)

It may be helpful to preview the *Pros and Cons* worksheet before watching the video.

5. After the video is done, go through the *Pros and Cons* worksheet and ask participants to share answers.

Lesson Three – Career as a Home Staging Coordinator

LEARN: Home Stager for a Day

20-30 minutes

Purpose:

The purpose of this activity is to have participants better understand what it is like to be a home staging coordinator on a typical workday.

Materials:

- *Home Staging Coordinator for a Day*
- Internet access

Facilitation Steps:

1. Distribute the *Home Staging Coordinator for a Day* worksheet.
2. Explain to participants that, using the internet and their knowledge, they will create a detailed journal for what their day might be like.
3. Encourage participants to make sure their detailed journal entries contain accurate information for working as a home stager.
4. If time allows, share a video on a day in the life of a home stager:

[A DAY IN THE LIFE OF A HOME STAGER | MAY STAGING & DESIGN - YouTube](#)

[A Day in the Life of a Home Stager: Foxy TV Episode 89 - YouTube](#)

5. Divide participants into groups of four and have them discuss their detailed journal entries.

Home Staging Coordinator for a Day

Use the space provided to record the details of your day as a home stager. Use personal knowledge and internet research to make your journal sound as interesting and accurate as possible.

Time	Activity	My Reaction

Lesson Three – Career as a Home Staging Coordinator

REVIEW: Reflection

20 minutes

Purpose:

Participants will reflect on the different careers in home staging. They will complete a short research project to learn more about a working as a home staging coordinator.

Materials:

- *Home Staging Coordinator Investigation Station*

Facilitation Steps:

1. Distribute the *Home Staging Coordinator Investigation Station* worksheet.
2. Instruct participants to complete a short research project to learn more about a home staging career path.
3. Once participants have completed the *Hone Staging Coordinator Investigation Station* worksheet, have them discuss what they recorded in each worksheet section.
4. Allow participants to share their thoughts about a career as a home stager before wrapping up this lesson. Specific questions can be: What would you find most interesting? What would be the most challenging for you?
5. If time allows, share additional videos on careers in home staging.

[Day in the Life of a Home Stager : De-Stage Day! - YouTube](#)

[Business Owner Day In The Life of a Home Stager - YouTube](#)

Home Staging Coordinator Investigation Station

Directions: Use the internet to research more about a career as a home staging coordinator.

Choose the type of home staging setting you would find more desirable to work in: 1. For a real estate company 2. As an entrepreneur for your own business	Job Description (list at least 3 requirements): 1. 2. 3. 4. 5.
Required Training:	Job Outlook - What Does the Future Look Like?