

Industrial Design College Considerations

What to think about when choosing an ID Program

Check what matters to you

*** TYPE OF SCHOOL**

- Private School
- State School
- Small University
- Large University
- All women's college
- Ivy League
- National Association of Schools of Art and Design (NASAD) accredited

*** DEGREE OFFERED**

- Associates Degree of Industrial Design
- Bachelors of Science (B.S.) of Industrial Design
- Bachelors of Fine Art (B.F.A.) of Industrial Design
- Bachelors Degree in Specific Design Field (automotive, furniture, etc)
- Masters of Science (M.S.) of Industrial Design
- Masters of Fine Art (M.F.A.) of Industrial Design
- Masters Degree in Specific Design Field (automotive, furniture, etc)
- Minor in Industrial Design
- Minor in related design field
- Minor in related engineering field
- Minor in related human sciences or research field
- Certificate or Continuing Education in Industrial Design
- Alternative Design intensive program (non 4-year college, see Educational Alternatives Section)

*** AMENITIES & OFFERINGS**

- Study Abroad opportunities
- OPT visa acceptance
- Offers pre-college courses for high school students
- Offers summer courses

- Specialized prototyping facilities
- Small class sizes
- Study groups, tutors, and assistance for learning differences
- Accessible for students with disabilities
- Remote learning offered
- Ability to have an undeclared major
- On campus access to mental health and wellness support
- Personal access to an academic advisor
- Independent study offerings

*** PROGRAM THAT IS SELECTIVE/RESTRICTIVE**

- Requires portfolio to apply to the program
- Program has a review or down selection after a period of time in order to continue
- Program requires internships
- Selective admission, guaranteed job placements upon graduation
- Program requires graduating in 4-6 years

*** ID COMMUNITY**

- School has an IDSA student chapter
- Area has an IDSA professional chapter
- Companies that employ designers near the school
- Local community has networking events for designers
- Alumni are active with the university

*** PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE**

- Internship opportunities
- Co-ops built into the curriculum
- Company-sponsored projects

*** SPECIAL INTEREST CLASSES & MINORS**

- Furniture design
- Service Design
- Transportation Design

- Footwear design
- Color, material, finish design
- User experience design
- Entrepreneurship
- Interaction design
- Design for sustainability
- Business management

*** UNIVERSITY STAFF**

- Educators of ID are practicing design professionals
- Educators of ID regularly publish research, speak, and write about design
- Educators of ID are leaders within IDSA
- Classes have professors instead of only teach assistants

*** DIVERSITY OF STUDENTS & EDUCATORS**

- ID classmates & educators that are diverse in gender
- ID classmates & educators are diverse in race & ethnicity
- ID classmates & educators that are international
- School has groups and support of diverse communities (WID, LBGTQIA, and more)
- School is an HCBU (look for enrollment to start in Jan 2022 at the first design HCBU: Pensole Lewis in De
- I value other aspects of diversity not listed here

*** LOCATION & LIVING**

- Rural
- Suburban
- Urban
- Does not require a car for basic living
- Is close to a major airport
- Is near my family
- Is international to where I live now
- Has several campuses
- Offers campus housing
- Allows commuter students
- Has night and/or flexible class times so that I can work while going to school

*** LENGTH & CADENCE OF PROGRAM**

- 2 year
- 4 year
- 5 year
- Intensive mutli-week

*** FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS**

- Scholarships offered
- In-state tuition pricing
- Jobs on campus that can support funding
- Program that gives flexibility for working while going to school
- Financial assistance available
- Computer labs and technology available, so that you don't have to supply your own
- Assistance that covers supplies and hardware for classes
- No car needed for daily life
- Low cost if travel is needed to visit friends & family

*** LIFESTYLE**

- School where all students are studying creative fields
- Multi-disciplinary schools with large range of studies
- School is in an area with many colleges nearby
- Sports, sororities, clubs, and other groups for building community
- School guided by religious principles
- A college town
- A major city
- Many extra-curricular activities
- Very safe campus with safety policies and procedures
- A recognizable school name where you meet alumni everywhere you go
- Access to off campus housing that won't break the bank

*** EDUCATIONAL ALTERNATIVES**

- Most ID jobs require a degree in Industrial Design as a prerequisite. However, there are programs that give you skills without a 4 year+ degree. Offsite is a 12-week online course taught by design professionals and could be a good place to start. For specific industries such as footwear design there are intensive learning programs such as Adidas S.E.E.D. in partnership with Pensole.