IDFX
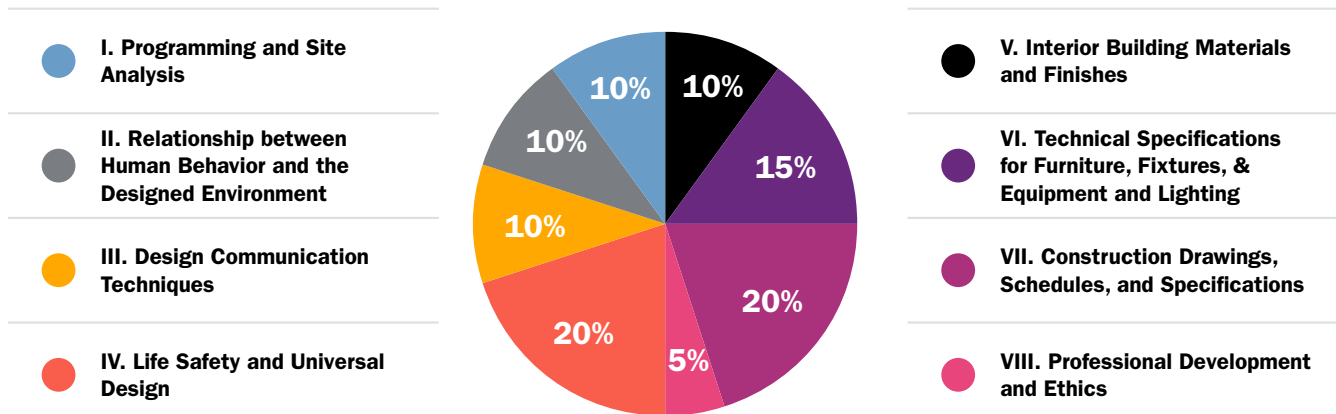## Interior Design Fundamentals Exam

- 3 hours
- 125 questions
- Multiple Choice

The **Interior Design Fundamentals Exam (IDFX)** focuses on the concepts and principles of interior design with an emphasis on Health, Safety and Welfare. Candidates eligible for the IDFX includes students (in their final year of a Bachelor's or Master's in Interior Design degree program), recent graduates and emerging professionals with an applicable interior design degree. The IDFX exam covers competencies in: programming and site analysis; relationship between human behavior and the designed environment; design communication techniques; life safety and universal design; interior building materials and finishes; technical specifications for furniture, fixtures, & equipment and lighting; construction drawings, schedules and specifications; and professional development and ethics.

- **I. Programming and Site Analysis**
- **II. Relationship between Human Behavior and the Designed Environment**
- **III. Design Communication Techniques**
- **IV. Life Safety and Universal Design**
- **V. Interior Building Materials and Finishes**
- **VI. Technical Specifications for Furniture, Fixtures, & Equipment and Lighting**
- **VII. Construction Drawings, Schedules, and Specifications**
- **VIII. Professional Development and Ethics**

Pie chart: 10%, 10%, 15%, 20%, 5%, 20%, 10%, 10%

I. Programming and Site Analysis
10%

Demonstrate appropriate use of:

- **analysis tools** (e.g., spreadsheets, site photographs, matrices, bubble diagrams, graphs, behavioral based analytics)

Demonstrate understanding of:

- **research methods** (e.g., observations, interviewing, surveying, case studies, benchmarking, precedent studies)
- **the site context** (e.g., location, views, solar orientation, zoning, historical information, constraints, change of use, transportation)

II. Relationship between Human Behavior and the Designed Environment
10%

Demonstrate understanding of:

- **human factors** (e.g., ergonomics, anthropometrics, proxemics, psychological, physiological, social)
- **universal design** (e.g., accessibility, ability level, inclusivity, special needs, aging population, bariatric, pediatric)
- **contextual influences** (e.g., environmental and ecological, social, cultural, aesthetic, hierarchy of needs)

Demonstrate knowledge of:

- **sensory considerations** (e.g., acoustics, lighting, visual stimuli, color response, scent, tactile, thermal comfort)

III. Design Communication Techniques
10%

Ability to apply:

- **data and research** (e.g., charts, infographics, analytics)
- **conceptual diagrams** (e.g., parti diagrams, bubble diagrams, adjacency matrices)
- **planning diagrams** (e.g., stacking/zoning diagrams, block plans/square footage allocations)

IV. Life Safety and Universal Design
20%

Demonstrate understanding of:

- **life safety** (e.g., egress, fire separation, fire-rated partitions and doors, and A/V alarms location coordination)
- **universal design** (e.g., inclusive design, accessible design)

V. Interior Building Materials and Finishes
10%

Demonstrate understanding of:

- **textiles** (e.g., types, testing standards and codes, applications, installation methods, estimating, technical specifications)
- **floor coverings** (e.g., types, transitions, testing standards and codes, applications, installation methods, estimating, slip resistance, technical specifications)
- **wall treatments** (e.g., types, testing standards and codes, applications, installation methods, estimating, technical specifications)
- **window treatments** (e.g., types, testing standards and codes, applications, installation methods, estimating, technical specifications)
- **ceiling treatments** (e.g., types, testing standards and codes, applications, installation methods, estimating, technical specifications)
- **acoustical products** (e.g., types, testing standards and codes, applications, installation methods, estimating, technical specifications)
- **wayfinding and signage** (e.g., types, testing standards and codes, applications, installation methods, estimating, technical specifications)

VI. Technical Specifications for Furniture, Fixtures, & Equipment and Lighting
15%

Demonstrate understanding of:

- **life safety elements** (e.g., flammability, toxicity, slip resistance, accessibility and egress clearances, fixed and loose furniture, indoor air quality, code compliance)
- **sustainability and environmental impact** (e.g., recyclability, cradle to cradle, embodied energy, carbon footprint, material sourcing, ratings and certifications)
- **materials and technical specifications** (e.g., color fastness, abrasion resistance, cleanability, reference standards, ANSI/BIFMA)
- **light fixture selection and specification** (e.g., general, accent and task lighting; color temperature, color rendering, lamp types, energy load)

VII. Construction Drawings, Schedules, and Specifications
20%

Demonstrate understanding of:

- **code required information** (e.g., egress, accessibility, specialty codes, fire/life safety, occupancy, plumbing calculations)
- **appropriate measuring conventions** (e.g., scale, unit of measure, dimensioning)
- **construction drawing standards** (e.g., annotations, hatch patterns, line types, symbols, north arrow, section cuts, cross referencing)

Understand and develop:

- **general information sheets** (e.g., general conditions and notes, drawing index, legend, symbols, location, consultant, contact information)
- **demolition plans**
- **floor plans** (e.g., partition plan, construction plan, dimension plan)
- **reflected ceiling and/or lighting plans** (e.g., supplies, returns, ceiling types, heights, monitoring and detection devices, switching, controls)
- **furniture plans**
- **finish plans**
- **elevations, sections, and details** (e.g., partition types, enlarged plans, custom details and assemblies)
- **power, data, and communication plans**
- **schedules** (e.g., finish, equipment, plumbing, lighting, door, window, hardware, accessories)
- **millwork** (e.g., construction techniques, coordination with Furniture, Fixtures, & Equipment, and utilities, substrates, shop drawings, material selection, accessibility)

VIII. Professional Development and Ethics
5%

Demonstrate understanding of:

- **professional ethics** (e.g., code of ethics, consumer protection, health, safety, welfare, social responsibility)
- **professional development** (e.g., professional organizations, continuing education)

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