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

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

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)