

Course Parameters for Design Studies

Facilities

Some courses in the Design Studies scope and sequence can be delivered in a typical classroom setting. Refer to Attachment 4: CTS without Labs in this appendix. Others require access to more specialized in-school and off-campus facilities, such as:

- science, design, construction, fabrication and mechanics laboratories
- observation and training sites sponsored by relevant industry, government and/or post-secondary agencies
- resource centres equipped with computer hardware/software and audio-visual material.

Also desirable, though not essential, are instructional facilities that have:

- water and sinks
- whiteboards/bulletin boards
- fresh air and fume extraction
- an exterior exit
- telephone/data line service.

The type of facility and equipment required for the Design Studies strand is determined by the nature and scope of the program offered. Programs emphasizing the drafting component of the strand require computers with CAD—Computer Assisted Design—software and associated printers/plotters and/or drafting tables with drafting machines. The two-dimensional design courses can be taught using drafting or art tables with a set of design materials and/or using computers with graphic design software. Three-dimensional design at the intermediate and advanced levels requires specialized hand and power tools appropriate for the materials being used in designing. The facility might require specialized power outlets, dust and fume extraction and access to water. Given these parameters, a reasonable Design Studies program could be provided in existing Industrial Arts multiple activity lab, Fine Arts lab or drafting facility.

Courses that require access to facilities in addition to those present in a typical classroom setting are identified in the Course Parameters. For more information, see the corresponding course in Sections D, E and F of the *Guide to Standards and Implementation*.

Equipment

A recommended equipment list is provided in the course parameters chart. Though not exhaustive, the list identifies equipment recommended as necessary to meet the course outcomes.

Teachers may find it desirable to develop a list of additional materials and supplies required for specific learning activities planned within each course.

Safety and Security Considerations

Safety and security issues in Design Studies depend on the scope of the program provided. Safety with respect to the use of equipment, materials and supplies is important in two-dimensional design and three-dimensional design; e.g., machines and tools for cutting, model making. Ergonomic considerations should also be addressed where students work at computers and tables. Security should include power lockouts where power equipment such as a band saw is used in the program. Appropriate security measures should also be adopted for tracking equipment and supplies.

Instructional Qualifications

Courses in Design Studies can be implemented by Alberta Certified Teachers who have interest in providing instruction in classroom, laboratory and/or outdoor environments. A background in art, science, visual communication and/or relevant industry is an asset to those who provide instruction in Design Studies courses, particularly at the intermediate and advanced levels. Teachers may find it desirable to access sources of instructional support available from industry, professional associations and consultants, and relevant government agencies.

Designers are professional creators who solve practical problems through their creations. Teachers of Art, Commercial Art, Industrial Arts, Drafting, and Clothing and Textiles may find a transition into Design Studies relatively easy, as they have had some experience with the content, and perhaps the conceptual framework. Due to the scope of the program, additional training through university, college or technical schools would be beneficial. Formal design training is an advantage.

Credentialing Opportunities

There is no formal articulation to an apprenticeable trade; however, some aspects of Design Studies would support the Graphic Arts Craftsman–Prepress Certification. While the emphasis on problem solving in Design Studies makes it valuable for all trades, occupations and professions, there are no credentialing opportunities identified at this time.

