



OKLAHOMA STATE UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF ARCHITECTURE

Learning Culture

The Learning Culture statement is a positive agreement between students and faculty reflecting a mutual commitment to an effective learning environment. The design studio is a unique learning environment in which all aspects of a student's university experience bear on the solution, practical and aesthetic, of specific problems of the built environment. Ultimately, "studio" represents investment in a body of knowledge, techniques, and abilities upon which the rest of a student's professional life is based, and from which a career is developed.

This statement was adopted in 2010 and last amended in 2014. It is a living and evolving document that will be revisited periodically to better represent the needs of the students, the professors, and the profession.

Education

Diversity of Design Process

Students are encouraged and expected to learn through the exploration and application of many ideas and design processes as directed by professors and by personal investigation. The final product is a tangible representation of a strong concept, clear process, and fully explored idea.

Balance of Courses

The successful practice of Architecture and Architectural Engineering depends on broadly educated professionals. It is important that students give equal emphasis to all courses and relate them to their studio projects. In addition, students have the opportunity to take courses offered outside the School of Architecture. Interdisciplinary study is the foundation of a well-rounded graduate, to be prepared for leadership in the profession and to be able to communicate with clients from many backgrounds and with many interests.

Critiques and Evaluation

In every design studio, course objectives are outlined in the syllabus to define the educational goals for the semester. A clear grading system is provided with each class as a basis for objective and subjective design evaluation. Critiques are an integral means to addressing the educational requirements of a studio course entailing faculty and student collaboration where both parties communicate through clear and constructive feedback to promote design exploration and success. Informal desk critiques occur on a regular basis throughout the course of a design project so students have the opportunity to develop their designs before final evaluations. This process is an integral component of our educational philosophy and allows for continued growth throughout the student's educational career.

Life Long Learning

A positive attitude toward life-long learning is critical for continued success and growth in our education and the profession. Professors and students are encouraged to share their diverse knowledge, ongoing research, and creative investigations with one another through various venues.

Environment

Respect and Diversity

Shared respect in the design studio is important to a healthy learning culture. Students and faculty are expected to approach learning with a mutual respect of each other's rights and personal dignity. This mutual respect for diversity encourages strong relationships in the studio between students and faculty.

Physical Environment

A creative atmosphere is necessary at the Oklahoma State School of Architecture. We have an open design studio which promotes collaboration between individuals. Our large, open spaces are flooded with controlled natural light, where Architecture and Architectural Engineering students from all year levels work side by side. This fosters creativity and optimal student interaction. Students have the opportunity to be an active part of each other's learning experience through open discussions of design problems and research exercises. We believe learning through collaboration and teaching is a valuable method of creative problem solving.

Collaboration

The learning culture celebrates faculty and student collaboration where each is encouraged to share their own ideas and methodologies in order to understand and solve problems to expand the boundaries of design in Architectural and Architectural Engineering. Effective collaboration

between faculty and students depends on good communication, clearly articulated expectations, and constructive project evaluations. The combination of programs in Architecture and Architectural Engineering provides a special opportunity for understanding and collaboration between students and faculty in these respective programs. Students are encouraged to take part in student organizations, where both collaborative and leadership skills can be developed.

Lifestyle

Life and Time Management

While our studio learning environments are time-intensive, students and faculty continuously promote a sound mind and body. Students and professors collaborate to maintain a healthy workload and promote adequate sleeping time, healthy eating habits, and overall well-being through fair course expectations and effective time management. Students are encouraged to develop good time management skills to achieve the best lifestyles possible inside and outside of the design studio, preparing them for the Architecture profession. Alcohol and drug abuse of any kind are not tolerated.

Competitive Spirit

The School of Architecture upholds high standards and expectations. A strong, but respectful, competitive spirit helps the OSU School of Architecture students continue achieving the highest level of success in school and in the profession.