DEPARTMENT OF DESIGN SELECTIVE ADMISSIONS PROCESS

The Department of Design at Ohio State has three accredited professional programs: Industrial Design (IND), Interior Design (INT) and Visual Communication Design (VCD). Because space and the number of permanent faculty in the department limit the number of students who can be admitted, a process has been established to control and balance our incoming class of students each year. We offer an 18 credit Design Foundations Program that all students are required to complete (or to provide evidence of equivalent knowledge) prior to admission into one of our majors. This Design Foundations Program is a lock-step course sequence that begins in Autumn Semester and concludes at the end of the following Spring Semester. Students who complete the Design Foundations Program but are not accepted into one of the majors receive a specific version of the Minor in Design.

The process can be summarized as follows:

1. New prospective first year students interested in becoming a professional designer apply to the university. Upon admission to the university, these students are coded as DESIGN-PRE and their area of interest (IND, INT, and VCD) is also identified for our use. We receive a database of admitted NFYS students from the College of Arts and Sciences Undergraduate Recruitment and Diversity Services on or about May 10th.

2. Students who wish to enter from regional campuses, other majors, or transfer from other institutions are also identified by this date and are added to the data base to be considered as part of the pool of students to be selected for the Design Foundations Program. These students are identified via our “Pre-Design Petition” found at design.osu.edu. NOTE: This petition will soon be renamed the “Design Foundations Petition” upon the implementation of the proposed application/admit plan code process.

3. The Department Chairperson selects the “class” for Design Foundations in consultation with the Undergraduate Academic Advisor on the day the database is received, or the day after. All students are notified by email by the Department of Design by the end of the next day regarding the status of their application; selected or not selected to enroll into the Design Foundations Program.

4. The criteria for selection are:
   a. The class cannot total more than 81 because that is our spatial capacity for Design Foundations.
   b. The class must be divided into approximate thirds by area of interest (IND, INT, and VCD) because students are evaluated for admission into a major at the end of the Design Foundations Program based on academic performance and portfolio. Our capacity is 16 students per major. It is important for each of the majors to have approximately the same number of students to choose from and the department operates on the principle that the majors are equally valued and important.
   c. Class rank and ACT scores are used to determine academic potential for NFYS. GPA is used to prioritize the applications from current OSU major/campus changers and transfer students.

5. Students who are not accepted into the Design Foundations Program retain their DESIGN-PRE plan code until they select a new major. Design Advising notifies these students immediately that they have not been selected and options for other majors are communicated based on the
applicant’s expressed interests and academic history. Our goal is to ensure that they understand that they need to select a new major and to offer support in that endeavor.