

# Design Formation

## Department Overview

The Department of Design Formation offers a two-year, multidisciplinary [Design Formation Diploma](#) that prepares students for further specialized studies or entry-level jobs in fields ranging from visual merchandising to event, graphic, or interior design. The Design Formation diploma is ideal for creative people of all ages and backgrounds, from recent high-school graduates to mature students wishing to update their credentials. The classroom and workshop are close-knit, intimate and collaborative. Faculty are friendly, approachable and knowledgeable about the larger design world.

The Design Formation diploma promotes a comprehensive understanding of the design process and exposes students to various aspects of the field. Students graduate with a diploma and a professional exit portfolio. Equipped with a wide range of practical skills and knowledge, students can choose to enter the workforce at an entry-level position or continue with further studies in design.

## Self-Study

Design Formation launched its program review in academic year 2019/20 with a Self-Study. Marcela Noriega, the Design Formation Assistant Chair, was the primary Self-Study writer. Additional support was provided by:

- Scot Geib (Chair)
- Darren Bernaerd (Division Chair, Creative Arts and Industries)
- Julie Longo (Dean, Faculty of Arts)
- Sunita Wiebe (Director, Office of Academic Quality Assurance)
- Institutional Research analysts

Data sources for the Self-Study included:

- Institutional Research-compiled student administrative data (*e.g.*, headcounts, retention, satisfaction)
- Student survey
- Alumni survey
- Faculty survey
- Employer survey

The Self-Study was completed in February 2020.

## External Review

Design Formation's External Review took place on February 28, 2020. The External Review Team consisted of:

- Eric Stewart, Professional Photography, Langara (External Review Chair)
- Karin Jager, M.Ed., CGD, University of the Fraser Valley
- Toby Barratt, Propellor Design
- Spring Harrison, MEC Senior Designer

## Action Plan Goals

In response to the Self-Study and External Review, Design Formation created an Action Plan with these goals:

- Goal 1: Update Curriculum.

- Goal 2: Evaluate and Modify Learning Outcomes and Assessment.
- Goal 3: Outline Student Paths.
- Goal 4: Evaluate and Plan Resources.
- Goal 5: Assess Industry Relevance and Establish Community Connections.

### Examples of Post-Review Successes

#### **2021/22**

New courses have been approved and implemented.

#### **2022/23**

The first-year courses were reviewed after being offered for the first time and adjustments were made. Second year courses were reviewed before being offered to be sure all instructors were aware of the new learning outcomes and content, including the new instructors.

A “best trajectory” presentation was developed and presented to all students before registration so students could decide what courses they wanted/needed to take, in addition to meeting with part-time students.

Three new instructors were hired to teach the new courses. Storage rooms were cleaned and renovated to make space for the new VR/AR equipment.

A record of 15 guest speakers, some of them members of PAC, came to talk to our students or invited the students for a visit in their offices.

#### **2023/24**

The department developed Micro credentials for UX/UI, reviewed and submitted changes to the program EDCO forms. Admission process was streamlined.