

UCD College of Architecture and Planning Architecture Department Studio Culture Policy

Introduction

Within architectural education the Studio has long played a central role. The studio integrates critical discourse and creative thinking, as well as learning through making. It is both an analytic and synthetic form of education. This complex form of studio education requires serious commitment of students and faculty in terms of time and effort. The studio also requires serious commitment of the institution in terms of the allocation of faculty, of space, and supporting facilities. For these reasons the studio and the culture of the studio is of central importance to faculty, students, and administrators.

Purpose

The purpose of the studio culture policy is to establish a standard of understanding and respectful relationships between faculty and students. It is not intended to address curricula.

Core Value

The studio is intended to be a learning environment that fosters a culture of mutual respect and collaboration between faculty and students, as well as between students and students. This respect and collaboration is fundamental for effective teaching and learning.

Studio Space

In general, it is expected that respect for school equipment and the workspace itself is a basic value. This involves keeping the workspace clean, fire corridors open, and caring for desks and lockers as if they were your own. It is particularly expected that respect and care for any and all student drawings, models, work of any kind is fundamental.

1. Expectations of Students

In general, it is the expectation that students, as adults, take responsibility for their own education and take responsibility for their relationship with other students and faculty within the studio. Therefore, it is expected that:

- 1.1. Students will be prepared for class.
- 1.2. Students will attend class as required.
- 1.3. Students will communicate concerns in a civil and timely manner to Faculty.
- 1.4. Students will perform assigned tasks on time and to the best of their ability.

2. Expectations of Faculty

In general it is the expectation that faculty knowledge and expertise be appropriate for the studio to which they are assigned. Therefore, it is expected that:

- 2.1. Faculty will have the necessary background to teach class and should be prepared for class every day.
- 2.2. Faculty will attend class as required.
- 2.3. Faculty will clearly communicate their ideas and expectations to the students and should post and hold required office hours.
- 2.4. Faculty will be able to demonstrate the skills and concepts that they are teaching in order to provide examples for assigned work. Likewise, course prerequisites are the responsibility of students.

3. Faculty-Student Relations

The attitudes of faculty in studio do much to set the tone for the studio culture. In general, since these are undergraduate and graduate studios, it is expected that faculty recognize their students as adults and treat them with appropriate respect. It is expected that honoring basic interpersonal relationships is fundamental. Therefore it is expected that:

- 3.1. Faculty and students will develop a supportive and collegial atmosphere in the studio.

- 3.2. Faculty and students will recognize each other as adults with unique life experiences committed to participating in the best education possible and treat each other as such.
- 3.3. Faculty will try at all times to give every student equal attention.
- 3.4. Faculty and students will endeavor to get to know each other as individuals and celebrate each other's individuality.
- 3.5. Faculty and the administration will keep all sections of each given studio in the same space in order to promote the exchange of ideas and strategies between sections.

4. Student-Student Relations

The attitudes of students in studio do as much to set the tone for studio culture as the Faculty. It is expected that students recognize their peers as individuals worthy of respect. Therefore, it is expected that:

- 4.1. Students will implement a student-to-student mentoring program to facilitate communication and support between studio levels.
- 4.2. Students will maintain an attitude of mutual respect for one another, each other's work, their working environment and how their actions in studio affect other students' ability to work.
- 4.3. Students will strive always to respect environmental quality.
- 4.4. Students will maintain respect for diversity of all kinds.

5. Workload

Studio work is by its very nature time consuming. However, it is expected that student work assignments would be reasonable given the time available and recognizing that students do have other classes. Therefore it is expected that:

- 5.1. Faculty will maintain reasonable scheduling of assignments.
- 5.2. Faculty will provide syllabi and a schedule of work for the semester in a timely manner and will adhere to them as much as is possible.
- 5.3. Faculty will maintain a reasonable workload, commensurate with the credit hour load of each class.
- 5.4. Faculty will allow students time for reflection and integration between introduction of new material and concepts.

6. Juries

The jury is intended to be a learning environment based upon mutual respect between juror and students. It is expected that work will be carefully and thoroughly critiqued, but that the critique will be directed to the work, not to the character or personhood of the student. Therefore it is expected that:

- 6.1. Faculty will ensure that jurors have adequate knowledge of the studio project before the review begins.
- 6.2. Jurors will have respect for the students and the students' work and will critique the work, not the person.
- 6.3. Juries will be of a reasonable length, not exceeding the time scheduled.
- 6.4. Faculty will provide students with a clear introduction to the structure and desired outcomes of the jury process.

7. Assessment

Assessment is a reality of the university. In general it is expected that the methods and means of assessment is fair and equitable. Therefore it is expected that:

- 7.1. Clear expectations and methodologies of student assessment will be established and communicated in writing.
- 7.2. Assessments and feedback will be provided in a timely manner throughout the semester so that students receive timely guidance on their work.

7.3. Faculty will provide regular, useful and informative feedback during the semester in order to prepare students for jury reviews.

7.4. Faculty will critique the work, not the person.

7.5. Faculty will evaluate both students' knowledge and their technique.

8. Promotion and Maintenance of the Studio Culture Policy

In order to continuously promote and maintain the desired studio culture, this document is expected to be disseminated and maintained on a regular basis. Therefore it is expected that:

8.1. Student government and the administration will convene regular Studio Culture Committee meetings.

8.2. There will be multiple opportunities throughout the semester for feedback on compliance with the policy by both faculty and students.

8.3. There will be an annual Studio Culture Policy Review.

8.4. The Studio Culture Policy will be a component of the syllabi.

8.5. The Studio Culture Policy shall be considered a part of every studio syllabus.

8.6. Disputes concerning failure to adhere to the Studio Culture Policy will be the charge of the Student Affairs Committee and, if not resolved, should be brought to the attention of either the department chair or the student representative. Grade appeals shall be considered under the College Grade Appeal Policy and not the Studio Culture Policy.

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