

CUArch

The Catholic University of America School of Architecture and Planning

Policy on Studio Culture

In keeping with CUArch's mission of *Building Stewardship*, the school's policy on studio culture emphasizes a series of key elements inherent to the school:

1. The faculty, staff and students of CUArch are to be engaged and active citizens within the school, the university, and their community;
2. The faculty, staff and students of CUArch enhance and maintain the quality of life for all members of the CUArch community;
3. The faculty, staff and students of CUArch understand the impacts and consequences of their behaviors and actions; and
4. The faculty, staff and students of CUArch work to uphold an ethical and professional environment for all members of the CUArch community.

Engaged and Active Citizens

A community is a collective group with a shared culture. In order to be successful, a community must balance the rights of individuals with the needs of the collective. The CUArch community is composed of a group of individuals with diverse socioeconomic and cultural backgrounds, as well as varying beliefs, philosophies and viewpoints. Our passion for the study of architecture, however, binds us as a *shared culture* and we strive to instill lifelong learning methods and an overall passion for design and learning.

The full participation of its faculty, staff and students is required to maintain the culture of the CUArch community. A constant and continuing respect for the diversity of opinions, expertise, cultural backgrounds, political perspectives, methods/media, and formal preferences that make the CUArch community vibrant is required of all its members. It is understood that a diversity of ideals and goals among faculty and students is a great asset to the school. The school's success, as well as the individual success of its faculty and students, is a personal responsibility. All members of the CUArch community are expected to:

- Have a respect for others without discrimination as to race, color, religion, gender or sexual orientation
- Take initiative to improve the school
- Lead by example
- Mentor students in earlier stages in the program
- Seek out collaborative opportunities both within and outside of the school
- Take advantage of the cultural and natural resources in the area
- Actively work to enforce studio culture policies

Quality of Life

A successful community requires that each member of the community maintain a positive and healthy lifestyle. Students and faculty who do not maintain a healthy lifestyle cannot fully participate in and contribute to a healthy academic community. To ensure a well-rounded lifestyle, CUArch has the following expectations of its community members:

Faculty:

- Exercise, teach and model effective time management
- Respect the university's desire to develop full, well-rounded citizens
- Respect the non-studio commitments of their students
- Recognize that architectural education is an evolving enterprise and be aware of new models in education
- Encourage students to participate in activities that will broaden their understanding of the world
- Come to studio on-time and prepared to teach
- Use studio time well and equitably among students
- End class on time
- Work with other faculty to develop integrated coursework that reinforces architecture as a holistic discipline
- Respect and work to the overall goals of the studio in the larger context of the curriculum while still maintaining individuality in studio sections

Students:

- Devote sufficient time to non-architecture coursework, as an intensive study of the liberal arts and sciences is fundamental to the study of architecture
- Show up on-time and ready to work
- Use studio time well
- Maximize the value of the studio environment by working in studio

Behaviors and Actions

Maintaining positive and constructive behaviors and actions is vital to the success of any community. The CUArch community is committed to maintaining constructive and respectful relationships between its faculty, staff and students. The exchange of ideas, whether they be in the informal setting of the studio outside of class time, during established studio hours, or during a formally coordinated review, should always be constructive and respectful. The following is expected in the CUArch community:

All:

- Respect the diversity of opinions and beliefs at all times
- Respect and appreciate the diverging design paths that students might take
- Be mindful of how you communicate yourself to others (e.g., verbal and nonverbal communication, the appearance and content of your workspace, etc.) and recognize how your words and actions may be perceived by others
- Conduct themselves in a committed, passionate, open, supportive and respectful way during public reviews of work
- Utilize student reviews as an opportunity to facilitate discussion as well as an occasion to consider differing viewpoints and possibilities

Faculty:

- Respect and adhere to due dates and assigned jury dates/times
- Articulate and adhere to rigorous, explicit grading guidelines and apply them uniformly
- Clearly communicate and adhere to university grading policies
- Clearly communicate the standards of student readiness to proceed to the next level
- Challenge and support students with a wide range of skills, educational backgrounds, disabilities and learning needs
- Inform invited guests and jurors of the expectations of the review
- Reiterate to invited guests the school's commitment to a culture of respect, engagement and professionalism

Students:

- Make clear arguments for their work and present them coherently
- Attend and participate fully in their classmates' reviews
- Submit thoughtful and constructive faculty evaluations
- Adhere to the university's policies on academic dishonesty

Ethical and Professional Environment

A positive working environment is expected for all members of the CUArch community. All public areas of the building should, at all times, be places that are conducive to receiving instruction from faculty, engaging in constructive dialogue with classmates, studying and production of design work. The public spaces include, but are not limited to, studios, classrooms, fabrication and computing labs, and plotting rooms. Additionally, bathrooms and outdoor spaces adjacent to Crough should be maintained in a similar manner. Each member of the community must be considerate of unique working conditions of the Crough Center. To achieve this, CUArch expects the following from its community members:

All:

- Respect for the equipment, work products and work space of others, which prohibits their use without prior permission
- Keep the studio clean on a daily basis by throwing away your own garbage and refuse
- Recycle materials in their proper containers
- Exercise of caution and responsibility for their own safety, as well as that of others

Faculty:

- Consider the material use and natural resource implications of assignments

Students:

- Elimination of noise pollution by the use of headphones at all times
- Plan work in such a way that minimizes the amount of waste generated
- Maintain all public spaces in a professional manner and understand that profane and/or disrespectful postings will not be tolerated.
- Leave the studio better than you found it at the beginning of the semester, which requires students to remove their personal items from the building at the end of every semester

Continuing Assessment of Studio Culture

There are several mechanisms in place to ensure that the policy on studio culture is being embraced and followed within the school:

- School-wide town hall meetings for faculty, staff and students to discuss the policy as a community
- Monthly AIAS & CSI meetings for students to engage in a private and open discussion
- Studio coordinators to ensure goals of studio are being met within the spirit of the policy on studio culture
- Annual strategic planning efforts to reassess and evaluate the school's mission and priorities
- End-of-the-semester course evaluations to assess course goals and faculty performance
- Yearly review of policy by faculty and students