

GENERAL REMINDERS

1. Professors will be responsible to self-jury their students and only submit the best two projects (2) per independently taught class/studio for judging in this competition
2. All final submittals are to be sent to: design4next@gmail.com All submittals are due by December 11th.
3. Submittals must be in PDF format and be **no greater than 20MB in file size** (no min/max on number of pages)
4. As a reminder, all student participants must be currently registered as juniors or seniors in their design program, or in a 5-year master's program where there is no bachelor's degree offered or a master's program where the students have no bachelor's degree in design or other previous design experience.
5. Students must submit an entry as an individual, not as part of a team.
6. ALL updated plans and program information are posted on our competition website: www.steelcase.com/design4next Please make sure you have downloaded the latest information.
7. All questions must be submitted by October 4th and all questions must be submitted to: design4next@steelcase.com
8. Each student participating MUST individually register no later than October 4th to be considered eligible. Students can register by going to this link: [NEXT Registration link](#)

(FINAL) QUESTIONS + ANSWERS – Questions submitted through October 4, 2019

Q: The Revit file only shows one column in the open space on the 11th floor, however the PDF floor plan shows two columns. Which plan should students use for column location?

A: If the Revit file is showing only one column in the open space on the 11th floor, this must have been an oversight by our Revit team when they built this file. There should be (2) columns in the open as shown on both the AutoCAD file and PDF.

Q: Computer lab: is this to be a teaching classroom with a traditional scenario of a teacher at the front so everyone can see the instructor's screen? Or is it just a student resource where they can go use a computer un-supervised.

A: There would be an instructor; however, do not assume that the instructor must be fixed at the front of the room.

Q: Does the multi-purpose room need to be broken into two equal spaces?

A: NO, they do not have to be equal.

Q: Can the tutoring space be split within the floor area or even across the two floors?

A: Yes, if this meets your students design intent; however, combined they must meet the stated requirements.

Q: Please verify - the entire floor with the Large Active Learning should be classified IBC Occupancy of "A" for Assembly, due to above 50 occupancy?

A: The room labeled (Large Active Multi-Purpose Classroom) should be classified as "A".

Q: Please verify - the entire floor that does not have the Large Active Learning Center should be classified Occupancy of "E" for Education, due to below 50 occupancy? Or "B" for Business?

A: Everything other than (Large Active Multi-Purpose Classroom) should be classified as "B" for the purposes of this hypothetical client and competition.

Q: If we follow the egress codes (ICC, NFPA) for this space and use the half-diagonal rule, it appears that we need another egress stairs that are appropriately distant from the existing stairs shown on the drawing. I would like to confirm this as a requirement, please.

A: You **do not** have to follow IBC (International Building Code) 'A' code for Assembly over 50 occupants, but that it is okay instead to assume you should use the half-diagonal rule for under 50 occupants and follow basic egress codes for Education.

Even though the multi-purpose Active Learning Classroom is for 60 occupants, we will approve layouts that have the half-diagonal egress rule when the space is fully open.

Although the space may technically require another stairway, we are intentionally waiving this requirement and won't count it against you if you do not design one in.

Please note, this is for a fictitious client and a hypothetical program in an existing location. Each year, the floor plans we provide have their own opportunities and challenges. In reality, you would follow strict codes and guidelines but we will waive this specific to assembly for this competition.

Q: Most of our questions have been answered in the three previous Q+A distributions. However, one question we still have is based on staffing. Although there is not a required reception, it still seems that a few permanent staff areas might be needed for the project. For example, the Hourly Childcare space would most certainly need to have constant staffing. Other areas such as the Computer Lab and/or the Makerspace could also have staffing. Often in educational settings there are graduate assistants or lab technicians that can assist users in these types of spaces. Are there any programmatic requirements for staff or is this something we should develop with the students on our own?

A: Your students are not required to add this additional staffing; however, they are more than welcome to add this into their solution (and story-telling) if it meets their design intent. The evaluation criteria will be based on the program requirements.

Q: Is the Revit file that is provided on a structural template or an architectural template?

A: The file is created under architectural template.

Q: With reference to the NIC spaces in the addendum, we understand that we cannot include these areas as program space. However, we are hoping that that we can extend our proposed colours and materials into these areas where they form part of the overall space. For example, the flooring that we choose can extend in front of the elevators, washrooms and stairs. This becomes relevant for perspectives at the entrances to the Hub. Please confirm.

A: This is absolutely permissible and we agree that it would be very relevant for your perspectives as long as it is only finishes and materials and not spaces that are program requirements.

Q: I have an additional question regarding to the NIC area. Could you please review the plans below? Is the first blue area in the left plan shows correct NIC area? Or should we not touch the entire corner as shown on the right? See plans below.

A: Sorry for any confusion. The NIC area was shown as a square; however, your representation on the left is the accurate NIC area. The in-contract area is everything outside of what is represented in the left image.



Q: Can we remove the "existing closet" in the South Eastern corner of the 10th floor, or does it need to remain? In the addendum materials it looks drawn on, and there are no dimensions provided. It is also not included in the Revit file.

A: No, that must remain. Unfortunately, this closet was not in the Revit file; however, it is part of the build condition and in the NIC area.

Q: Does the Learning Commons need to be directly off of elevators? Or can it be pushed back further into the space if it makes sense for our concept?

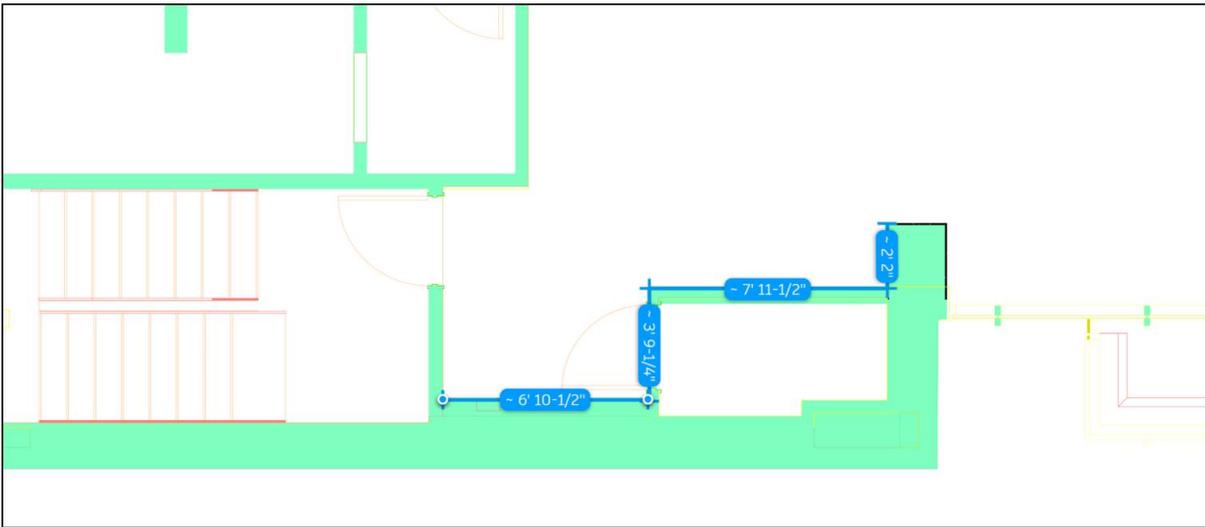
A: It does not need to be directly off the elevators. You may also want to review the Q+A from 9/27/19 regarding a Learning Commons question.

Q: Can existing patio/balcony doors be moved?

A: NO, these doors must remain where they are located.

Q: Could you please give dimensions for the existing closet on 10th floor (shown in Addendum No1)?

A: Here are the dimensions (see below):



Q: What is considered a classroom (ie the immersive learning room)?

A: Immersive learning spaces are highly interactive – both physically and virtually. These spaces are used to replicate scenarios, teach specific skills/techniques and allow for role play or other simulations to occur. This is an environment that may use game-based learning, simulations, and/or virtual 3D experiences. They are distinguished from a traditional classroom by the ability for students to simulate realistic scenarios and have an opportunity to practice new skills while interacting with others.

Q: Is the makerspace shared by multiple classrooms or is it dedicated for one class a semester?

A: The makerspace is meant to be shared between all classrooms within this learning environment; therefore, not dedicated or owned. Because fabrication and making is the primary use of this space, it is a place where students can go to bring their ideas to life and is adjacent to other in-between spaces.

Q: What is the definition of the in-between learning spaces?

A: In-between learning spaces are non-classroom environments that can be used as informal areas for learning. These spaces are often lounges, hallways, and other transition spaces. Because learning should happen everywhere, look for opportunities to leverage valuable spaces on the floor plan by transforming in-between areas into flexible learning spaces for individuals and groups. These spaces should give students more choice and control over where and how they learn.

QUESTIONS + ANSWERS – Questions submitted through September 27, 2019

Q: On the CAD drawing there is a closet near the stairs on the 10th floor but it is not on the Revit drawing. Which one is correct?

A: Sorry about any discrepancies in these two files. Please refer to the PDF documents of the floorplans we provided. The drawings should match the PDFs.

Q: Adjacency for In-between Learning Spaces states "one next to all classrooms" but in programming for the small seminar classrooms it says "none" when it comes to adjacency.

A: We apologize for this discrepancy. We responded to a similar question earlier this week and here is our response that will be published in our weekly Q+A communication:

The in-between learning space should be next to all classrooms. They can be shared between classrooms if sized appropriately.

Q: Learning Commons does not need to be contiguous and can be broken up to meet design intent. It also states it needs to be near outdoor space. Is the small balcony on the 11th floor considered outdoor space? If yes, could we have part of the Learning Commons on the 10th and the rest on the 11th?

A: Yes, both balconies on the 10th and 11th floors are considered outdoor spaces. If breaking up the Learning Commons between floors meets your design intent, that is permitted as long as the stated requirements are met in total between floors. In the real built condition, there is a step up that requires a ramp to the outside balconies for ADA; however, for the purposes of this competition you can make an assumption that condition doesn't exist for access to the balconies.

Q: In the submission guidelines reflected ceiling plan is required for active learning classroom, learning commons and large active multi-purpose classroom however in the programming only the learning commons requires RCP.

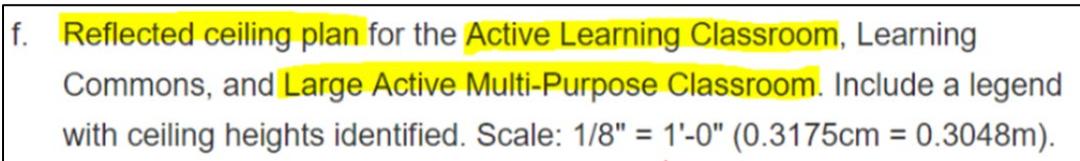
A: Sorry about the confusion here. Please see our response to a similar question earlier this week that will be published in our weekly Q+A communication. Here is our response:

Sorry for the confusion we created here. We overlooked a few typographical errors. The Active Learning Classroom, Learning Commons, and Large Active Multi-Purpose Classroom are the spaces where a RCP is required per the statement in the (Contest Background and Judging Criteria) document. [Disregard the reference to the Faculty Open Collaboration Hub](#) – no RCP is needed for this space. Therefore, to confirm, the only three required spaces for RCP are: Active Learning Classroom, Learning Commons, and Large Active Multi-Purpose Classroom.

Q: NEXT team: P. 16 states slab-to-slab height shall be 9'-9", so should we plan on a 9' ceiling for both the 10th and 11th floors?

A: The slab to slab dimension for both floors is 9'-9" for both floors and the unfinished condition can be seen in the photos provided in the Q+A document provided – in the section from questions through 9.13.19. Those are the dimensions your students should work from and anything added (mechanical, electrical, plumbing, HVAC, lighting, drop ceilings, raised flooring, etc.) would need to take place between those dimensions.

Q: Here is a screenshot from the Contest Background and Judging Criteria that lists what submissions must include:

A screenshot of a document with a black border. The text inside is highlighted in yellow. It reads: "f. Reflected ceiling plan for the Active Learning Classroom, Learning Commons, and Large Active Multi-Purpose Classroom. Include a legend with ceiling heights identified. Scale: 1/8" = 1'-0" (0.3175cm = 0.3048m)." data-bbox="118 671 783 748"/>

f. Reflected ceiling plan for the Active Learning Classroom, Learning Commons, and Large Active Multi-Purpose Classroom. Include a legend with ceiling heights identified. Scale: 1/8" = 1'-0" (0.3175cm = 0.3048m).

Hopefully this clarifies things.

A: Sorry for the confusion we created here. We overlooked a few typographical errors. The Active Learning Classroom, Learning Commons, and Large Active Multi-Purpose Classroom are the spaces where a RCP is required per the statement in the (Contest Background and Judging Criteria) document. [Disregard the reference to the Faculty Open Collaboration Hub](#) – no RCP is needed for this space. Therefore, to confirm, the only three required spaces for RCP are: Active Learning Classroom, Learning Commons, and Large Active Multi-Purpose Classroom.

Q: What is the total required square footage of both the open and closed spaces combined for the tutoring center and how is this square footage broken down into open and closed spaces?

A: Sorry for the confusion we created here and not being more descriptive/explicit. The total SF for ALL SIX of these spaces (open and closed) combined is the range of 400 – 500SF. All of these combined would support 12 people with the intention of each space being for (2 people – ie: one on one conversations). Three would be open and three would be closed for more sensitive conversations or where more concentration is needed.

Q: Are we required to design the terrace on the 10th floor?

A: NO. However, as mentioned in Learning Commons (adjacency reference), an option is to consider leveraging the outdoor space if that meets your design intent.

Q: The programming requirements state that there needs to be 1 in-between learning space next to all classrooms; however, only the active learning classroom, makerspace, computer lab and large active multi-purpose classroom have adjacencies listed as "next to in-between open learning space" and "next to in-between space". Do the small seminar classrooms also need to be next to in-between learning spaces? (Also for clarification "in-between open learning space" and "in-between space" are the same thing?)

A: The in-between learning space should be next to all classrooms. They can be shared between classrooms if sized appropriately.

Q: Some requirements are listed in the Programming Information; however, they are not reflected in the judging criteria submission requirements and vice versa. In the Programming Information, it says that RCPs are not required for the active learning classroom and large active multi-purpose classroom; however, they are listed in the submission requirements. Additionally, the Programming Information says that an RCP is required for the faculty open connection hub; however, it is not listed in the submission requirements.

A: See answer provided above regarding our oversight and what is correct regarding this.

QUESTIONS + ANSWERS – Questions submitted through September 20, 2019

Q: Based on the programming requirements there is presently not listed a reception desk area. Should there be one or is it assumed that this will be a part of the Entry area or is this assumed that the main floor entrance near the elevator will suffice?

A: For the purposes of this competition, a reception desk area is not a requirement based on the assumption a reception and information center is provided on the first floor of the building. If your program requirements for design projects need your students to design a reception area or if that meets their individual design intent, they are more than welcome to incorporate one. If they do decide to incorporate a reception/concierge area a few considerations should be having it close to the entry/elevator as well as the learning commons and resource center and not be greater than 80 SF. Again, this is permitted but not required.

Q: Can you comment on the greater Next University culture? We know the culture of Next Hub specifically, but we are looking for more context of how Next University relates to this. We would like to know information regarding Next's student body (enrollment, student age, traditional/non-traditional) the university itself (physical location if any, or online, majors offered/specialties), and overall culture and how the university functions.

A: As a reminder, NEXT is a fictitious university. Your students should focus specifically on the culture as we have described for the NEXT HUB as that is the most relevant information and what is needed most for this competition. We do not believe the additional information has much relevance for this competition – especially since it is a fictitious client; however, if your students view this as necessary here is additional information for context. Again, this is fictitious information.

Established in 1923, NEXT University empowers students in their pursuit of learning, discovery, leadership and engagement. Located just outside Washington D.C., our premier Tier One campus provides students with cutting edge programs including undergraduate, graduate, doctoral, distance and continuing education. Ranked among the best colleges in America, NEXT is home to award-winning faculty, innovative research centers, has one of the most diverse student populations in the nation, and alumni who have become international leaders.

A global leader in research, entrepreneurship and innovation, NEXT University is home to more than 39,000 students, 2,300 faculty, and 300,000 alumni all dedicated to the pursuit of fearless ideas. Twelve colleges and schools make up the academic areas at NEXT University and offer more than 150 undergraduate degrees, 100 graduate degrees, and 50 doctoral degrees. NEXT University prepares students to envision their future, emerge as leaders and launch careers that transform the world.

Q: My students are developing client branding and came up with a question. Should the project client/ title be 'NEXT university' or 'NEXT Hub'?

A: For this competition, please brand it as NEXT HUB which is the client for this project.

Q: So in the previous questions. A question was asked about cutting through the 10th floor to go through the 11th floor. The answer was that there are those structural columns that have to be there and cannot be moved. So my question is just to clarify, that we can still cut through the floor but build around the structural columns. Is that correct?

A: Yes, you may cut through as long as columns and caps remain intact. However, as stated, this is optional and not mandatory.

Q: On the submission guidelines it asks for high quality images of furniture, finish materials and lighting placed on our digital boards. Can these be submitted as an FF&E schedule? Typically pictures in a schedule are smaller and not as detailed, would you like larger images that are coded detailing FF&E per area?

A: There is no required way to represent this. I would encourage your students to review the examples from last year's winner and semifinalists to see how they executed these as inspiration – however, there is no specific way we are asking. Reminder, this is a competition and judges will review with their eyes first.

Q: Are there any requirements/restrictions regarding plumbing or HVAC? Example: It must be within so many feet of an exterior wall. All plumbing must tie into the south wall. Etc.

A: The only requirements would be local building codes and guidelines.

Q: Are we designing anything for the exterior the building?

A: NO

Q: Is the empty room a room I can use or does it already have a use?

A: Please refer to addendum in resources section on website for what is available for space design and what is not in contract (NIC)

Q: Are we able to adjust any of the square footages given for the rooms provided, so that the rooms can be adjusted to our floorplan and design arrangement?

A: They may be adjusted to increase; however, no smaller than minimum size or low end of range is permitted. Please remember this applies to all required spaces.

Q: Are we able to design a custom element, custom furniture or receptionist desk? Or Can we only use the furniture from Steelcase?

A: Yes, custom furniture may be built; however, it should not exceed more than 20% of the space. Please attempt to use Steelcase brands or partners wherever possible.

Q: Are we able to add windows to the floor plan or specify a window design?

A: Interior windows, yes. Exterior window, no.

Q: Maybe this is a dumb question, but I saw in the floor plans given there are a couple bathrooms already included; are these bathrooms the ones that certain rooms listed need to be near or are we including additional bathrooms elsewhere in the space when we design it?

A: Yes, these are the bathrooms for the floor and we do not require any additional. If you choose to add a bathroom you may do so at your discretion.

Q: On the classrooms, a minimum square footage is given as well as a minimum amount of students that are going to occupy the space. But for the hourly daycare and for the larger multi-purpose classroom, only a minimum square footage is given. Is there a minimum amount of people that are going to occupy this space? Or is it just the occupant load calculated from the square footage?

A: It is a minimum SF for the other spaces if no occupancy is provided.

Q: Where are the existing stairs that you are removing that we are able to recreate?

A: This is not relevant. The existing stairs provided by building are in place on the plans and must remain. The reference was to an internal connecting staircase that was added in the existing occupied space; however, we removed as to not influence the location or your design and also considering this is merely an option – not required.

Q: How many stairs are exits for egress and which ones do not need to be designated as an egress?

A: ALL existing stairs are used for egress.

Q: Where are the doors that lead to the balcony?

A: The location of the doors are clearly identified on the PDFs for 10th and 11th floors.

Q: Are we able to put the required spaces in the existing rooms near the entry? For example, can we put the children's play area in one of those spaces or are they already designated spaces? If so, what are the rooms near the entry for?

A: Please refer to addendum in resources section on website for what is available for space design and what is not in contract (NIC)

Q: Are there existing bathrooms on each floor or will we be required to put those in?

A: Please refer to the plans, PDFs, and addendum. Bathrooms are clearly identified.

Q: Can the stairs in the NIC area be used as a normal staircase to go from floor 10 to 11? Or is that only for egress in emergencies?

A: Yes, by card-key access. Door remain locked at all times.

Q: Are we able to add more doors to the shell of the building?

A: NO

Q: Is it possible to see more pictures of the existing space?

A: We do not have additional. You may research to see if you can find any online.

Q: This is in reference to your previous week's Q+A explanation on stairs. Ok, so I'm *still* confused about the stairs!? This makes it sound like building a staircase is "optional" but then it goes on to say that the existing internal stairs are locked and are for emergencies ONLY. So, in my opinion, building a staircase is probably not all that 'optional' unless ONLY elevators will be used (with exception of emergency)? Is that even allowed? To have only elevators and "emergency" stairs or does an optional staircase HAVE to be provided? Does that make sense?

A: Staircases provided can be used by card-key access by NEXT occupants; however, remain locked at all times. The elevators stop at both floors.

Q: What is a "monumental" staircase?

A: The answer can be found through research.

Q: Can the windows be changed, or do they need to stay the way they are?

A: Exterior must remain as is; however, the interior framing on the tenant side (color, finish, size, etc.) may be refined.

Q: Does the hourly childcare need to have a separate bathroom for the children? Also is there any specific storage for this space that needs to be in consideration?

A: NO to both.

Q: For the classrooms would single desks be preferred? Or can we use sharing desks?

A: You may use what meets the stated requirements and meets your design intent.

Q: Is the placement of the doors out to the balcony on the 10th floor set in stone, or can we move those doors?

A: These must remain as is.

Q: Does the daycare need to be divided off by age range or can it be one large area?

A: NO

Q: Does this design need to be LEED or WELL Certified or up to Sustainability standards?

A: This is not a requirement; however, making sustainable design considerations is always welcome.

Q: Can we change any of the existing glass doors and/or windows that lead outside to the balcony?

A: NO

Q: In our floor plan, do you want to see the bathrooms with fixtures in them and the storage room with storage shelves in it, or do we leave those areas completely empty on our floor plan?

A: For the bathrooms, existing fixtures should be shown on the floorplans; however, there is not a need to show storage shelves.

QUESTIONS + ANSWERS – Questions submitted through September 13, 2019

Q: Hello NEXT team. I am the instructor. Our group has a question: In the Revit file, when you take off the 11th floor you see that the 10th floor columns have square supports (approx 8' x 8') on top of each one. We are looking for possible places to put a poke through to the 11th floor above, creating a mezzanine. Should we not poke through at any of the large squares that are on top of each of the columns? If we can't, then this doesn't leave many spots left to poke through (near columns).

A: The square supports are part of the existing site condition and are there for structural integrity. Therefore, they must remain intact. If you wish to punch through the 11th floor to create a mezzanine or connecting stair, your students will need to work around these constraints. Through constraint comes creativity. Please see the photos of the existing condition of the columns.

See photos below for reference.



Q: Why does the programming say "Faculty Open Collab Hub " is adjacent to Faculty Private Offices. But the Faculty Private Offices says "near" open Faculty Connection Hub? Are they adjacent or near?

A: Sorry about the inconsistency here and good catch. It should be adjacent (for both comments) – disregard (near)

Q: Can we put a skylight in the top of the 11th floor?

A: Unfortunately, no. There is a multi-tenant rooftop deck above the 11th floor available to everyone in the building. Therefore, this wouldn't be feasible given the existing conditions.

Q: For the occupant load, are both floor level square footages combined together or is each floor calculated separately? I ask because the occupant load for one of the levels calculates to under 50 and the seating capacity for the large active classroom is for 50 -60 students.

A: These would be calculated separately.

Q: I have a quick question: can Architecture undergraduate students participate ? Or is this only for Interior Design students?

A: Since this is an interior design competition, we ask the participating students be interior design students, with the exception being the programs that offer a degree in Interior Architecture due to the heavy emphasis on interior design in these curriculums.

Q: Page 16 of the program describes that adding/designing a monumental staircase is optional. Would you please clarify this for our students. Was there another staircase in the building that has been removed from the floor plans, and the two staircases shown in the NIC area highlighted in Addendum 1 are to remain untouched?

A: The floor plans reflect the unfinished built condition. Your students are free to add or not add a monumental staircase – purely optional. In the current finished condition of this space, a staircase was added; however, that was removed from the drawings since this is merely optional and we didn't want to influence the student design decisions in any way. Please note, that all emphasis should be made on meeting the program requirements before considering a staircase as we want them to focus on what will be in primary focus for the judges.

A: Yes, the staircases in the NIC area are to remain untouched. The internal stairs are locked and are for emergencies only. For ease of access from one floor to another, students may consider a way to connect the floors in a way through a physical connection of stairs.

A: Please note should a student decide to build a staircase it must abide by state and ADA codes.

Q: Do students need to consider structure in the placement of the monumental staircase, e.g. column grid and/or beams?

A: Yes, these should be considered if deciding to add a staircase as they would in a real design situation.

Q: Are there any materials that need to be considered in the final design? For example, if students want an open to structure ceiling is there a requirement for the underside of decking and joist material?

A: There is no requirement here. This is left to the discretion of the student based on their design intent.

Q: Is there a restriction on how many students from each institution may submit?

A: There is a limit of (2) submissions – per independently taught class. Some programs have multiple independently taught classes and therefore they submit (2) for each class. However, we encourage you to have ALL your students participate and you self-jury the class submissions and submit your top 2. There is no limit on the number of students that can participate in class from each institution.

Q: Is there a fee for submission?

A: There is no fee for submission

Q: Is there a specified timeframe that the students are allowed to work on the project (i.e. it must be completed within 10 semester weeks)? I know some competitions have this requirement.

A: That is up to each program how they incorporate this competition into their semester. The only requirement is you begin on or after the start date of September 3rd and your submissions are sent in to the competition by the deadline of December 11th.

Q: Several of my students have a question about the floor plan provided. Is the room next to one of the staircases to be included as one of the spaces in the program or is this room reserved for something else?

A: Here is a link to the addendum on the floor plans:

<https://www.steelcase.com/content/uploads/2019/08/2019-Floor-Plan-ADDENDUM-NO1.pdf>

Q: In looking at the official rules, it states that Master’s students are allowed only if they do NOT have a prior degree or experience in interior design. Am I interpreting that correctly? I have two students completing their MFA and both have bachelor degrees in interior design, so I’m guessing they will not be able to participate.

A: The intention is for a fair competition. There are MFA programs that cater specifically to students who do not have an interiors undergraduate degree and therefore they wouldn’t have much of an advantage over the other undergraduate students. The other schools with Masters are a 5 year program where the students receive a masters degree in lieu of an undergraduate degree. Therefore, we ask students that have already completed their undergraduate education with a design degree not participate.

Q: Must ALL of the students submitting be legal residents of the US or Canada? I have a few who would like to participate and who are attending UCO on a student visa; would they be ineligible?

A: Students that are here on a student Visa are able to participate; however, you must ensure they are able to travel on dates stated in the rules as well as we will only provide airfare for domestic travel.

Q: We have three students who would like to participate in the competition from our BFA Interior Design Department. Is that possible? I believe that you said we could only sponsor two.

A: There is no limit on the number of students you have participate in the competition. We have some programs that have more than 60 students enter. However, we only allow (2) submissions for judging from each independently taught class. Therefore, you would need to self-jury and decide which two of the three you would submit for judging.