

Florida A&M University (FAMU)  
School of Architecture + Engineering Technology (SAET)

## **STUDIO CULTURE POLICY**

Approved by the SAET Division of Architecture Faculty  
on Tuesday, September 5, 2017

The FAMU SAET Studio Culture Policy is intended to ensure the healthiest possible teaching and learning environment, conducive to the development of the well-rounded student, while preparing fully for entry into the profession of Architecture. Because the focus of the school's learning activity has at its heart the design studio experience where all learning comes together, this policy gives special attention to providing the conditions to enhance that experience.

The policy stands as one expression of the mission of the University, an 1890 Land Grant Institution, which seeks to provide an enlightened and enriched academic, intellectual, moral, cultural, ethical, technological, and student centered environment. Six values form the basis for the policy: passion, respect, professionalism, focus, integration, and time.

### Passion:

The school provides a lively atmosphere, which encourages optimism, constructive thinking and acting, and a fervent pursuit of the best in architecture. Exploration, discovery, and creative imagination are supported by student and faculty interaction.

### Respect:

Mutual appreciation among faculty and students creates an environment in which all benefit from the sharing of knowledge and good judgment. Faculty will work to enhance the best of student talent and abilities. Students respond to good faculty instruction and advice.

### Professionalism:

Faculty will sustain a well-organized and clearly delineated program of study. Students will involve themselves in the learning process actively and engage the school community in a positive and self-disciplined manner.

### Focus:

The learning and teaching setting are opportunities for giving full emphasis on architecture as the underlying purpose of the school's academic programs. Studios will provide the place where architecture has its clearest manifestation within the school.

### Integration:

Recognizing that architecture is an inclusive field and represents a process of iterative synthesis, the faculty assist in bringing the widest possible range of knowledge and creative thinking to bear on student learning. The spirit of exploration, discovery, and critical thinking will be infused with a commitment to a search for truth that brings all together into a holistic understanding of architecture.

### Time:

Time is valuable, and it requires careful allocation to a wide variety of activities, not only adequately providing for effective study, but also many other aspects of life. In the interest of the students' fullest personal development, the school and its faculty will endeavor to establish reasonable schedules for learning activity.

Implementation:

In support of the broad purposes stated in the Studio Culture Policy, the following will be implemented:

- The Studio Culture Policy is published in the Florida A&M University School of Architecture & Engineering Technology Student Handbook. Both documents can be viewed at [www.famu.edu/architecture](http://www.famu.edu/architecture).
- Students should expect to have a quiet and professional atmosphere for work in the Walter L. Smith Architecture Building. To facilitate this, noise from cell phones, radios, and music devices should be minimized according to common courtesy. Students must be cognizant of the conduct and behavior of invited guest.
- The building will be open and accessible to students enrolled in architecture courses 24-hours a day, 7-days a week, while the academic term is in progress. Conditions for study should continue through the night. Students are required to maintain respect, collegiality, professionalism, and sobriety during non-business hours. Students in violation of the spirit or principle of this policy are subject to disciplinary actions by the SAET including but not limited to termination of building access.
- Security is of paramount importance. The SAET will take the necessary steps to assure personal and property security at all times. Late evening and early morning hours will be given special consideration.
- An esprit de corps will be encouraged, particularly through a structured set of experiences in which younger students will have opportunity to become acquainted with older students and their work, and be introduced fully into the culture of the architectural community, including faculty, professional groups, and communities of scholars.
- Every student should be able to expect that their work will not be copied by any other student and that their work will be safe from theft or vandalism.
- Everyone is expected to respect the property of others, and the SAET, and care for it accordingly. All faculty, students, and staff are expected to assist in maintaining a comfortable, respectful, and clutter-free working environment.
- The studio atmosphere will engender an attitude of mutual assistance, sharing of ideas and information, and friendly, constructive competition. Students will be encouraged to spend time in the studio adequate for nourishing this attitude.
- Students will be provided reasonable equipment, access to the library, workshop, and computer facilities, supporting their ability to work in the building. The SAET will make every attempt to provide access to the workshop during studio hours, as well as, an expanded evening schedule. They may also expect appropriate furnishings and a reasonable level of comfort in the working environment.

Note: This Policy is not intended as a substitute for expectations and requirements of students and faculty as delineated, respectively, in The Fang (Florida A&M University Student Handbook). The Studio Culture Policy is expected to complement the SAET's "Classroom and Studio Use – Guidelines.