COURSE OBJECTIVES: To prepare for the Comprehensive Terminal Design Project in the winter and spring terms, the “Comp Prep” course focuses on critical thinking as a means to identify, research and prepare defining questions for sustained conceptual development and design investigation. Students will be guided through a series of varied and creative iterative assignments building on one another to aid in developing strong and meaningful conceptual design intentions for the programming of their comprehensive interior architecture project. Lectures will cover major topics related to professional design planning to address and integrate information concerning user population/s, project programming, site selection, associated sustainability issues, and beginning code and life safety research. Lectures will also assimilate theories of social responsibility, aesthetics, semiotics, and phenomenological awareness. Student projects will therefore address the implications of theoretical, social, cultural, and aesthetic design issues, as well as recognizing the importance of adapting existing building conditions within surrounding urban, suburban or rural contexts. Several project proposals are developed and produced to test options, and to practice student research, writing and presentation abilities. Individual and group critique and analysis will be stressed.

The final product for the term will be one written and illustrated proposal. The written portion includes: A Statement of Intention with the critical questions to be explored in the project; beginning descriptive programs; the selected building history and site description; summaries of topical research/case studies; basic code information; and, an annotated bibliography. The graphic portion includes: documentation in map formats of the chosen site; different drawing and diagram formats showing neighborhood context and site and building and climate contexts; existing site “as-built”s and photographs; related research/inspirations articles.