The M.Arch. program is a professional degree program focused on preparation to practice architecture for students who hold a bachelor’s degree. The M.Arch. degree is accredited by the National Architectural Accrediting Board. "In the United States, most state registration boards require a degree from an accredited professional degree program as a prerequisite for licensure. The National Architectural Accrediting Board (NAAB), which is the sole agency authorized to accredit U.S. professional degree programs in architecture, recognizes three types of degrees: the Bachelor of Architecture, the Master of Architecture, and the Doctor of Architecture. A program may be granted a 6-year, 3-year, or 2-year term of accreditation, depending on the extent of its conformance with established educational standards. Doctor of Architecture and Master of Architecture degree programs may consist of a pre-professional undergraduate degree and a professional graduate degree that, when earned sequentially, constitute an accredited professional education. However, the pre-professional degree is not, by itself, recognized as an accredited degree." (Excerpt from NAAB Conditions for Accreditation, 2009 Edition).

The M.S. in Architecture program is a research-focused degree program designed to offer students graduate level research inquiry into architecture for students who hold a professional baccalaureate or graduate degree in architecture.

The Ph.D. in Architecture program is a research-focused degree program for students with a research-focused master’s degree who have previously studied the technical and professional aspects of architectural or landscape architectural practice and are primarily interested in strengthening the intellectual underpinnings of their work through significant and original theoretical inquiry.

Admission Requirements

Applicants apply for the program via the Graduate School application for admission (https://gradschool.psu.edu/graduate-admissions/how-to-apply/). Requirements listed here are in addition to Graduate Council policies listed under GCAC-300 Admissions Policies (https://gradschool.psu.edu/graduate-education-policies/).

Master of Architecture (M.Arch.)

The applicant’s baccalaureate degree may be in a field other than architecture or be a non-professional baccalaureate degree in architecture. This M.Arch. program culminates in a professional degree, accredited by the National Architectural Accrediting Board (NAAB).

A minimum grade-point average [GPA] of 3.0 on a 4.0 scale is required.

All applicants for admission to the M.Arch. degree program must submit the following:

- a completed Graduate School application (http://www.gradschool.psu.edu/prospective-students/how-to-apply/), and payment of the non-refundable application fee
- official transcripts from all post-secondary institutions attended (http://www.gradschool.psu.edu/prospective-students/how-to-apply/new-applicants/requirements-for-graduate-admission/)
- names of three faculty members or professionals acquainted with the applicant’s academic history who can be contacted and invited to provide reference letters
- a statement of intent, which should be primarily a description of the applicant’s professional goals, subjects of study, and the area(s) of anticipated architectural inquiry
- a portfolio of creative and design work executed at the undergraduate level, under professional guidance or independently, provided that such work can be evidenced as executed by the applicant, is an important part of the graduate application. A minimum portfolio representation of one project for each year of academic undergraduate study, or its equivalent, is required
- other evidence of academic excellence, such as awards, design and scholarly achievements, and other recognitions that the applicant wishes to have considered by the admissions committee

Master of Science (M.S.)

All applicants must hold either (1) a professionally accredited baccalaureate degree in architecture or related field from a regionally accredited U.S. institution or (2) a tertiary (postsecondary) degree that is deemed comparable to a professionally accredited bachelor’s degree in architecture or related field from a regionally accredited U.S. institution; this degree must be from an officially recognized degree-granting institution in the country in which it operates. Alternatively, the applicant can hold (3) a baccalaureate degree from a regionally accredited U.S. institution plus a professionally accredited master’s degree in architecture or related field or (4) a tertiary (postsecondary) degree that is deemed comparable to a bachelor’s degree from a regionally accredited U.S. institution plus a professionally accredited master’s degree in architecture or related field. These degrees must be from officially recognized degree-granting institutions in the country in which they operate.

A minimum grade-point average [GPA] of 3.0 on a 4.0 scale is required.

All applicants for admission to the M.S. in Architecture degree program must submit the following:

- a completed Graduate School application (http://www.gradschool.psu.edu/prospective-students/how-to-apply/), and payment of the non-refundable application fee
- official transcripts from all post-secondary institutions attended (http://www.gradschool.psu.edu/prospective-students/how-to-apply/new-applicants/requirements-for-graduate-admission/)
- names of three faculty members or professionals acquainted with the applicant’s academic history who can be contacted and invited to provide reference letters
• a statement of intent, which should be primarily a description of the applicant's professional goals, subjects of study, and the area(s) of anticipated architectural inquiry

• a portfolio of creative and design work executed at the undergraduate level, under professional guidance or independently, provided that such work can be evidenced as executed by the applicant, is an important part of the graduate application. A minimum portfolio representation of one project for each year of academic undergraduate study, or its equivalent, is required

• other evidence of academic excellence, such as awards, design and scholarly achievements, and other recognitions that the applicant wishes to have considered by the admissions committee

**Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.)**

All applicants must hold either (1) a professionally accredited baccalaureate degree in architecture or landscape architecture from a regionally accredited U.S. institution and a master's degree in architecture or landscape architecture or related field or (2) a tertiary (postsecondary) degree that is deemed comparable to a professionally accredited bachelor's degree in architecture or landscape architecture from a regionally accredited U.S. institution and a master's degree in architecture or landscape architecture or related field; both degrees must be from an officially recognized degree-granting institution in the country in which they operate. Alternatively, the applicant can hold (3) a baccalaureate degree from a regionally accredited U.S. institution plus a professionally accredited master's degree in architecture or landscape architecture or (4) a tertiary (postsecondary) degree that is deemed comparable to a bachelor's degree from a regionally accredited U.S. institution plus a professionally accredited master's degree in architecture or landscape architecture; these degrees must be from officially recognized degree-granting institutions in the country in which they operate. Outstanding candidates who do not hold a professional architecture or landscape architecture degree but who satisfy all other entrance requirements may be admitted at the discretion of the program.

An overall minimum grade-point average of 3.20 for graduate and undergraduate degrees is required for admission. Exceptions to the minimum 3.20 grade-point average may be made for students with special backgrounds, abilities, and interests at the discretion of the program.

All applicants for admission to the Ph.D. degree program must submit the following:

• a completed Graduate School application (http://www.gradschool.psu.edu/prospective-students/how-to-apply/) and payment of the application fee

• official transcripts from all post-secondary institutions attended (http://www.gradschool.psu.edu/prospective-students/how-to-apply/new-applicants/requirements-for-graduate-admission/)

• names of three faculty members or professionals acquainted with the applicant's academic history who can be contacted and invited to provide reference letters

• a Ph.D. Essay that (1) articulates the reasons for pursuing graduate training; (2) demonstrates that the Ph.D. program has been carefully considered and a relevant faculty member has been identified; (3) presents a clear research focus; and (4) highlights how previous education, academic background, and/or professional experience provide a foundation for pursuing graduate training in this research field

• a Curriculum Vitae

**Degree Requirements**

**Master of Architecture (M.Arch.)**

Requirements listed here are in addition to Graduate Council policies listed under GCAC-700 Professional Degree Policies (https://gradschool.psu.edu/graduate-education-policies/).

The professional M.Arch. may be completed in three years (seven semesters, with the fifth semester being a summer semester) of course work. The M.Arch. degree requires 40 credits of preparatory course work, plus 57 credits of core graduate course work for a total of 97 credits. Some or all of the preparatory course work may have been completed previously, in which case the total credits required for the degree may be reduced in an equivalent manner to a minimum of 57 credits of core courses. At least 36 credits must be at the 500 level, and at least 57 credits must be taken in residence at University Park. There will be a review of transcripts to assess the completion of materials covered in preparatory course work. Faculty will assess each accepted applicant's transcripts for possible course equivalents. If courses have been fulfilled with equivalent undergraduate or graduate course work, students will be eligible for advancement. Accordingly, time to complete degree requirements may be reduced.

The culminating experience of the M.Arch. degree is a master's design project, requiring the student to identify and formulate an area of inquiry and then to complete a research-intensive design project, documented in a volume that includes the design and the research. The capstone course ARCH 536 Design Inquiry is associated with this culminating experience, and students are required to complete two semesters of ARCH 536 for six credits each, for a total of 12 credits.

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<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
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<tr>
<td>AE 211</td>
<td>Architectural Structural Systems I</td>
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<tr>
<td>AE 421</td>
<td>Architectural Structural Systems II</td>
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<tr>
<td>AE 422</td>
<td>Architectural Structural Systems II</td>
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<td>AE 424</td>
<td>Architectural Structural Systems II</td>
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<tr>
<td>ARCH 501</td>
<td>Analysis of Architectural Precedents: Ancient</td>
<td>3</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Industrial Revolution</td>
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<tr>
<td>ARCH 502</td>
<td>Analysis of Architectural Precedents: Modernism</td>
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<tr>
<td>ARCH 503</td>
<td>Materials and Building Construction I</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>ARCH 504</td>
<td>Materials and Building Construction II</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>ARCH 521</td>
<td>Visual Communications I</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ARCH 522</td>
<td>Visual Communications II</td>
<td>2</td>
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<td>ARCH 531</td>
<td>Architectural Design I</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ARCH 532</td>
<td>Architecture Design II</td>
<td>6</td>
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<td>ARCH 451</td>
<td>Architectural Professional Practice</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ARCH 480</td>
<td>Technical Systems Integration</td>
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Select 6 credits from the following:

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<tr>
<th>Code</th>
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<tr>
<td>ARCH 495</td>
<td>Advanced Architectural and Related Design/</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Construction Work Experience II</td>
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<td>ARCH 496</td>
<td>Independent Studies</td>
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<td>ARCH 499</td>
<td>Foreign Studies</td>
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<td>ARCH 510</td>
<td>Contemporary Architecture and Planning Theories</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ARCH 511</td>
<td>Theoretical Perspectives in Architecture</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Ph.D. degree requirements include successful completion of approved graduate course work, a qualifying examination, and English Competence requirements. For the Ph.D. degree, students must conduct significant original research that demonstrates mastery of the field. The student's program of courses is developed in cooperation with the student's Ph.D. committee. It is recommended that it consist of approximately 30 credits of course work, and must include ARCH 512A and ARCH 512B. This also includes 12 credits of course work for students without a research-focused master's degree in architecture or landscape architecture or related field (a research-focused master's degree is typically an M.S. in Architecture or Landscape Architecture degree, but can also be a post-professional M.Arch. or M.L.A. degree). There will be a review of transcripts to assess completion of materials covered in course work. A faculty review committee will assess each accepted applicant’s transcripts for possible course equivalents.

At the conclusion of the student's course work, the Ph.D. student must pass a comprehensive examination that is developed and administered by the student's Ph.D. committee. To earn the Ph.D. degree, doctoral students must also write a dissertation that is accepted by the Ph.D. committee, the head of the graduate program, and the Graduate School, and the student must pass a final oral examination (the dissertation defense).

**Dual-Titles**

**Dual-Title M.S. and Ph.D. in Architecture and TRANSDISCIPLINARY RESEARCH ON ENVIRONMENT AND SOCIETY**

Requirements listed here are in addition to requirements listed in GCAC-208 Dual-Title Graduate Degree Programs (https://gradschool.psu.edu/graduate-education-policies/gcac/gcac-208-dual-titles/).

The dual-title M.S. and Ph.D. in Architecture and Human Dimensions of Natural Resources and the Environment is a research-focused degree program that enables students from Architecture to acquire the knowledge and skills of their major area of specialization in Architecture, while at the same time gaining the perspective and methods of Transdisciplinary Research on Environment and Society.

**Admission Requirements**

For admission to the dual-title degree under this program, a student must first apply and be admitted to Penn State's Graduate School as well as to the Architecture graduate program. Once enrolled in the Architecture program, the student can apply to the Admissions Committee of TREES. Doctoral students should enroll in a dual-title graduate degree program early in their training, and no later than the end of the fourth semester (not counting summer semesters) of entry into the graduate major program. Refer to the Admission Requirements section of the TREES Bulletin page (http://bulletins.psu.edu/graduate/programs/majors/transdisciplinary-research-environment-society/).

**Degree Requirements for the Dual-title M.S.**

To qualify for a dual-title degree, students must satisfy the requirements of the Architecture program in which they are primarily enrolled. In addition, they must satisfy the degree requirements for the dual-title M.S. in TREES, listed on the TREES Bulletin page (http://bulletins.psu.edu/graduate/programs/majors/transdisciplinary-research-environment-society/).

Upon a student's acceptance by the TREES admissions committee, the student will be assigned a TREES academic adviser in consultation
with the TREES chair. As students develop specific scholarly interests, they may request that a different TREES faculty member serve as their adviser. The student and adviser will discuss a program of study that is appropriate for the student's professional objectives and that is in accord with the policies of Graduate Council, the Architecture program and the TREES Program.

Some courses may satisfy both the graduate major program requirements and those of the dual-title program. Final course selection, including which courses will satisfy the both the graduate major program and dual-title program requirements, is determined by the students with approval by their dual-title program advisers and their major program advisers.

A thesis committee for the dual-title M.S. degree will consist of two Graduate Faculty members from Architecture and one Graduate Faculty member from the TREES Program. The thesis topic itself will be an integration of both Architecture and TREES.

Candidates for the dual-title Master of Science degree in Architecture and TREES will also be required to pass a final defense covering the general field of Architecture and TREES Program, with emphasis on the student's area of specialization. The defense is to be administered by the student's thesis committee. The thesis may only pass with a unanimous affirmative decision of the thesis committee.

Degree Requirements for the Dual-title Ph.D.
To qualify for a dual-title degree, students must satisfy the requirements of the Architecture program in which they are primarily enrolled. In addition, they must satisfy the degree requirements for the dual-title Ph.D. in TREES, listed on the TREES Bulletin page (http://bulletins.psu.edu/graduate/programs/majors/transdisciplinary-research-environment-society/).

Upon a student's acceptance by the TREES admissions committee, the student will be assigned an TREES academic adviser in consultation with the TREES chair. As students develop specific scholarly interests, they may request that a different TREES faculty member serve as their adviser. The student and adviser will discuss a program of study that is appropriate for the student's professional objectives and that is in accord with the policies of Graduate Council, the Architecture program and the TREES Program.

Particular courses may satisfy both the graduate major program requirements and those of the TREES program. If a TREES M.S. student continues into the TREES Ph.D. program, 15 credits of interdisciplinary course work must be selected, with the approval of the student's Ph.D. committee. Some courses may satisfy both the graduate major program requirements and those of the dual-title program. Final course selection, including which courses will satisfy the both the graduate major program and dual-title program requirements, is determined by the students with approval by their dual-title program advisers and their major program advisers.

The qualifying examination for Architecture will satisfy the qualifying exam requirement for the dual-title degree program in TREES. The Ph.D. committee must include at least one Graduate Faculty member from TREES. Faculty members who hold appointments in both programs’ Graduate Faculty may serve in a combined role. The TREES representative on the Ph.D. committee will participate in constructing and evaluating the comprehensive examination. If the chair of the Ph.D. committee is not also a member of the Graduate Faculty in TREES, the member of the committee representing TREES must be appointed as co-chair. All Ph.D. students will be required to complete, present, and defend a dissertation that incorporates a topic related to both their graduate major program and TREES.

All Ph.D. students will be required to complete, present, and defend a dissertation that incorporates a topic related to both Architecture and TREES. Candidates for the dual-title Ph.D. degree in Architecture and TREES will be required to pass a final oral examination (the dissertation defense) covering the general field of Architecture and TREES, with emphasis on the student's area of specialization. The defense is to be administered by the student's Ph.D. committee. A favorable vote of a two-thirds majority is necessary for passing. To earn the Ph.D. degree, doctoral students must also write a dissertation that is accepted by the Ph.D. committee, the head of the graduate program, and the Graduate School.

### Integrated Undergrad-Grad Programs

#### Integrated B.Arch. In Architecture and M.S. in Architecture

This Integrated Undergraduate/Graduate (IUG) degree program combines the B.Arch. in Architecture with the M.S. in Architecture offered at the following campuses:

**Undergraduate Degree**
- University Park

**Graduate Degree**
- University Park

Requirements listed here are in addition to requirements listed in GCAC-210 Integrated Undergraduate-Graduate (IUG) Degree Programs (https://gradschool.psu.edu/graduate-education-policies/gcac/gcac-200/gcac-210-integrated-undergraduate-graduate-degree-programs/).

The Integrated B.Arch./M.S. in Architecture program permits students to integrate the fifth year of the professional B.Arch. degree, pursued at Penn State, with the M.S. research degree into a continuous program of study culminating in the awarding of both degrees.

### Admission Requirements

Applicants apply for admission to the program via the Graduate School application for admission (https://gradschool.psu.edu/graduate-admissions/how-to-apply/). Requirements listed here are in addition to Graduate Council policies listed under GCAC-300 Admissions Policies (https://gradschool.psu.edu/graduate-education-policies/).

The Department of Architecture offers a limited number of academically superior students enrolled in the fourth year of the Bachelor of Architecture degree program the opportunity to enroll in an integrated program leading to both the B.Arch. and the M.S. in Architecture degrees. The ability to coordinate as well as concurrently pursue the two degree programs enables the student to achieve greater depth and comprehensiveness than if the degrees are pursued sequentially, and to earn the two degrees in a shorter period of time. In particular, the program encourages the student to integrate the undergraduate thesis design project with the master's thesis, thereby achieving a greater depth of inquiry. The number of openings to this special program is limited; admission is by invitation of the faculty and is extremely selective.
Students must apply to and meet the admission requirements of the Graduate School, as well as the graduate program in which they intend to receive their master’s degree. Before applying to the Graduate School, students must have completed entrance to their undergraduate major and have completed no less than 60 credits. Students must be admitted no later than the end of the second week of the semester preceding the semester of expected conferral of the undergraduate degree. Transfer students must have completed at least 15 credits at Penn State to enroll in an IUG. Applicants to the integrated program must be enrolled in the fourth year of a B.Arch. program or otherwise qualified to apply for admission to the fifth year of the B.Arch. program at Penn State. To be admitted, applicants must have a minimum 3.20 junior/senior overall grade-point average (on a 4.0 scale) as well as (1) a minimum 3.20 GPA in architectural design courses (studio), and (2) a minimum 3.20 GPA in all course work except architectural design courses (studio).

All applicants for admission to the Integrated B.Arch./M.S. in Architecture degree program must submit the following:

- a completed Graduate School application (http://www.gradschool.psu.edu/prospective-students/how-to-apply/) and payment of the non-refundable application fee
- names of three faculty members or professionals acquainted with the applicant’s academic history who can be contacted and invited to provide reference letters
- a statement of intent/plan of study, which should be primarily a description of the applicant’s professional goals. The statement/plan shall clearly describe the student’s proposed general thesis topic and a strategy for pursuing it, including a list of proposed courses and a list of faculty whom the student foresees as contributing to the course of study. The plan should be reviewed periodically with an adviser as the student advances through the program.
- a portfolio of creative and design work executed at the undergraduate level, under professional guidance or independently, provided that such work can be evidenced as executed by the applicant. A minimum portfolio representation of one project for each year of academic undergraduate study, or its equivalent, is required

The best-qualified students will be accepted up to the number of spaces available for new students.

Degree Requirements
Students must complete the requirements for both the B.Arch. and the M.S. in Architecture degrees with the exception that not more than 12 credits earned in either degree program may be used to meet the requirements of both degrees. Degree requirements for the Bachelor of Architecture are listed in the Undergraduate Bulletin (https://bulletins.psu.edu/undergraduate/). Degree requirements for the Master of Science in Architecture degree are listed on the Degree Requirements tab. A minimum of 50 percent of the courses proposed to count for both degrees must be at the 500 or 800 level. Independent study courses and credits associated with the culminating experience for the graduate degree cannot be double-counted.

### Courses Eligible to Double Count for Both Degrees

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ARCH 451</td>
<td>Architectural Professional Practice</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ARCH 511</td>
<td>Theoretical Perspectives in Architecture</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ARCH 520</td>
<td>Methods of Inquiry in Architecture and Urban Design</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

A minimum total of 180 credits are required to complete the Integrated B.Arch./M.S. in Architecture program and earn both degrees. The student must maintain a minimum 3.2 overall GPA and shall achieve no less than a B grade in each required course.

Students must sequence their courses so all undergraduate degree requirements are fulfilled before taking courses to count solely towards the graduate degree. Students are expected to complete the undergraduate degree requirements within the typical time to degree for the undergraduate major. In the semester in which the undergraduate degree requirements will be completed, IUG students must apply to graduate, and the undergraduate degree should be conferred at the next appropriate Commencement. If students accepted into the IUG program are unable to complete the M.S. degree, they are still eligible to receive their undergraduate degree if all the undergraduate degree requirements have been satisfied.

**Minor**

A graduate minor is available in any approved graduate major or dual-title program. The default requirements for a graduate minor are stated in Graduate Council policies listed under GCAC-600 Research Degree Policies (https://gradschool.psu.edu/graduate-education-policies/) and GCAC-700 Professional Degree Policies (https://gradschool.psu.edu/graduate-education-policies/), depending on the type of degree the student is pursuing:

- GCAC-611 Minor - Research Doctorate (https://gradschool.psu.edu/graduate-education-policies/gcac/gcac-600/gcac-611-minor-research-doctorate/)
- GCAC-641 Minor - Research Master’s (https://gradschool.psu.edu/graduate-education-policies/gcac/gcac-600/gcac-641-minor-research-masters/)
- GCAC-709 Minor - Professional Doctorate (https://gradschool.psu.edu/graduate-education-policies/gcac/gcac-700/gcac-709-professional-doctoral-minor/)
- GCAC-741 Minor - Professional Master’s (https://gradschool.psu.edu/graduate-education-policies/gcac/gcac-700/gcac-741-masters-minor-professional/)

**Student Aid**

Graduate assistantships available to students in this program and other forms of student aid are described in the Tuition & Funding (https://gradschool.psu.edu/graduate-funding/) section of The Graduate School’s website. Students on graduate assistantships must adhere to the course load limits (https://gradschool.psu.edu/graduate-education-policies/gsad/gsad-900/gsad-901-graduate-assistants/) set by The Graduate School.

All applicants who are accepted are considered for departmental financial aid.

**Courses**

Graduate courses carry numbers from 500 to 699 and 800 to 899. Advanced undergraduate courses numbered between 400 and 499 may be used to meet some graduate degree requirements when taken by graduate students. Courses below the 400 level may not. A graduate student may register for or audit these courses in order to make up
deficiencies or to fill in gaps in previous education but not to meet requirements for an advanced degree.

Architecture (ARCH) Course List (https://bulletins.psu.edu/university-course-descriptions/graduate/arch/)

Professional Licensure/Certification

Many U.S. states and territories require professional licensure/certification to be employed. If you plan to pursue employment in a licensed profession after completing this program, please visit the Professional Licensure/Certification Disclosures by State (https://www.psu.edu/state-licensure-disclosures/) interactive map.

Contact

Campus University Park
Graduate Program Head Frank Richard Jacobus
Director of Graduate Studies (DGS) or Professor-in-Charge (PIC) Ute Poerschke
Program Contact Nina Diez Bumgarner
121 Stuckeman Family Building
University Park PA 16802
ndb2@psu.edu
(814) 865-0991

Program Website View (http://stuckeman.psu.edu/arch/)