

ARCHITECTURE

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.

Code	Title	Credits
Preparatory Course Work		
AE 211		3
AE 421	Architectural Structural Systems I	3
AE 422	Architectural Structural Systems II	3
AE 424		3
ARCH 501	Analysis of Architectural Precedents: Ancient Industrial Revolution	3
ARCH 502	Analysis of Architectural Precedents: Modernism	3
ARCH 503	Materials and Building Construction I	3
ARCH 504	Materials and Building Construction II	3
ARCH 521	Visual Communications I	2
ARCH 522	Visual Communications II	2
ARCH 531	Architectural Design I	6
ARCH 532	Architecture Design II	6
Required Courses		
ARCH 451	Architectural Professional Practice	3
ARCH 480	Technical Systems Integration	3
Select 6 credits from the following:		6
ARCH 495	Advanced Architectural and Related Design/Construction Work Experience II	
ARCH 496	Independent Studies	
ARCH 499	Foreign Studies	
ARCH 510	Contemporary Architecture and Planning Theories	3

ARCH 511	Theoretical Perspectives in Architecture	3
ARCH 519	Research in Architecture and Urban Design	3
ARCH 533	Architectural Design III	6
ARCH 534	Architectural Design IV	6
ARCH 550	Ethics in the Built Environment	3
Electives		
Select 9 credits		9
Culminating Experience		
ARCH 536	Design-Inquiry (Capstone Project)	12
Total Credits		97

Master of Science (M.S.)

Requirements listed here are in addition to Graduate Council policies listed under GCAC-600 Research Degree Policies. (<https://gradschool.psu.edu/graduate-education-policies/>)

The culminating experience of the post-professional M.S. in Architecture program is a Master's Thesis, which requires the student to identify and formulate an area of inquiry within which he or she will be expected to do original research that tests a hypothesis, and to complete a written thesis that presents that research. The master's thesis committee must be composed of a minimum of three Graduate Faculty members, not less than two of whom shall be members of the Architecture Graduate Faculty. One of these two Graduate Faculty members shall serve as the chair of the committee and thesis adviser. One or more members of the committee may be members from another department.

At the master's thesis defense, the student presents a summary of her/his thesis. This presentation and part of the following discussion are open to the public. The thesis may only pass with a unanimous affirmative decision of the thesis committee. The graduate officer or department head must attend the thesis defense and sign off on the thesis; if the graduate officer is the adviser or a committee member then the department head must attend the defense and sign off on the thesis, and vice versa. The thesis must be accepted by the Graduate School.

The M.S. in Architecture is a 30-credit program that requires 24 credits of course work and 6 credits of thesis. At least 18 credits must be at the 500 or 600 levels, and at least 20 credits must be taken in residence at University Park.

Code	Title	Credits
Required Courses		
ARCH 511	Theoretical Perspectives in Architecture	3
ARCH 520	Methods of Inquiry in Architecture and Urban Design	3
ARCH 536	Design-Inquiry	6
ARCH 550	Ethics in the Built Environment	3
Electives		
Select 9 credits		9
Culminating Experience		
ARCH 600	Thesis Research	6
Total Credits		30

Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.)

Requirements listed here are in addition to Graduate Council policies listed under GCAC-600 Research Degree Policies. (<https://gradschool.psu.edu/graduate-education-policies/>)

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).