

ARCHITECTURE, B.S.

Begin Campus: University Park

End Campus: University Park

Program Description

The Department of Architecture is a member of the Association of Collegiate Schools of Architecture and the Bachelor of Architecture degree is accredited by the National Architectural Accrediting Board. The major provides for the education of architects at the professional and pre-professional levels.

"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:

1. the Bachelor of Architecture,
2. the Master of Architecture, and
3. the Doctor of Architecture.

A program may be granted a 8-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."

Bachelor of Science

The pre-professional Bachelor of Science degree program in Architecture (ARCBS) is a four-year curriculum which requires a minimum of 120 credits. The curriculum overlaps many of the professional (BARCH) program courses, exactly aligned in the first two years. The ARCBS program prepares graduates to pursue careers in fields such as construction, real estate development, public administration, or historic preservation. Students may also continue their education at the graduate level in fields such as architecture, urban planning, or law. Enrollment in the pre-professional (ARCBS) program is limited to those students who transfer from the professional (BARCH) program.

What is Architecture?

The study of architecture is a broad endeavor combining the arts and humanities with engineering, science, and technology. It is a global study – from piazzas in Italy to rural contexts to information networks spanning physical and virtual domains. As creative designers, architects reflect the history, philosophy, dreams, habits, and values of a culture through buildings and spaces. Architects create responsible solutions to the needs of clients and the natural circumstances of sites. The profession spans the classical to the cutting-edge, and studying architecture encourages exploration across a range of interests, and provides flexibility to develop academic concentrations or pursue minors. The architecture studio is a laboratory in which design synthesizes history, theory, structural systems, building materials, environmental control systems, visual communications, professional practices, and systems integration.

You Might Like this Program If...

- You're fascinated by the intersection of spaces, cultures, history, and people
- You think deeply and love to create
- You're compelled by art, technology, and the environment
- You like formulas and experimentation
- You want to impact society
- You are self-motivated and enjoy the balance of teamwork and working independently
- You honor tradition while inventing novel practices
- You welcome responsibility
- You think and act with precision
- You take risks
- You want to explore, discover, and invent

Entrance Procedures

This program is only available to students currently admitted to the Bachelor of Architecture (B.ARCH) program at Penn State. Students studying Architecture who choose not to pursue the five-year professional degree or licensure, can pursue the four-year B.S. degree in Architecture. Students thinking of changing from the B.ARCH to B.S. Architecture degree should speak with their assigned academic adviser to understand career implications.

Degree Requirements

For the Bachelor of Science degree in Architecture a minimum of 120 credits is required:

Requirement	Credits
General Education	45
Requirements for the Major	81

6 of the 45 credits for General Education are included in the Requirements for the Major. This includes 6 credits of GA courses.

Requirements for the Major

To graduate, a student enrolled in the major must earn a grade of C or better in each course designated by the major as a C-required course, as specified by Senate Policy 82-44 (<https://senate.psu.edu/students/policies-and-rules-for-undergraduate-students/82-00-and-83-00-degree-requirements/>).

Code	Title	Credits
Prescribed Courses		
AE 422	Architectural Structural Systems II	3
ARCH 204	Materials and Building Construction II	3
ARCH 232	Architectural Design II	6
<i>Prescribed Courses: Require a grade of C or better</i>		
AE 210	Introduction to Architectural Structural Systems	3
AE 421	Architectural Structural Systems I	3
ARCH 121	Visual Communications I	2
ARCH 122	Visual Communications II	2
ARCH 131	Basic Design Studio I	4
ARCH 132	Basic Design Studio II	4
ARCH 203	Materials and Building Construction I	3
ARCH 210	Ideas Across Time in Architecture and Urbanism	3

ARCH 231	Architectural Design I	6
ARCH 311W	Architectural and Planning Theories	3
ARCH 380	Building Environmental Systems I	3
ARCH 381	Building Environmental Systems II	3
ARCH 499	Foreign Studies	12
ARTH 201	Ancient to Medieval Architecture	3
ARTH 202N	Renaissance to Modern Architecture	3

Additional Courses

Additional Courses: Require a grade of C or better

Select 12 credits from the following: 12

ARCH 316	Analysis of Human Settlements: Cities
ARCH 317	Theory of Modern Japanese Architecture
ARCH 331	Architectural Design III
ARCH 332	Architectural Design IV
ARCH 412	Integrative Energy and Environmental Design
ARCH 451	Architectural Professional Practice
ARCH 480	Technical Systems Integration
ARCH 481	Digital Design Media
ARCH 497	Special Topics
ARCH 496	Independent Studies
ARCH 541	Topics in Theory
ARCH 542	Topics in Community and Urban Design

General Education

Connecting career and curiosity, the General Education curriculum provides the opportunity for students to acquire transferable skills necessary to be successful in the future and to thrive while living in interconnected contexts. General Education aids students in developing intellectual curiosity, a strengthened ability to think, and a deeper sense of aesthetic appreciation. These are requirements for all baccalaureate students and are often partially incorporated into the requirements of a program. For additional information, see the General Education Requirements (<https://bulletins.psu.edu/undergraduate/general-education/baccalaureate-degree-general-education-program/>) section of the Bulletin and consult your academic adviser.

The keystone symbol appears next to the title of any course that is designated as a General Education course. Program requirements may also satisfy General Education requirements and vary for each program.

Foundations (grade of C or better is required and Inter-Domain courses do not meet this requirement.)

- **Quantification (GQ):** 6 credits
- **Writing and Speaking (GWS):** 9 credits

Breadth in the Knowledge Domains (Inter-Domain courses do not meet this requirement.)

- **Arts (GA):** 3 credits
- **Health and Wellness (GHW):** 3 credits
- **Humanities (GH):** 3 credits
- **Social and Behavioral Sciences (GS):** 3 credits
- **Natural Sciences (GN):** 3 credits

Integrative Studies

- **Inter-Domain Courses (Inter-Domain):** 6 credits

Exploration

- **GN**, may be completed with Inter-Domain courses: 3 credits
- **GA, GH, GN, GS, Inter-Domain courses.** This may include 3 credits of World Language course work beyond the 12th credit level or the requirements for the student's degree program, whichever is higher: 6 credits

University Degree Requirements

First Year Engagement

All students enrolled in a college or the Division of Undergraduate Studies at University Park, and the World Campus are required to take 1 to 3 credits of the First-Year Seminar, as specified by their college First-Year Engagement Plan.

Other Penn State colleges and campuses may require the First-Year Seminar; colleges and campuses that do not require a First-Year Seminar provide students with a first-year engagement experience.

First-year baccalaureate students entering Penn State should consult their academic adviser for these requirements.

Cultures Requirement

6 credits are required and may satisfy other requirements

- United States Cultures: 3 credits
- International Cultures: 3 credits

Writing Across the Curriculum

3 credits required from the college of graduation and likely prescribed as part of major requirements.

Total Minimum Credits

A minimum of 120 degree credits must be earned for a baccalaureate degree. The requirements for some programs may exceed 120 credits. Students should consult with their college or department adviser for information on specific credit requirements.

Quality of Work

Candidates must complete the degree requirements for their major and earn at least a 2.00 grade-point average for all courses completed within their degree program.

Limitations on Source and Time for Credit Acquisition

The college dean or campus chancellor and program faculty may require up to 24 credits of course work in the major to be taken at the location or in the college or program where the degree is earned. Credit used toward degree programs may need to be earned from a particular source or within time constraints (see Senate Policy 83-80 (<https://senate.psu.edu/students/policies-and-rules-for-undergraduate-students/82-00-and-83-00-degree-requirements/>)). For more information, check the Suggested Academic Plan for your intended program.

Academic Advising

The objectives of the university's academic advising program are to help advisees identify and achieve their academic goals, to promote their intellectual discovery, and to encourage students to take advantage of both in-and out-of class educational opportunities in order that they become self-directed learners and decision makers.

Both advisers and advisees share responsibility for making the advising relationship succeed. By encouraging their advisees to become engaged in their education, to meet their educational goals, and to develop the habit of learning, advisers assume a significant educational role. The

advisee's unit of enrollment will provide each advisee with a primary academic adviser, the information needed to plan the chosen program of study, and referrals to other specialized resources.

READ SENATE POLICY 32-00: ADVISING POLICY (<https://senate.psu.edu/students/policies-and-rules-for-undergraduate-students/32-00-advising-policy/>)

University Park

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Suggested Academic Plan

The suggested academic plan(s) listed on this page are the plan(s) that are in effect during the 2025-26 academic year. To access previous years' suggested academic plans, please visit the archive (<https://bulletins.psu.edu/undergraduate/archive/>) to view the appropriate Undergraduate Bulletin edition.

Architecture, B.S. at University Park Campus

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***Please note that the pre-professional program leading to a B.S. degree is a non-accredited degree. In the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania only the professional degree (B.Arch--5 years) is recognized for licensure application. Students applying for entry into the Department of Architecture should check with the state of their residence for similar regulations concerning requirements for licensure application.**

Career Paths

The Bachelor of Science in Architecture program is a stepping stone for those seeking careers in architecture and related fields. Graduates holding a Bachelor of Science in Architecture can pursue a professional architecture degree, after which, they can undertake internships and professional state licensing examinations required for registration as architects. The B.S. in Arch program is a passageway to further one's studies at the graduate level in design-related fields. The diversity and broad inquiry integral to architectural studies form a natural path to advanced studies in architecture, landscape architecture, computer science, geography, urban studies, system logistics, art history, and more.

Careers

The Bachelor of Science in Architecture – a non-professional degree option – provides a broad, rigorous, and rich course of study that opens doors to careers in nearly limitless fields. Graduates from the Penn State's Department of Architecture have designed digital environments for major motion pictures, created branding and advertising for Fortune 100 companies, started businesses converting recycled materials into high-end lighting products, and designed custom jewelry. Note: if you

are interested in a degree program that provides a direct path to pursue licensure and professional practice, you should undertake the B.Arch. professional degree program.

MORE INFORMATION ABOUT POTENTIAL CAREER OPTIONS FOR GRADUATES OF THE ARCHITECTURE PROGRAM (<https://arts.psu.edu/academics/stuckeman-school/stuckeman-career-services/>)

Opportunities for Graduate Studies

B.S. in Arch students may opt to pursue graduate programs in specialized topics or focus areas. Students interested in advanced research will be well-positioned to pursue a Master of Science in Architecture (M.S. in Arch) degree. The Penn State M.S. in Arch program is designed to strengthen the intellectual underpinnings of students' undergraduate work through intensive studio investigations, design applications, and rigorous theoretical inquiry. Alternately, B.S. in Arch students might pursue Penn State's M.Arch. professional degree in preparation for professional practice and licensure as an architect.

MORE INFORMATION ABOUT OPPORTUNITIES FOR GRADUATE STUDIES (<https://arts.psu.edu/academics/department-of-architecture/>)

Professional Resources

- American Institute of Architecture Students (AIAS) (<https://www.aias.org/>)
- National Architectural Accrediting Board, Inc. (NAAB) (<https://www.naab.org/home/>)

Contact

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<https://arts.psu.edu/academics/department-of-architecture/>