College of Architecture

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Majors

Architecture is interdisciplinary in nature, drawing from various bases of knowledge and requiring collaboration with other fields. Our program balances architectural education with a strong liberal arts base. Students can take classes in any field that interests them — art, engineering, computer science, psychology, literature, business, and more — allowing them to develop their abilities to think, communicate, and work across disciplinary lines. Students select a track in architecture that hones their focus as they advance through the program. This supports them in defining the knowledge area they would like to cultivate and prepares them for graduate school and career.

We offer two degree options that allow students to individualize their educational experience. Regardless of which option they choose, students may pursue minors, second majors, and dual degrees. While the Bachelor in Science in Architecture is an optimal springboard to graduate school, both tracks prepare students to move on to master’s degrees, positioning them for leadership positions in architecture and other related fields.

The Major in Architecture

Bachelor of Science in Architecture Degree

The Bachelor of Science in Architecture offers a more intensive study of architecture during the senior year. Students will take upper-level design studios focused on advanced building design, along with structures courses, architectural history and theory courses that emphasize urban design issues, and technology courses in environmental systems or landscape architecture.

For additional information about current requirements, please visit the Degree Requirements page.

Bachelor of Arts in Architecture Degree

The Bachelor of Arts in Architecture is a more flexible course of study that allows students to take additional architecture design studios or to pursue courses in other areas of interest across the University.

For additional information about current requirements, please visit the Degree Requirements page.

Year-by-Year Plans for Both Degrees

All architecture students take similar courses during their first three years; courses during the fourth year will differ depending on the student’s choice of degree option.

First Year

- Beginning design studio focused on environmental questions and the exploration of materials and media
- Introduction to architecture practice through case studies in focus areas including environment, society, technology, history, and entrepreneurship
- Introduction to architectural representation including analogue and digital drawing, model-making, photography, and image-making
- Additional course work in the liberal arts

Second Year

- Design studio focused on technological questions and the exploration of geometry, form, and space
- Interdisciplinary track electives bridging architecture; art; design; and other focus areas, including environment, society, technology, history, and entrepreneurship
- Architectural history courses
- Ecological systems course
- Additional course work in the liberal arts

Third Year

- Design studio focused on social questions and honing knowledge of assemblies, structure, sustainability, landscape, and urban environment
- Building systems course
- Architectural theory course
- Additional course work in the liberal arts

Fourth Year

For the Bachelor of Science in Architecture

- Option to choose from a selection of advanced architectural design studios
- Structures courses
- Architectural history and theory course work, with an emphasis on urban design issues
- Technology courses in environmental systems or landscape architecture
For the Bachelor of Arts in Architecture

- Student-directed capstone research
- Ultimate flexibility to complete a second major or an additional minor or to explore other areas of interest
- Option to take additional architecture course work, including the student's choice of advanced architectural design studios and elective courses