

Master of Architecture (M.Arch)

The University of Memphis offers the Master of Architecture (M.Arch) degree based on the “4+2” model. The M.Arch degree focuses on “city building” by bringing together architecture, city planning, and real estate development students and faculty. The degree enables architecture students and faculty to expand existing community-based research and practice in partnership with the School of Urban Affairs and Public Policy and the Henry Turley Residency at the University. Also, students have an opportunity to work with the Center for Sustainable Design and the FedEx Institute of Technology, both at the University.

Catalog Information

The first professional Master of Architecture degree is for individuals with a pre-professional degree in architecture, environmental design, or equivalent program of study. The professional curriculum comprises the four-year Bachelor of Fine Arts in Architecture and the two-year Master of Architecture degrees. The post-professional Master of Architecture degree is for individuals already holding a professional degree in architecture who are interested in pursuing opportunities for research, teaching, and independent studies.

The Department of Architecture is a member of the Association of Collegiate Schools of Architecture and is seeking accreditation for the Master of Architecture degree from the National Architectural Accrediting Board (NAAB). The NAAB is the sole agency authorized to accredit professional degree programs in architecture in the United States.

Program Objectives: The program of study for the Master of Architecture encompasses both the art and the science of design and is structured to engage students in the processes and professional standards of architecture and design. Through a series of professional core and elective courses, students (1) become competent in a range of intellectual, spatial, technical, and interpersonal skills; (2) understand the historical, socio-cultural, and environmental context of architecture; (3) are able to solve architectural design problems, including the integration of technical systems and health and safety requirements; and (4) comprehend the roles and responsibilities of the architect in society. The culturally diverse Memphis and Mid-South region serves as an urban and non-urban issues laboratory.

A. Program Admission

In addition to application to the Graduate School, all persons making application to the M.Arch program must submit the following materials directly to the Department of Architecture:

1. Portfolio: Applicant portfolios are reviewed for demonstration of aesthetic judgment, basic design ability, visual investigation skills, and abilities in architectural design, including identification of building elements and an understanding of their assembly, integration of building systems, a knowledge of building structure, and other evidence of understanding and abilities conforming to NAAB performance criteria.
2. Letters of Recommendation: Three letters of recommendation are required.
3. Statement of Intent: Applicants must submit a two-page essay describing professional background, objectives, and motivation for pursuing graduate study in Architecture. This brief statement should reflect an individual interest in this graduate program and provide some indication of professional goals or intentions.

All admission documents and portfolio must be received by 15 February for fall admission. Students who, in the judgment of the faculty, have adequate preparation may be given advanced standing.

B. Program Prerequisites

1. Persons making application to the first professional M.Arch degree program must have completed an approved pre-professional undergraduate degree in Architecture, Environmental Design, or the equivalent.
 - a. In assessing the pre-professional degree, the following course content or evidence of equivalent experience is required. Otherwise, the appropriate courses must be taken at the undergraduate level before being admitted to the M.Arch degree program:
 1. Architectural Graphics (both technical and freehand drawing), 6 semester hours
 2. Architectural History (ancient through modern), 6 semester hours
 3. Structural Design Principles (statics; strength of materials; gravity and lateral load tracing; design in timber, steel, concrete), 9 semester hours
 4. Building Materials and Assembly (light construction), 3 semester hours
 5. Environmental Systems (heat, light, sound, human comfort), 3 semester hours
 6. Architectural Design Studio (in addition to "design fundamentals" courses), 24 semester hours
 - b. Where slight deficiencies in preparation exist, applicants may be admitted with the stipulation that they complete additional design studio or supporting courses. These may not count toward the required graduate plan of study.
2. Persons making application to the post-professional M.Arch degree program must have completed an NAAB-accredited professional undergraduate degree in architecture. Registration as an architect in the United States may be substituted for the professional degree.

C. Program Requirements

1. A total of 60 semester hours, including 6 hours of thesis studio
2. A minimum of 42 semester hours at the 7000 level, including no more than 6 semester hours of thesis
3. A total of 36 semester hours of Architecture core courses, including 18 semester hours of advanced architectural design studios, 9 semester hours of architectural seminars, and 9 semester hours of architectural theory and advanced professional and technical courses
4. A minimum of 2 semester hours of Architecture Thesis Research and 6 semester hours of Architecture Thesis Studio. Thesis must be approved by a faculty committee
5. Students receiving assistantships are required to take a minimum of 12 credit hours per semester

D. Transfer of Credits

The Architecture Program director may recommend to the Graduate School acceptance of no more than 12 semester hours of credit for architecture course work successfully completed at another institution. For students formerly enrolled in graduate programs accredited by the National Architectural Accrediting Board, a maximum of 24 semester hours in architecture course work may be approved.

Master of Architecture (M.Arch) - Program of Study 60 Credit Hours

FIRST YEAR

Fall 15 Credit Hours

- ARCH 7711 (6) Advanced Architectural Design Studio I
- ARCH 7011 (3) Advanced Architectural Design Seminar I
- ARCH 7211 (3) Contemporary Architectural Theory
- _____ (3) Architecture / Concentration / Certificate Elective

Spring 15 Credit Hours

- ARCH 7712 (6) Advanced Architectural Design Studio II
- ARCH 7012 (3) Advanced Architectural Design Seminar II
- ARCH 7421 (3) Advanced Environmental Systems
- _____ (3) Architecture / Concentration / Certificate Elective

SECOND YEAR

Fall 15 Credit Hours

- ARCH 4/6822(6) Architecture and Urbanism Studio
- ARCH 4/6022(3) Architecture and Urbanism Seminar
- ARCH 7930 (3) Architectural Thesis Research
- _____ (3) Architecture / Concentration / Certificate Elective

Spring 15 Credit Hours

- ARCH 7931 (6) Architectural Thesis Studio
- ARCH 7431 (3) Advanced Professional Practice
- _____ (3) Architecture / Concentration / Certificate Elective
- _____ (3) Architecture / Concentration / Certificate Elective

NOTES

Electives may be taken from a prescribed list of courses offered by the Department of Architecture, the City and Regional Planning Program, the School of Urban Affairs and Public Policy, and the Real Estate Development Program. Please check with an Architecture academic advisor for details.

All ARCH-prefix courses require a \$20 per credit hour fee.

Master of Architecture (M.Arch) -- Core Curriculum

6022. Architecture and Urbanism Seminar. (3). Review of contemporary concepts in architectural design in the context of the urban environment; attitudes and phenomena making the particular culture of today and their impact on the built environment. PREREQUISITE: Permission of instructor. COREQUISITE: ARCH 4822/6822.

6822. Architecture and Urbanism Studio. (6). Advanced design studio for identifying needs, resources, and operational methodologies across an expanded range of environmental scales; methods for identifying socio-cultural needs and coordination of complex variables, information, and resources, leading to conceptualization and development of design of components of the built environment. COREQUISITE: ARCH 6022.

7011. Advanced Architectural Design Seminar I. (3). Offered in conjunction with advanced studio problems in architecture; changing topics address a variety of critical and ideological constructs; emphasizes life-safety, building envelope and service systems, materials and assemblies. COREQUISITE: ARCH 7711.

7012. Advanced Architectural Design Seminar II. (3). Offered in conjunction with advanced studio problems in architecture; changing topics address a variety of critical and ideological constructs; emphasizes structural and environmental issues as design determinants. PREREQUISITE: ARCH 7711; COREQUISITE: ARCH 7712.

7211. Contemporary Architectural Theory. (3). Critical study of contemporary theoretical writings and related architectural production; contemporary issues informing current architectural discourse; the Modernist canon and "-isms" from the mid-twentieth century to the present.

7421. Advanced Environmental Systems. (3). Advanced principles, appropriate applications and performance of environmental systems; acoustical, lighting, climate modification systems, and energy use integrated with the building envelope. PREREQUISITE: ARCH 3421 (or approved equivalent) or permission of instructor.

7431. Advanced Professional Practice. (3). Basic principles and legal aspects of practice organization, financial management, business planning, time and project management, risk mitigation, mediation and arbitration; trends affecting practice such as globalization, outsourcing, project delivery, expanded practice settings, diversity, and others. PREREQUISITE: ARCH 3431 (or approved equivalent) or permission of instructor.

7711. Advanced Architectural Design Studio I. (6). Advanced studio problems in architecture; changing topics address a variety of critical and ideological constructs; emphasizes life-safety, building envelope and service systems, materials and assemblies. COREQUISITE: ARCH 7011.

7712. Advanced Architectural Design Studio II. (6). Advanced studio problems in architecture; changing topics address a variety of critical and ideological constructs; emphasizes structural and environmental issues as design determinants. PREREQUISITE: ARCH 7711, 7011; COREQUISITE: ARCH 7012.

†7930. Architectural Thesis Research. (3). Study and research in a specific area culminating in an integrating experience through individual project; research techniques, preliminary research, and conceptual development of an architectural project; site analysis and selection, case studies; development of thesis proposal. PREREQUISITE: Permission of instructor.

†7996. Architectural Thesis Studio. (1-6). Emphasizes comprehensive integration of disciplinary and professional skills through formulation of architectural propositions grounded in theoretical, critical, and creative research. PREREQUISITE: ARCH 7930.

Master of Architecture (M.Arch) -- Architecture Electives

6021. Architecture Independent Study. (1-3). Independent research in selected area of study under supervision of member of architecture faculty. May be repeated for a maximum of 6 hours credit. PREREQUISITE: Permission of instructor.

6023. Urban Design Seminar. (3). Comprehensive overview of significant issues of contemporary urban design; emphasis on experiential nature of cities and role of the architect in urban design. PREREQUISITE: Permission of instructor.

6221. Determinants of Modern Design. (3). Significant works of architecture and urban design from 1900 to present; focus on Europe, the US, and non-Western world; examines architecture as a mode of cultural production in relation to its aesthetic. PREREQUISITE: ARCH 1211, 1212, or equivalent.

6451. Site and Environmental Planning. (3). Building sites; selection and utilization, including environmental influences; technical aspects such as zoning, contour lines, parking, ingress/egress, site drainage, building location, and sustainable design. PREREQUISITE: Permission of instructor.

6510-6519. Special Topics. (1-3). Topics are varied and announced in online class listings. May be repeated for a maximum of 6 hours when topic varies. PREREQUISITE: Permission of instructor.

6613. Computer Applications in Architecture III. (3). Advanced design, modeling, and analytical concepts using various computer software programs. PREREQUISITE: Permission of instructor.

6811. Parameters in Architecture Studio. (3-6). Comprehensive overview of differences and relationships of history, technology, and culture in terms of impact on architecture and urban design; concepts of form generation and historic dimensions of architecture with respect to human settlement. May be repeated for a maximum of 6 hours when topic changes. PREREQUISITE: Permission of instructor.

6812. Furniture Design Studio. (4). Examination of the historical precedents in modern style and the place of furniture in architecture; design philosophy, expression of materials, and construction. PREREQUISITE: Permission of instructor.

6821. Urban Design Studio. (6). Comprehensive overview of significant issues of contemporary urban design; emphasis on experiential nature of cities, role of public policy, and genesis and development of urban building types. PREREQUISITE: Permission of instructor.

6841. Studio-Study Abroad. (3-9). Comparative studies of cultures; relationships of culture to physical environment, organization of cities; history and behavior of inhabitants; analysis and documentation of elements of physical environment and relationship between buildings and urban fabric. PREREQUISITE: Permission of instructor.

‡7021. Architecture Independent Study. (1-3). Independent research in selected area of study under supervision of member of architecture faculty. May be repeated for a maximum of 6 credit hours in increments of 1, 2, or 3 credit hours. PREREQUISITE: Permission of instructor.

‡Grades of S, U, or IP will be given. †Grades of A-F, or IP will be given.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ON ACCREDITATION

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.

Masters 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.

The NAAB grants candidacy status to new programs that have developed viable plans for achieving initial accreditation. Candidacy status indicates that a program should be accredited within 6 years of achieving candidacy, if its plan is properly implemented.

The Master of Architecture degree at the University of Memphis is not yet accredited by the National Architectural Accrediting Board (NAAB). The University of Memphis has been approved for Candidacy status from NAAB and is pursuing full accreditation.

APPLICATION PROCESS

For information on admission to the Graduate School, please visit their website at <http://academics.memphis.edu/gradschool/index.html>. For specific information on the M. Arch degree please visit <http://www.memphis.edu/gradcatalog/degreeprog/ccfa/arch.php>.

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

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