

Architecture, B.Arch.

Overview

The Bachelor of Architecture (B.Arch) is a 5-year, first professional degree program accredited by the National Architectural Accrediting Board (NAAB, <https://www.naab.org/>) with a carefully defined set of "Program Criteria" (PC) and "Student Performance Criteria" (SPC). The B.Arch is for students proposing to pursue a career as a licensed architect or related profession, and centers around a carefully structured set of professional and technical courses about building design and construction, alongside the social, cultural and professional contexts in which architects operate. Our students graduate with a professional degree that prepares them to excel in practice—but that also launches them into key specialties within and around the profession.

Due to the technical nature of the B.Arch program at CMU, it is STEM-eligible, meaning that in addition to one year of Optional Practical Training (OPT), an international student on an F-1 visa may apply for a 24-month STEM OPT extension following graduation.

Statement on NAAB-Accredited Degrees

In the United States, most 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 professional degree programs in architecture offered by institutions with U.S. regional accreditation, recognizes three types of degrees: the Bachelor of Architecture, the Master of Architecture, and the Doctor of Architecture. A program may be granted an eight-year term, an eight-year term with conditions, or a three-year term of initial accreditation, depending on the extent of its conformance with established education standards.

Carnegie Mellon Architecture offers the following NAAB-accredited programs:

- Bachelor of Architecture (B.Arch) (450 units)
- Master of Architecture (M.Arch) (Pre-professional degree or equivalent + 180 units)

The next NAAB accreditation visit for the Bachelor of Architecture is scheduled for 2026.

The next NAAB accreditation visit for the Master of Architecture is scheduled for 2030.

Further links can be found at <https://www.architecture.cmu.edu/accreditation>. The full 2020 NAAB Conditions for Accreditation can also be found on NAAB's website at: <https://www.naab.org/accreditation/about-accreditation>.

Curriculum

Minimum units required for Bachelor of Architecture 450

Architecture Design Studio 174 units

	Units
48-100 Architecture Design Studio: Core 1 - Foundations	15
48-105 Architecture Design Studio: Poiesis Studio 2	15
48-200 Architecture Design Studio: Core 3 - Tectonics	18
48-205 Architecture Options Studios: Core 3	18
48-300 Architecture Design Studio: Core 5 - Ecologies	18
48-305 Architecture Design Studio: Praxis Studio 2	18
48-400 Architecture Design Studio: Core 7 - Integrations	18
48-410 Advanced Synthesis Options Studio II OR equivalent	18
48-500 Advanced Option Studio OR equivalent	18
48-510 Advanced Synthesis Options Studio IV OR Thesis	18
	174

History, Urbanism, Practice & Ethics Stream 60 units

	Units
48-119 Design Ethics & Social Justice in Architecture	3
48-111 Exploring Pittsburgh	3

48-240	History of World Architecture, I	9
48-241	Modern Architecture: History & Theory	9
48-xxx	Architectural History III (selective)	9
48-250	Urbanism and the Social Production of Space	9
48-380	Constructing Value(s): Economies of Design	6
48-381	Issues of Practice	6
48-383	Ethics in Architecture	6
		60

Architectural Technologies Streams 47 units

		Units
48-104	Shop Skills	2
48-116	Introduction to Building Performance	3
48-215	Materials & Assembly	9
48-234	Structural Design 1: Form and Forces	6
48-324	Structural Design 2: Materials and Analysis	6
48-315	Environmental Systems: Climate & Energy in Buildings	9
48-432	Environment II: Design Integration of Active Building Systems	9
		44

Computation & Representation Stream 47 units

		Units
99-101	Core@CMU	3
48-120	Digital Media I	6
48-121	Drawing I	6
48-112	Digital Fabrication Skills	2
48-125	Digital Media II	6
48-126	Drawing II	6
48-214	Generative Modeling	9
48-247	Fundamentals of Computational Design	9
		47

General Studies & Electives 122 units

		Units
48-025	First Year Seminar: Architecture Edition	3
48-026	Second Year Seminar: Architecture Edition II	3
76-101	Interpretation and Argument	9
48-xxx	Architecture Electives	27
xx-xxx	Non-Architecture Electives (out of SoA)	45
xx-xxx	Flex Electives (in or out of SoA)	32
		119

Sample Schedule

First-Year		Second-Year	
Fall	Spring	Fall	Spring
48-100 Architecture Design Studio: Core 1 - Foundations	48-105 Architecture Design Studio: Poiesis Studio 2	48-200 Architecture Design Studio: Core 3 - Tectonics	48-205 Architecture Options Studios: Core 3
48-104 Shop Skills	48-112 Digital Fabrication Skills	48-215 Materials & Assembly	48-241 Modern Architecture: History & Theory
48-120 Digital Media I	48-125 Digital Media II	48-116 Introduction to Building Performance	48-247 Fundamentals of Computational Design
48-121 Drawing I	48-126 Drawing II	48-214 Generative Modeling	48-026 Second Year Seminar: Architecture Edition II
48-119 Design Ethics & Social Justice in Architecture	48-111 Exploring Pittsburgh	xx-xxx Elective	xx-xxx Elective
76-101 Interpretation and Argument	xx-xxx Elective		
99-101 Core@CMU			

Third-Year		Fourth-Year	
Fall	Spring	Fall	Spring
48-300 Architecture Design Studio: Core 5 - Ecologies	48-305 Architecture Design Studio: Praxis Studio 2	48-400 Architecture Design Studio: Core 7 - Integrations	48-410 Advanced Synthesis Options Studio II
48-234 Structural Design 1: Form and Forces	48-324 Structural Design 2: Materials and Analysis	48-432 Environment II: Design Integration of Active Building Systems	48-381 Issues of Practice
48-315 Environmental Systems: Climate & Energy in Buildings	48-380 Constructing Value(s): Economies of Design	48-250 Urbanism and the Social Production of Space	48-383 Ethics in Architecture
xx-xxx Elective	48-xxx Architectural History III (selective)	48-561 Professional Development	xx-xxx Elective
	xx-xxx Elective		xx-xxx Elective

Fifth-Year

Fall	Spring
48-500 Advanced Option Studio	48-510 Advanced Synthesis Options Studio IV or 48-519 Architecture Design Studio: Thesis II/ Independent Project
xx-xxx Elective	xx-xxx Elective
xx-xxx Elective	xx-xxx Elective
xx-xxx Elective	xx-xxx Elective