



**MASTER OF ARCHITECTURE**  
**Advanced Standing (Path A)**  
**Curriculum**

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The Advanced Standing program is designed to complement the University of Maryland's undergraduate [Bachelor of Science](#) degree and similar programs offered at other institutions. The program leading to the Master of Architecture (M. Arch.) is an accredited professional degree program that prepares students for careers in architecture. Students are required to prepare a design thesis as both a culmination of the comprehensive studio experience and as a transition to the world of professional practice. Attainment of registration for professional practice after completion of the degree requires completion of an internship in an architectural office and the passing of the architectural registration examination. Coursework in this program can be complemented by studies in urban design, urban planning, historic preservation and/or real estate development.

**YEAR 1**

**SEMESTER 1**

ARCH	600	Comprehensive Design Studio	6
ARCH	611	Advanced Technology	3
ARCH	460	Site Analysis and Design	3
ARCH	6xx	Architectural Seminar	3
<b>Semester Total</b>			<b>15</b>

**SEMESTER 2**

ARCH	601	Topical Design Studio	6
ARCH	654	Urban Development and Design Theory	3
ARCH	635	History of Modern Architecture	3
ARCH	4/6xx	History/Theory of Architecture Elective	3
<b>Semester Total</b>			<b>15</b>

*Recommended study abroad and/or internship*

**YEAR 2**

**SEMESTER 3**

ARCH	700	Urban Design Studio	6
ARCH	797	Thesis Proseminar	3
ARCH	770	Professional Practice	3
ARCH	6xx	Architecture Elective	3
<b>Semester Total</b>			<b>15</b>

**SEMESTER 4**

ARCH	799	Thesis Research	6
ARCH	798	Thesis	3
ARCH	4/6xx	History/Theory of Architecture Seminar	3
XXXX	xxx	University Elective	3
<b>Semester Total</b>			<b>15</b>

**Total Credit Hours in the Master of Architecture Degree 60**

NB: Course offerings may vary from semester to semester, the above curriculum is intended to illustrate a typical path toward completion of the degree. The actual sequence of courses may vary.

**COURSE DESCRIPTIONS:**

A complete listing of course descriptions offered by the Architecture Program can be found at:  
<https://arch.umd.edu/programs/architecture/academics/architecture-courses>

**GRADE POINT AVERAGE IN MAJOR POLICY:**

The 3.0 GPA in major policy requires all graduate students matriculating in Fall 2012 to earn a 3.0 grade point average in their major, minor, and/or certificate requirements. With the new plus/minus policy, the minimum grade for most major courses is a B-, now calculated as a 2.7. It is important that graduate students clearly understand what courses make up major, minor and certificate requirements, and that the cumulative GPA for those courses must be at least 3.0.

**RECOMMENDED INTERNSHIPS:**

At various points in a student's education practical experience gained through internship complements and provides insight into formal education. The Program provides an annual Career Fair that enables students gain contacts with major firms in the Washington-Baltimore area as well as firms with numerous locations nationally and internationally. Many students arrange internships over the summer and/or winter recess. While the Program does not provide academic credit for work in a professional context, the experiences gained therein are invaluable to a student's development.

**RECOMMENDED STUDY ABROAD:**

The Architecture Program offers several intensive study abroad programs during the winter term and over the summer session. The programs are generally three or six weeks in duration and are lead by faculty members who have proven expertise in locales in which the programs are located. Past programs have taken students to France, India, Italy, North Africa, Peru, Russia, Turkey, South Africa, and the Yucatan. Students study the historical and contemporary architecture, urbanism, and cultures of the nations visited.

**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.

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.

The University of Maryland School of Architecture, Planning & Preservation offers the following NAAB-accredited degree programs:

M.Arch (pre-professional degree + 60 graduate credits)  
M.Arch (non-pre-professional degree + 105 credits)

Next accreditation visit for both programs: 2025

Current information about the University of Maryland's Accreditation Status can be found at:

<https://arch.umd.edu/programs/architecture/academics/naab-accreditation>

Additional information about NAAB can be found at: [www.naab.org](http://www.naab.org)

**QUALIFYING FOR ADVANCED STANDING:**

A condition of admission with advanced standing in the Architecture Program is documentation to verify completion of National Architectural Accreditation Board (NAAB) accreditation criteria that applicants have satisfied in prior coursework at their undergraduate institution. This requirement is now a condition of accreditation for all NAAB accredited architecture programs. The relevant text from the NAAB 2020 Conditions for Accreditation below:

**PART FOUR (IV) SECTION 3—EVALUATION OF PREPARATORY EDUCATION**

The program must demonstrate that it has a thorough and equitable process for evaluating the preparatory or pre-professional education of individuals admitted to the NAAB-accredited degree program.

- Programs must document their processes for evaluating a student's prior academic course work related to

satisfying NAAB accreditation criteria when a student is admitted to the professional degree program.

- In the event a program relies on the preparatory educational experience to ensure that admitted students have met certain accreditation criteria, the program must demonstrate it has established standards for ensuring these criteria are met and for determining whether any gaps exist.
- The program must demonstrate that the evaluation of baccalaureate-degree or associate-degree content is clearly articulated in the admissions process, and that the evaluation process and its implications for the length of a professional degree program can be understood by a candidate before accepting the offer of admission. See also Condition II.4.6.

[NOTE: A review of course titles and descriptions in and of itself is not considered sufficient for this activity.]

Applicants for the Master of Architecture with Advanced Standing shall have completed the following coursework as part of their undergraduate degree in architecture equivalent to:

- 4 – Architectural Design Studios (6 credits each)
- 1 – Building Materials and Assemblies course (3 credits min.)
- 2 – Structural Systems Courses (3 credits each min.)
- 1 – Environmental Systems Course (3 credits min.)
- 1 – Sustainable Systems Course (3 credits min.)
- 2 – History of World Architecture Courses (3 credits each min.)

The course work must satisfy National Architectural Accrediting Board accreditation criteria, which are either met or partially met in the University of Maryland's Bachelor of Science Program and serve as pre-requisites for admission to the M ARCH program with advanced standing. The student shall have received a grade no less than B (3.0) in the courses in question. The NAAB criteria required for advanced standing consideration are:

PC.1	Career Paths**	SC1	Health, Safety and Welfare*
PC.2	Design**	SC.2	Professional Practice*
PC.3	Ecological Knowledge and Responsibility*	SC.3.	Regulatory Context*
PC.4	History and Theory**	SC.4	Technical Knowledge *
PC.5	Research and Innovation*	SC.5	Design Synthesis*
PC.6	Leadership and Collaboration*	SC.6	Building Integration*
PC.7	Learning and Teaching Culture*		
PC.8	Social Equity and Inclusion**		

\*Indicates criterion is partially met in the pre-professional degree

\*\*Indicates that criterion is met in the pre-professional degree

#### Supporting Materials Required for Verification:

Final determination of an applicant's eligibility for advanced standing in the M ARCH program will be made after he/she has been offered admission. Candidates will be informed of their eligibility to apply for advanced standing in the letter offering admission. Candidates who desire to be considered for advanced standing will be required to submit additional evidence to demonstrate that they satisfied required NAAB criteria to a satisfactory extent during the course of their undergraduate degree program. The following materials will be used in the evaluation process:

- The portfolio of academic work from architectural design studios (submitted as part of the regular application process).
- Course syllabi for each course taken during the applicant's undergraduate education in the following areas:
  - Structures courses
  - Building methods and materials courses
  - Mechanical, electrical and plumbing courses
  - Sustainable systems courses
  - Design studios
  - History / theory courses
  - Professional practice courses (if any)
  - Any other course for which you satisfied an NAAB criteria
- Assignments, projects, examinations, tests, and quizzes that serve as evidence of successful completion of the criteria from the above courses.

If deficiencies in criteria are found to exist, the applicant's curriculum will be modified to include additional coursework to satisfy the NAAB criteria requirements.

**MASTER OF ARCHITECTURE Advanced Standing (Path A)**  
Prerequisite: B.S. in Architecture

<b>REQUIRED COURSEWORK IN ARCHITECTURE</b>			<b>Credit</b>
ARCH	460	Site Analysis and Design	3
ARCH	600	Comprehensive Design Studio	6
ARCH	601	Topical Design Studio	6
ARCH	611	Advanced Technology	3
ARCH	635	History of Modern Architecture	3
ARCH	654	Urban Development and Design Theory	3
ARCH	700	Urban Design Studio	6
ARCH	770	Professional Practice	3
ARCH	797	Thesis Proseminar	3
ARCH	798	Thesis	3
ARCH	799	Thesis Research	6
ARCH	4/6xx	History/Theory of Architecture Elective	3
ARCH	4/6xx	History/Theory of Architecture Seminar	3
ARCH	6xx	Architecture Elective	3
ARCH	6xx	Architecture Seminar	3
XXXX	xxx	University Elective	3

**Total Credit Hours In the Master of Architecture Degree 60**

**Elective Courses** students are encouraged to work with faculty mentors and the academic advising staff to select electives that contribute to their academic development.

**Seminars** are a specialized type of elective course, typically with smaller enrollments, involving directed research, presentations, and group discussions. All seminars (with the exception of Thesis Proseminar) are electives and may also count as an elective course.