

School of Architecture

Director: Michael A. Berk
Academic Records Assistant: Pandora Prater
Office: 240 Giles Hall

General Information

The profession of architecture offers the student the opportunity to participate in improving the physical world, in solving problems of our society, and in giving form to the needs of modern culture. To meet these demands requires a highly trained profession composed of sensitive, dedicated men and women. The School of Architecture is the educational foundation of the profession in the State of Mississippi and provides for the development of the skills and understanding to prepare the student for his or her role in the practice of architecture.

The School of Architecture offers an intense, carefully structured, and rich array of courses which constitute a solid foundation for architectural practice. The course work provides students with an awareness of the diversity and complexity of today's professional world. Each course has its own important role in developing the knowledge, collaborative skills, and abilities required of architects in a contemporary practice.

The School of Architecture at Mississippi State University is the professional school for the State of Mississippi and is the only program in the state that leads to a professional degree in architecture. To meet the needs of the state and region, the School was established in 1973 with the support of an Advisory Committee of the Mississippi Chapter of the American Institute of Architects.

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 an eight-year, a three-year, or a two-year term of accreditation, depending on the degree and quality of its conformance with established educational standards.

The Bachelor of Architecture program at the School of Architecture at Mississippi State University has been continuously accredited since its inception. In 2016 the School was reaccredited for another full eight-year term.

Admissions

Admission to the School of Architecture is limited and highly competitive. Prospective students should carefully read materials on the School web site and communicate with the School of Architecture to request current information, and if possible, arrange for a tour of facilities and admissions advisement.

Application Process

1. Apply to Mississippi State University.
2. Submit all required materials including high school transcripts and ACT or SAT scores
3. Indicate your choice of major as "Architecture."
4. Once admitted to MSU, complete the School of Architecture application online which can be found on the applicant's my.msstate.edu homepage.

Applications are reviewed and students accepted as applications are received. Places are reserved for the most qualified students submitting applications by January 15. Places for students with qualified applications received after this date will be considered as space permits.

The School of Architecture admits applicants under one of two categories of admission.

1. Full Admission with the opportunity to begin freshman architectural design studio in the fall term. Entrance to the fall design studios is competitive and has academic prerequisites. Students with an ACT score of 26 or better (or the SAT equivalent) and a 3.5 GPA or greater, are generally accepted into the architecture program, if their formal Supplemental Application Package is received prior to December 15, and depending on available space.
2. Students not accepted into the Fall Design Studios are placed in the Pre-Architecture program. Pre-Architecture students follow a similar course of study, but do not take ARC 1536 and ARC 1546 (Freshman Studio courses). There are many reasons why a student may not be admitted to the fall design studios: late application, lower ranking in the applicant pool, and lack of pre-requisites are the main reasons. The School of Architecture attracts highly talented students. The study of architecture is highly rigorous: the School wants to ensure that students that enter the program succeed. Pre-Architecture students may re-apply for summer admission into the program after completing all first year requirements; during the summer terms the student will take ARC 1536 and ARC 1546 (Freshman studio courses). Successful completion of these summer studios will allow the student to join the second year (Sophomore) studio in the fall.

3. Students may receive transfer credit for non-professional courses completed at other universities, colleges, and community colleges, provided a grade of C or better is received for each course. Transfer credit from other architecture programs is reviewed by the admissions committee and the director. Transfer credit for courses listed as technical, vocational, or architectural is solely at the discretion of the department. In addition to transcripts, course descriptions, syllabi, examples of work done and portfolio may all be required to receive any credit for such courses.

Finances

Costs for an architectural education are somewhat higher than in other disciplines. In addition to standard costs of fees, tuition, room, board, books, etc, an architectural student must buy required drawing equipment and materials for drawings and models during the school year. This can add \$600 or so per semester. Additionally, at least one major field trip is required each year. Charges for field trip expenses are collected with tuition and currently range from \$600 in first year to \$1000 in fifth year. These charges are intended to cover transportation and lodging during field trips. These fees are not typically refundable after the first day of classes. Students are required to purchase a laptop computer in their first year, selected from a range of models approved by the School.

Scholarships

A number of scholarship opportunities as well as design competitions and awards are available to students within the School of Architecture. See the School's website for additional information. Normal MSU Scholarships are available to in-state and out-of-state students. Inquiries for financial aid or assistance should be sent directly to the MSU Department of Student Financial Aid and/or Office of Admissions and Scholarships.

Counseling

Once accepted into the School of Architecture, students are required to maintain at least an MSU 2.0 cumulative quality point average to remain in design courses. At the end of the first year, a student must have completed all required courses to enter the second year, and at the end of the fourth year, a student must have completed all required courses in order to advance to the fifth year. Any student who receives a grade of D or lower for two sequential design courses must repeat both of these courses and receive a grade of C or higher in both courses to advance in the program, or receive the Bachelor of Architecture degree. If a studio course is failed, a grade of C must be received to advance in the program, or receive the Bachelor of Architecture degree.

Research Centers in the School of Architecture

Carl Small Town Center (CSTC)

Established in 1979, the vision of the Carl Small Town Center is to strengthen communities and to promote a prosperous and sustainable future by raising an awareness of the physical environment through research and excellence in design. For further information, contact the Director of the Carl Small Town Center at 662-325-2207.

Gulf Coast Community Design Studio (GCCDS)

The GCCDS was established after hurricane Katrina. GCCDS is located in Biloxi and is providing community planning and architectural design services to communities and rebuilding organizations. GCCDS has provided design and construction assistance for hundreds of new and existing homes, produced survey and GIS mapping for Biloxi, and planning work for a collaboration of housing organizations. For more information, contact the Director of GCCDS at 228-436-4461.

Curriculum

The curriculum is divided into three levels: the first-year level is defined as the pre-professional program; the second and third year levels comprise the professional core; the fourth year comprises topical and capstone studios, and the fifth-year provides the transition to professional practice and includes a comprehensive capstone project. The first four years are at the main campus of MSU in Starkville; the fifth year is at the Stuart C. Irby Studios at the Jackson Center in downtown Jackson, MS.

The curriculum is composed of four areas of study representing:

(1) Design, (2) History/Theory, (3) Technology, (4) Professional Practice

1. Design - concerned with the understanding of form, shape, and space responsive to human needs and programs, together with development of architectural communication skills and ecological thinking.
2. History/Theory - composed of architectural history and philosophy, current architectural ideas, and future implications.
3. Technology - providing basic knowledge in physical systems of structures, materials, construction, sustainability, and service systems of plumbing, electrical, heating, and air conditioning.
4. Professional Practice - representing the tools necessary to direct the processes of architecture, integrated project delivery, areas of economics, real estate, finance, land use, law, and office practice.

Located at the Jackson Center in downtown Jackson, the fifth-year offers the student the opportunity to develop depth and expertise through research and design projects focused on urban issues. The city provides a major resource for the activities and a laboratory for continued study. Professionals involved in all areas of the built environment contribute to the teaching. This experience provides a transition from the academic foundation to the professional realities of architecture.

General Education Requirements

EN 1103	English Composition I	3
or EN 1163	Accelerated Composition I	
EN 1113	English Composition II	3
or EN 1173	Accelerated Composition II	
Mathematics		
MA 1313	College Algebra ¹	3
MA 1323	Trigonometry ¹	3
MA 1613	Calculus for Business and Life Sciences I	3
Science		
PH 1113	General Physics I	3
PH 1123	General Physics II	3
ARC 2713	Passive Building Systems	3
Humanities		
ARC 2313	History of Architecture I	3
ARC 3313	History of Architecture II	3
Fine Arts		
See General Education courses		3
Social Sciences		
See General Education courses		6
Major Core		
ARC 1536	Architectural Design I-A ²	6
ARC 1546	Architectural Design I-B	6
ARC 2536	Architectural Design II-A	6
ARC 2546	Architectural Design II-B	6
ARC 3536	Architectural Design III-A	6
ARC 3546	Architectural Design III-B	6
ARC 4536	Architectural Design IV-A	6
ARC 4546	Architectural Design IV-B	6
ARC 5576	Architectural Design V-A	6
ARC 5589	Architectural Design V-B	9
ART 1213	Drawing I	3
ART 1223	Drawing II ³	3
ARC 2313	History of Architecture I (see Gen. Ed.)	3
ARC 3313	History of Architecture II (see Gen. Ed.)	3
ARC 3323	History of Architecture III	3
ARC 4313	Architectural Theory	3
ARC 2713	Passive Building Systems (see Gen. Ed.)	3
ARC 3723	Active Building Systems	3
ARC 2723	Materials	3
ARC 3713	Assemblages	3
ARC 3904	Architectural Structures I	4
ARC 3914	Structures II	4
ARC 4733	Site Planning for Architects	3
ARC 5383	Legal Aspects of Architecture	3
ARC 5443	Architectural Programming	3
ARC 5493	Architectural Practice	3
ARC 5353	Philosophy of Architecture	3

ARC 5623	Theory of Urban Design	3
Approved Electives		12
Oral Communication Requirement		
Satisfied by successful completion of Architectural Design courses.		
Writing Requirement		
Satisfied by successful completion of ARC 4313		
Total Hours		152

- 1 MA 1313 and MA 1323 should be completed the summer prior to beginning studies in architecture. Students with 24 ACT in Math are excused from MA 1313 College Algebra. Students may also take the College Level Examination Program (CLEP) exam to place out of MA 1313. Students with a 26 ACT in Math and a grade of "B" or better in a full semester of high school trigonometry may be excused from MA 1323 College Trigonometry.
- 2 Pre-Architecture and some transfer students take ARC 1536 and ARC 1546 in the summer terms upon demonstrating completion of required Freshman courses. Applications due February 15.
- 3 ART 1223 Drawing II is required of all students receiving a grade of "C" or less in ART 1213 Drawing I.

Minor in Architectural Studies

The School of Architecture offers a minor in architectural studies. The minor consists of 18 credit hours of ARC courses. The following courses are available to receive a minor:

Required

ARC 1013	Architectural Appreciation	3
----------	----------------------------	---

Taken without instructor approval:

ARC 2313	History of Architecture I	3
ARC 3313	History of Architecture II	3
ARC 3323	History of Architecture III	3
ARC 4313	Architectural Theory	3
ARC 2713	Passive Building Systems	3
ARC 4733	Site Planning for Architects	3

Require consent of instructor for enrollment:

ARC 2723	Materials	3
ARC 3713	Assemblages	3
ARC 3723	Active Building Systems	3
ARC 3573	The Art/Architecture of Packaging	3
ARC 4990	Special Topics in Architecture	3