

School of Architecture

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General Information

Architecture offers the opportunity for individuals to engage in a career that improves the physical world, addresses the problems of our society, and gives form to modern culture. Meeting these demands requires a highly trained profession composed of dedicated men and women. The School of Architecture serves as the educational foundation of the profession in the State of Mississippi, teaching skills and developing a range of understandings 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 that constitute a solid foundation for architectural practice. The totality of these courses 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 accredited program in the state. 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 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 two-year term of continuing accreditation, or a three-year term of initial accreditation, depending on the extent of its conformance with established education standards. Doctor of Architecture and Master of Architecture degree programs may require a non-accredited undergraduate degree in architecture for admission. However, the non-accredited degree is not, by itself, recognized as an accredited degree.

Mississippi State University School of Architecture offers the following NAAB-accredited degree program:

B. Arch. (152 undergraduate semester credits)

Next Accreditation Visit: 2025

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. This accreditation was extended another year because of Covid-19.

Admissions

Acceptance to the School of Architecture is limited and highly competitive. The School of Architecture has a rigorous application process. Unfortunately, due to guidelines and standards related to the limited size of our program (including facilities and faculty/staff), the School of Architecture is not in a position to accommodate all of the applicants who have been accepted at MSU and wish to study architecture.

Prospective students should read carefully the application/admission materials on the School's web site and communicate with the School of Architecture to request current information. Touring facilities and meeting the School's admissions coordinator is encouraged.

Application Process:

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

Architecture online applications must be received on or before January 15. Applications are reviewed and ranked as received. Places for students with qualified applications received after this date will be considered as space permits. These applications will be wait-listed to fill-in openings if they become available.

The School of Architecture considers applicants as follows:

1. Students accepted to begin in the Fall Architecture Program (in the fall term). Entrance to the Fall Architecture Program is extremely 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 may qualify for Early Acceptance if their formal online Architecture Application submission is received prior to December 15 (depending on available space).
2. Students not accepted into the Fall Architecture Program. Students who are not accepted into the fall term are classified as *Undeclared – architecture concentration*. The *Undeclared – architecture concentration* students follow a similar course of study, but do not take ARC 1536 and ARC 1546 (first year studio courses). There are many reasons why a student may not be admitted to the Fall Architecture Program: late architecture application, lower ranking in the applicant pool, lack of math pre-requisites, and/or failing to submit an online Architecture Application. The *Undeclared – architecture concentration* student may attend MSU and continue to pursue the study of architecture. Once the student enters the university in the Fall and completes required first year courses for the *Undeclared – Architecture concentration* curriculum while maintaining a cumulative grade point average of at least a 2.5, the student may be eligible for the following *Summer Architecture Program*. Students interested in this path need to be in contact with the School Advisor at the end of the fall term and beginning of the spring term as intentions to enter the program need to be shared with the School by March 1. During the Summer Program terms, the student will take ARC 1536 (<http://catalog.msstate.edu/archives/2024-25/search/?P=ARC%201536>) and ARC 1546 (<http://catalog.msstate.edu/archives/2024-25/search/?P=ARC%201546>) (first year studio courses). Successful completion of these summer studios will allow the student to join the second year 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 or a portfolio may all be required to receive any credit for such courses.

Finances

Costs for an architectural education are higher than in other disciplines. In addition to standard costs of fees, tuition, room, board, books, etc., an architecture student must buy required drawing equipment and materials for drawings and models during the school year. 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 over \$3,700 in fifth year for a two-week study abroad program. 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 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.

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. Students cannot progress to the fifth year until all undergraduate courses (1000-4000-level taken during the first four years of the program) have been satisfactorily completed.

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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 1104	Expanded English Composition I	
EN 1113	English Composition II	3
or EN 1173	Accelerated Composition II	
Fine Arts		
See General Education courses		3
Humanities		
ARC 2313	History of Architecture I ¹	3
ARC 3313	History of Architecture II ¹	3
Social Sciences		
See General Education courses		6
Quantitative Reasoning		
MA 1613	Calculus for Business and Life Sciences I	3
Natural Sciences		
PH 1113	General Physics I	3
PH 1123	General Physics II	3

Degree Requirements

Major Core		
ARC 1536	Architectural Design I-A	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 5586	Architectural Design V-B	6
ARC 1213		
ARC 2213	Representation 1	3
ARC 2313	History of Architecture I	3
ARC 3313	History of Architecture II (see Gen. Ed.) ³	3
ARC 3323	History of Architecture III	3
ARC 4313	Architectural Theory	3
ARC 2713	Environmental Building Systems I (see Gen. Ed.) ²	3
ARC 3723	Environmental Building Systems II	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 Counted as both Humanities requirement and Major Core

Historic Preservation Minor

The Historic Preservation Minor (HPM) offered by the School of Architecture in the College of Architecture, Art, and Design (CAAD) program will complement the Bachelor of Architecture degree track by adding an opportunity for students from the Architecture program to complete a formal and coherent grouping of courses with a focus in historic preservation, as well as students who are not enrolled in the Bachelor of Architecture program. The goal of the HPM is to introduce an academic path for the identification, examination, and archiving of the historic, architectural, and cultural context of buildings in the state of Mississippi and beyond. Recipients of the minor will be equipped with the academic and professional knowledge, technical skills, and research experience to work with professionals from the construction and design industries, municipalities, property developers, and preservationists in the recognition, renovation, and restoration of real property for reuse in society. Students will need to complete undergraduate and/or graduate courses totaling fifteen (15) credit hours.

Required Courses

ARC 3323	History of Architecture III	3
ARC 4623/6623	Historic Preservation Research Methods	3
ID 4403/6403	Introduction to Historic Preservation	3

Approved Electives (choose a total of 6 credit hours)

LA 1423	History of Landscape Architecture	
LA 2652	Landscape Architecture Precedent Studies	
LA 3554	Landscape Architecture Design III – Small Town/Rural Context	
LA 3623	Urban Planning Theory	
LA 3654	Landscape Architecture Design IV: Urban Design	
BL 4333	Real Estate Law	
AN 1543	Discovering Archaeology: Past Meets Present	
AN 2203	Introduction to Race and Ethnicity	
AN 2510	Archaeological Field Methods: Survey	
AN 4143	Ethnographic Methods	
AN 4173	Environment and Society	
AN 4523	Public Archaeology	
AAS 1063	Introduction to African American Studies	
AAS 4363	African-American History and Culture	
AAS 4373	History of Modern Civil Rights Movement	
ID 3653	History of Interiors II	
REF 3333	Principles of Real Estate	
REF 3433	Real Property Evaluation	
ARC 4536	Architectural Design IV-A	
ARC 4613	CREATE Common Ground	
ARC 4990	Special Topics in Architecture	
ARC 5623	Theory of Urban Design (required for students in the Architecture program)	

ARC 5589

Total hours**15**

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
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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	Environmental Building Systems I	3
ARC 4733	Site Planning for Architects	3

Require consent of instructor for enrollment:

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