

Master of Architecture

Plan Description

The School of Architecture offers an NAAB accredited Master of Architecture professional degree (M. Arch). The M. Arch. program has the goals of developing students' abilities to conceive and accurately represent environmentally sound and aesthetically fitting spaces at different scales and to provide a basis for understanding the consequences that these spaces have for their inhabitants, for society, and for the environment. The program supports critical thinking, design research, and paths toward licensure through award-winning faculty, world-class facilities, and a one-of-a-kind living laboratory (The Great Basin, Mojave Desert, Las Vegas, The Strip, and some of Earth's most engaging environments). The program serves its students, the profession, the state, and a diverse global community with studies focused on the built environment of a sustainable future. 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, three-year, or two-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 require a preprofessional undergraduate degree in architecture for admission. However, the preprofessional degree is not, by itself, recognized as an accredited degree. The University of Nevada, Las Vegas, School of Architecture, offers the following NAAB-accredited degree programs: M. Arch. (pre-professional degree+ 48 graduate credits) M. Arch. (non-preprofessional degree+ ~~48-96~~ **48-90** credits) Next accreditation visit for all programs: 2025 For more information about your program, including your graduate program handbook and learning outcomes, please visit the Degree Directory.

Plan Admission Requirements

Application deadlines Applications available on the UNLV Graduate College website. Each Master of Architecture program applicant must hold a baccalaureate or graduate degree from a regionally accredited college or international equivalent. Applicants must have a cumulative undergraduate GPA of 3.00 or higher. Applicants are also required to submit a design portfolio for review, a statement of intent, two letters of reference, and a writing sample. All domestic and international applicants must review and follow the Graduate College Admission and Registration Requirements. The Master of Architecture program offers prospective students two paths: For applicants holding a Bachelor of Science in Architecture (BS Arch), or its equivalent, the program offers a two-year degree path in the 4+2 program. For applicants with academic backgrounds outside of architecture or holding a Bachelor of Arts in Architecture, the program offers an alternative path through the 3 year plus degree program. The duration of the 3+ path varies based on an individual student's academic background and preparation. Each student applying for admission will be individually assessed and provided a course of study. **This 3+ path starts in the summer with 12 credits of preparatory course work.** Interested applicants can find detailed information about the Master of Architecture program directly from the School of Architecture's web site. Students are accepted into a degree program as described in the Graduate Catalog. The faculty and corresponding sub-disciplines and sub-plans within the described programs are subject to change at any time.

Plan Requirements

See Subplan Requirements below.

- Subplan 1: 4+2 Hospitality & Entertainment Design Track
- Subplan 2: 4+2 Education Facilities Research & Design Track
- Subplan 3: 4+2 Building Systems & Sustainability Track
- Subplan 4: 3+ Hospitality & Entertainment Design Track
- Subplan 5: 3+ Education Facilities Research & Design Track
- Subplan 6: 3+ Building Systems & Sustainability Track

Subplan 1 Requirements: 4+2 Hospitality & Entertainment Design Track

Total Credits Required: 48

Course Requirements

Required Courses – Credits: 30

AAE 660 Issues in Contemporary Urbanism	3
AAE 756 Design Practice Management	3
AAE 770 Research Methods in Environmental Design	6
AAE 771L Architectural Design V	6
AAE 772L Architectural Design VI	6
AAE 789 Architecture Research Studio	6
ABS 741 Integrated Building Systems	3

Elective Courses – Credits: 12

Complete 12 credits of advisor-approved course work.

Professional Project – Credits: 6

AAE 790 Professional Project Design	6
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Degree Requirements

Students are required to maintain a minimum GPA of 3.00 on a 4.00 point scale. Any student whose GPA falls below 3.00 will be placed on probation and will have one semester to raise his/her GPA to 3.00 or higher. Failure to meet the requirements of academic probation may result in separation.

Only those courses in which a student receives a grade of B- or better may be used for graduate credit. Students must comply with all UNLV and Graduate College policies.

Students are required to declare a subplan by the end of their first year.

In order to assess the student's progress in the program, the School of Architecture Graduate Committee will meet once a year with the student to determine whether or not he/she may advance to the next graduate year.

The student must successfully complete a Professional Project developed as part of the Professional Project Design course. The Professional Project should address a significant architectural problem and demonstrate a comprehensive design solution. The requirements and evaluation of this project will be determined by the instructor of the course.

The student is required to present his/her Professional Project to the School of Architecture Graduate Committee.

Graduation Requirements

The student must submit all required forms to the Graduate College and then apply for graduation up to two semesters prior to completing his/her degree requirements.

The student must successfully complete a Professional Project.

Subplan 2 Requirements: 4+2 Education Facilities Research & Design Track

Total Credits Required: 48

Course Requirements

Required Courses – Credits: 30

AAE 660 Issues in Contemporary Urbanism	
AAE 756 Design Practice Management	3
AAE 770 Research Methods in Environmental Design	3

AAE 771L Architectural Design V	6
AAE 772L Architectural Design VI	6
AAE 789 Architecture Research Studio	6
ABS 741 Integrated Building Systems	3

Elective Courses – Credits: 12

Complete 12 credits from the following list of courses or other advisor-approved courses:

CIG 603 Urban Education	3
CIE 683 Elementary Classroom Management	3
CIG 761 Theoretical Foundations of Education	3
CIG 764 Models of Teaching	3
CME 720 Comparative Studies in Learning, Teaching, and Curriculum	3
CIG 782 School Climate	3
CIS 686 Curriculum Development Secondary Education	3
CIT 607 Technology and Computational Thinking	3
CIT 772 Technology in Teacher Education	3
ESP 701 Introduction to Special Education and Legal Issues	3
ESP 715 Communication Programming for Persons with Severe Disabilities	3
ESP 774 Seminar in Curriculum Development in Early Childhood Special Education	3
ESP 775 Strategies for Early Childhood Special Education	3
ESP 777 Assistive Technology Strategies for Young Children	3
ESP 786 Legal and Political Issues in Special Education Programming	3
ESP 752 Consultative Techniques in Special Education	3
ESP 771 Perspectives on Early Childhood Special Education	3
ESP 764 Characteristics & Inclusive Strategies for Students with LD, ED, & MID	3

Professional Project – Credits: 6

AAE 790 Professional Project Design	6
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Degree Requirements

Students are required to maintain a minimum GPA of 3.00 on a 4.00 point scale. Any student whose GPA falls below 3.00 will be placed on probation and will have one semester to raise his/her GPA to 3.00 or higher. Failure to meet the requirements of academic probation may result in separation.

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Students are required to declare a subplan by the end of their first year.

In order to assess the student's progress in the program, the School of Architecture Graduate Committee will meet once a year with the student to determine whether or not he/she may advance to the next graduate year.

The student must successfully complete a Professional Project developed as part of the Professional Project Design course. The Professional Project should address a significant architectural problem and demonstrate a comprehensive design solution. The requirements and evaluation of this project will be determined by the instructor of the course.

The student is required to present his/her Professional Project to the School of Architecture Graduate Committee.

Graduation Requirements

The student must submit all required forms to the Graduate College and then apply for graduation up to two semesters prior to completing his/her degree requirements.

The student must successfully complete a Professional Project.

Subplan 3 Requirements: 4+2 Building Systems & Sustainability Track

Total Credits Required: 48

Course Requirements

Required Courses – Credits: 24

AAE 660 Issues in Contemporary Urbanism	
AAE 756 Design Practice Management	3
AAE 770 Research Methods in Environmental Design	3
AAE 771L Architectural Design V	6
AAE 772L Architectural Design VI	6
ABS 741 Integrated Building Systems	3

Elective Courses – Credits: 18

Complete 18 credits of advisor-approved elective coursework.

Thesis – Credits: 6

AAE 791 Thesis Writing

6

Degree Requirements

Students are required to maintain a minimum GPA of 3.00 on a 4.00 point scale. Any student whose GPA falls below 3.00 will be placed on probation and will have one semester to raise his/her GPA to 3.00 or higher. Failure to meet the requirements of academic probation may result in separation.

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Students are required to declare a subplan by the end of their first year.

In order to assess the student's progress in the program, the School of Architecture Graduate Committee will meet once a year with the student to determine whether or not he/she may advance to the next graduate year.

In consultation with his/her advisor, a student will organize a thesis committee of at least three departmental members. In addition, a fourth member from outside the department, known as the Graduate College Representative, must be appointed. An additional committee member may be added at the student and department's discretion. Please see Graduate College policy for committee appointment guidelines.

The master's thesis will have to focus on an area of concentration approved by the student's Thesis Advisory Committee and supported by elective course work related to the selected concentration subject. The student should register for thesis credits during the last year in the program.

Graduation Requirements

The student must submit all required forms to the Graduate College and then apply for graduation up to two semesters prior to completing his/her degree requirements.

The student must submit and successfully defend his/her thesis by the posted deadline. The defense must be advertised and is open to the public.

The student must submit a bound copy of his/her thesis to the student's Thesis Advisory Committee chair and to the Architecture Studies Library. The school reserves the right to retain any or all student projects for the program's future use and exhibition.

After the thesis defense, the student must electronically submit a properly formatted pdf copy of their thesis to the Graduate College for format check. Once the thesis format has been approved by the Graduate College, the student will submit the approved electronic version to ProQuest. Deadlines for thesis defenses, format check submissions, and the final ProQuest submission can be found here.

Subplan 4 Requirements: 3+ Hospitality & Entertainment Design Track

Total Credits Required: ~~96~~ 90

Course Requirements

Preparatory Architecture Courses – Credits: ~~27~~ 24

AAE 555 The Enlightenment to Mid-20th Century: Arch His and Theory	3
AAE 651 Multidiscipline Theory and Analysis in Architecture	3
AAE 711L Graduate Design I: Design and Communication	3
AAE 712L Graduate Design II: Fundamentals	6
AAE 713L Graduate Design III	6
AAE 714L Graduate Design IV	6
AAE 767 Design Communications Media	6

Preparatory Building Science Courses – Credits: 18

ABS 521 Construction Technologies I	3
ABS 522 Construction Technologies II	3
ABS 531 Environmental Control Systems I	3
ABS 532 Environmental Control Systems II	3
ABS 541 Structures for Architects I	3
ABS 640 Structures For Architects II	3

~~Preparatory Concentration Elective Course – Credits: 3~~

~~Complete 3 credits of an advisor approved concentration elective course.~~

Preparatory Clinical Internship – Credits: 0

AAE 600 Clinical Internship

0

Required Courses – Credits: 30

AAE 660 Issues in Contemporary Urbanism	
AAE 756 Design Practice Management	3
AAE 770 Research Methods in Environmental Design	3
AAE 771L Architectural Design V	6
AAE 772L Architectural Design VI	6
AAE 789 Architecture Research Studio	6
ABS 741 Integrated Building Systems	3

Elective Courses – Credits: 12

Complete 12 credits of advisor-approved course work.

Professional Project – Credits: 6

AAE 790 Professional Project Design	6
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Degree Requirements

Students are required to complete preparatory work before proceeding to the final four semesters of the program. The duration and total credits required for the program vary based on an individual student's academic background and preparation. Each student will be individually assessed to determine these preparatory requirements.

Students are required to maintain a minimum GPA of 3.00 on a 4.00 point scale. Any student whose GPA falls below 3.00 will be placed on probation and will have one semester to raise his/her GPA to 3.00 or higher. Failure to meet the requirements of academic probation may result in separation.

Only those courses in which a student receives a grade of B- or better may be used for graduate credit. Students must comply with all UNLV and Graduate College policies.

Students are required to declare a subplan by the end of their first year.

In order to assess the student's progress in the program, the School of Architecture Graduate Committee will meet once a year with the student to determine whether or not he/she may advance to the next graduate year.

The student must successfully complete a Professional Project developed as part of the Professional Project Design course. The Professional Project should address a significant architectural problem and demonstrate a comprehensive design solution. The requirements and evaluation of this project will be determined by the instructor of the course.

The student is required to present his/her Professional Project to the School of Architecture Graduate Committee.

Graduation Requirements

The student must submit all required forms to the Graduate College and then apply for graduation up to two semesters prior to completing his/her degree requirements.

The student must successfully complete a Professional Project.

Subplan 5 Requirements: 3+ Education Facilities Research & Design Track

Total Credits Required: ~~96~~ 90

Course Requirements

Preparatory Courses – Credits: ~~27~~ 24

AAE 555 The Enlightenment to Mid-20th Century: Arch His and Theory	3
AAE 651 Multidiscipline Theory and Analysis in Architecture	3
AAE 711L Graduate Design I: Design and Communication	3
AAE 712L Graduate Design II: Fundamentals	6
AAE 713L Graduate Design III	6
AAE 714L Graduate Design IV	6
AAE 767 Design Communications Media	6

Preparatory Building Science Courses – Credits: 18

ABS 521 Construction Technologies I	3
ABS 522 Construction Technologies II	3
ABS 531 Environmental Control Systems I	3
ABS 532 Environmental Control Systems II	3
ABS 541 Structures for Architects I	3
ABS 640 Structures For Architects II	3

~~Preparatory Concentration Elective Course – Credits: 3~~

~~Complete 3 credits of an advisor-approved concentration elective course.~~

Preparatory Clinical Internship – Credits: 0

AAD 600 Clinical Internship	0
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Required Courses – Credits: 30

AAE 660 Issues in Contemporary Urbanism	
AAE 756 Design Practice Management	3
AAE 770 Research Methods in Environmental Design	3
AAE 771L Architectural Design V	6
AAE 772L Architectural Design VI	6
AAE 789 Architecture Research Studio	6
ABS 741 Integrated Building Systems	3

Elective Courses – Credits: 12

Complete 12 credits from the following list of courses or other advisor-approved courses:

CIG 603 Urban Education	3
CIE 683 Elementary Classroom Management	3
CIG 761 Theoretical Foundations of Education	3
CIG 764 Models of Teaching	3
CME 720 Comparative Studies in Learning, Teaching, and Curriculum	3
CIG 782 School Climate	3
CIS 686 Curriculum Development Secondary Education	3
CIT 607 Technology and Computational Thinking	3
CIT 772 Technology in Teacher Education	3
ESP 701 Introduction to Special Education and Legal Issues	3
ESP 715 Communication Programming for Persons with Severe Disabilities	3
ESP 774 Seminar in Curriculum Development in Early Childhood Special Education	3
ESP 775 Strategies for Early Childhood Special Education	3
ESP 777 Assistive Technology Strategies for Young Children	3
ESP 786 Legal and Political Issues in Special Education Programming	3
ESP 752 Consultative Techniques in Special Education	3

ESP 771 Perspectives on Early Childhood Special Education	3
ESP 764 Characteristics & Inclusive Strategies for Students with LD, ED, & MID	3

Professional Project – Credits: 6

AAE 790 Professional Project Design	6
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Degree Requirements

Students are required to complete preparatory work before proceeding to the final four semesters of the program. The duration and total credits required for the program vary based on an individual student's academic background and preparation. Each student will be individually assessed to determine these preparatory requirements.

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Graduation Requirements

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The student must successfully complete a Professional Project.

Subplan 6 Requirements: 3+ Building Systems & Sustainability Track

Total Credits Required: ~~96~~ 90

Course Requirements

Preparatory Courses – Credits: ~~27~~ 24

AAE 555 The Enlightenment to Mid-20th Century: Arch His and Theory	3
AAE 651 Multidiscipline Theory and Analysis in Architecture	3
AAE 711L Graduate Design I: Design and Communication	3
AAE 712L Graduate Design II: Fundamentals	6
AAE 713L Graduate Design III	6
AAE 714L Graduate Design IV	6
AAE 767 Design Communications Media	

Preparatory Building Science Courses – Credits: 18

ABS 521 Construction Technologies I	3
ABS 522 Construction Technologies II	3
ABS 531 Environmental Control Systems I	3
ABS 532 Environmental Control Systems II	3
ABS 541 Structures for Architects I	3
ABS 640 Structures For Architects II	3

~~Preparatory Concentration Elective Course – Credits: 3~~

~~Complete 3 credits of an advisor approved concentration elective course.~~

Preparatory Clinical Internship – Credits: 0

AAD 600 Clinical Internship	0
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Required Courses – Credits: 21

AAE 660 Issues in Contemporary Urbanism	
AAE 756 Design Practice Management	3
AAE 770 Research Methods in Environmental Design	3
AAE 771L Architectural Design V	6

AAE 772L Architectural Design VI	6
ABS 741 Integrated Building Systems	3

Elective Courses – Credits: 24

Complete 24 credits of advisor-approved elective coursework.

Thesis – Credits: 6

AAE 791 Thesis Writing	6
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Degree Requirements

Students are required to complete preparatory work before proceeding to the final four semesters of the program. The duration and total credits required for the program vary based on an individual student's academic background and preparation. Each student will be individually assessed to determine these preparatory requirements.

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Plan Graduation Requirements

Refer to your subplan for Graduation Requirements.

Subplan 1: 4+2 Hospitality & Entertainment Design Track

Subplan 2: 4+2 Education Facilities Research & Design Track

Subplan 3: 4+2 Building Systems & Sustainability Track

Subplan 4: 3+ Hospitality & Entertainment Design Track

Subplan 5: 3+ Education Facilities Research & Design Track

Subplan 6: 3+ Building Systems & Sustainability Track