

# ARCHITECTURE (ARCH)

Graduate Degree Program  
School of Architecture, Planning and Preservation

## Abstract

The School of Architecture, Planning and Preservation offers a graduate program leading to the National Architectural Accrediting Board (NAAB) accredited Master of Architecture degree. The Architecture Program (ARCH) seeks to change the world through innovative architectural and urban design pedagogies, research, and practice that transforms place at all scales and improves the quality of life. In the course of our mission, we instigate change through teaching, experience, and scholarly activity, which prepares the next generation of broadly educated, highly-skilled architects and designers to be problem seekers/solvers in collaborative learning and professional environments. The Program offers a rich and demanding mix of architectural and urban design studios, architectural history and theory, and architectural science and technology. Electives in architecture and related fields are available in the curriculum.

NAAB Required Statement on 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 pre-professional undergraduate degree in architecture for admission. However, the pre-professional degree is not, by itself, recognized as an accredited degree.

The School is a member of the Association of Collegiate Schools of Architecture (ACSA) and the Architectural Research Centers Consortium (ARCC).

## Financial Assistance

The School of Architecture, Planning, and Preservation offers a limited and varying number of teaching and research assistantships, scholarships, fellowships, and internships. Applicants should apply for financial assistance when submitting the application for admission.

## Contact

Find additional information on program offerings, degree requirements, admissions, and financial aid on the School's Website ([www.arch.umd.edu](http://www.arch.umd.edu) (<https://arch.umd.edu/programs/graduate-programs/>)). To schedule a visit or a tour, please reach out to [archadvise@umd.edu](mailto:archadvise@umd.edu). To receive an invitation to our Graduate Open House and receive more information, sign up here ([https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeZwEUxOG5nN89BS6MpTUdoTmoCQcRz34F\\_4ic3bqnhRtRx\\_-w/viewform/?usp=sharing&oid=112570630472342133972](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeZwEUxOG5nN89BS6MpTUdoTmoCQcRz34F_4ic3bqnhRtRx_-w/viewform/?usp=sharing&oid=112570630472342133972)).

For further information on admissions and degree requirements, please contact the main advising office at [archadvise@umd.edu](mailto:archadvise@umd.edu) or 301-405-8000.

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**Website:** <http://www.arch.umd.edu>

**Courses:** ARCH (<https://academiccatalog.umd.edu/graduate/courses/arch/>) HISP (<https://academiccatalog.umd.edu/graduate/courses/hisp/>) RDEV (<https://academiccatalog.umd.edu/graduate/courses/rdev/>) URSP (<https://academiccatalog.umd.edu/graduate/courses/ursp/>)

**Relationships:** Historic Preservation (HISP) (<https://academiccatalog.umd.edu/graduate/programs/historic-preservation-hisp/>), Real Estate Development (RDEV) (<https://academiccatalog.umd.edu/graduate/programs/real-estate-development-rdev/>), Urban and Regional Planning and Design (URPD) (<https://academiccatalog.umd.edu/graduate/programs/urban-regional-planning-design-urpd/>)

## ADMISSIONS

### GENERAL REQUIREMENTS

- Statement of Purpose
- Transcript(s)
- TOEFL/IELTS/PTE (international graduate students (<https://gradschool.umd.edu/admissions/english-language-proficiency-requirements/>))

### PROGRAM-SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS

- Letters of Recommendation (3)
- CV/Resume
- Portfolio PDF Upload ([https://arch.umd.edu/sites/default/files/2026-04/Portfolio\\_Requirements\\_Grad\\_Admission.pdf](https://arch.umd.edu/sites/default/files/2026-04/Portfolio_Requirements_Grad_Admission.pdf))
- Writing Sample (optional)

Admission to the graduate program is competitive. In addition to the Graduate School requirements, candidates must submit a portfolio. The portfolio should show evidence of creative ability in the form of a portfolio containing reproductions of creative work, which may include drawings, paintings, photographs, sculpture, sketches, and/or architectural designs. Details concerning format and content may be obtained from the School of Architecture, Planning and Preservation website

Applications from four categories will be considered for admission:

1. candidates with a four-year Bachelor of Science in architecture degree;
2. candidates with four-year baccalaureate (B.A.) in architecture, environmental design (B.A. or B.S.), or relevant discipline; and

3. candidates with four-year baccalaureate (B.A. or B.S.) in a major other than architecture who have successfully completed specified undergraduate prerequisites outlined by the School of Architecture, Planning, and Preservation<sup>1</sup>; and
4. candidates with an accredited professional degree in architecture. Students are expected to enroll on a full-time basis. For complete information on curricula requirements for these categories, visit the School of Architecture, Planning and Preservation website (<http://www.arch.umd.edu/>).

<sup>1</sup> Additional requirements include:

- one (1) semester of college level calculus or successful high school advanced placement (AP) calculus; and
- one (1) semester of college level physics with lab, or successful high school advanced placement (AP) in physics
- One (1) course in freehand figurative drawing is recommended but not required.

## APPLICATION DEADLINES

Type of Applicant	Fall Deadline
<b>Domestic Applicants</b>	
US Citizens and Permanent Residents	January 15, 2027
<b>International Applicants</b>	
F (student) or J (exchange visitor) visas; A,E,G,H,I and L visas and immigrants	January 15, 2027

### RESOURCES AND LINKS:

**Other Deadlines:** [arch.umd.edu](http://www.arch.umd.edu) (<http://www.arch.umd.edu>)

**Program Website:** [arch.umd.edu](https://arch.umd.edu/) (<https://arch.umd.edu/>)

**Application Process:** [gradschool.umd.edu/admissions/application-process/step-step-guide-applying](https://gradschool.umd.edu/admissions/application-process/step-step-guide-applying) (<https://gradschool.umd.edu/admissions/application-process/step-step-guide-applying/>)

## REQUIREMENTS

- Architecture, Master of Architecture (M.Arch.) (<https://academiccatalog.umd.edu/graduate/programs/architecture-arch/architecture-march/>)

## FACILITIES AND SPECIAL RESOURCES

The University of Maryland's Master of Architecture (M. Arch) is a STEM-designated, NAAB-accredited professional degree, essential for pursuing licensure as an architect in North America. Anchored by an experiential and design-focused curriculum, interdisciplinary collaboration and professional mentorship, our master's degree offers a comprehensive, career-ready experience within a supportive, tight-knit community.

The Architecture Program at the University of Maryland seeks to educate the next generation of innovative architects that will design a more sustainable and equitable future. Our faculty and leadership aim to support and celebrate our diverse community of design thinkers and to be vigilant advocates for social justice. The program is allied with the disciplines housed in our School, and we actively cultivate relationships

with the larger University, whose value systems resonate with those of the Program.

The Master of Architecture Program offers two paths to the profession:

Path A is for candidates with a Bachelor of Science in Architecture, this four-semester program offers advanced standing toward the M. Arch degree.

Path B is designed for individuals with a Bachelor of Arts in Architecture or a non-architecture undergraduate degree, this seven-semester program covers architectural fundamentals and leads to the M.Arch degree.

In our scholarship, research, teaching, and creative practice, we value design excellence and inquiry that embraces the craft of building and urban design at all scales; stewardship, responsibility and sustainable design through the study of diverse cultures and environments; innovation and its ability to address contemporary issues; action-based, critical and speculative learning as a model for integrated design thinking; history and theory of architecture and urbanism as a way to understand the past, illuminate design concepts and principles, and inspire the future; and civic engagement that promotes social justice through design and design thinking. These values shape our community of students, staff, and faculty. They guide the ongoing evolution of our curriculum and pedagogies, and the social culture we foster through our extra-curricular programs and events.