Architecture

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Academic Programs

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The objective of the five-year Bachelor of Architecture degree program is to develop design and related skills necessary for entry into the professional field of architecture. Preparation for architecture spans several disciplines and requires a range of aptitudes. As the architect has a responsibility for solving problems of the built environment involving people, an understanding and sensitivity to human needs is required. Therefore, programs in architecture are broad in nature. With careful selection of elective work, focus areas can be included.

The Bachelor of Architecture degree is accredited by the National Architectural Accrediting Board.

"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 US 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.”

California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo, CA, College of Architecture and Environmental Design, Department of Architecture offers the following NAAB-accredited degree program:

B.Arch. (225 undergraduate credits)

Next accreditation visit for program: 2017

Transfer Students

Transfer applicants into Architecture are ranked by Admissions in accordance to the formula outlined on the Admissions Web Site. The Architecture Department then invites the top ranked candidates to submit a portfolio of their work for final selection by the Architecture Department faculty.

Laptop Requirement

The department has a requirement that all freshmen or transfer students have a notebook computer when they enter the program. In the profession of architecture, computing is an integral component, and developing the ability to critically integrate hand and digital tools is a fundamental aspect of architectural education. A notebook computer is the key to having computing capabilities available at all times and all locations. Financial aid may be available to cover the cost of the notebook computer (contact the Financial Aid Office (http://financialaid.calpoly.edu) for more information).

Off-Campus Architecture Programs

Off-campus study opportunities for fourth year Architecture students are offered in a variety of formats and locations. Programs from one quarter to a full year are available abroad and in the United States. There is a third year student general information session each fall quarter to present the department-sponsored programs offered for the following year. Applications from third year students for all programs are due in the winter quarter.

CSU International Programs

There are two CSU-sponsored organized studio programs for Architecture majors, one in Copenhagen, Denmark, and one in Florence, Italy. The concept of the studio organization is similar to Cal Poly. Credit for major design courses, some professional electives, some general education courses and free electives are handled through approved overseas study centers.

San Francisco Urban Design Internship Program

San Francisco Urban Design Internship Program offers fourth year students the opportunity to live and study in San Francisco for one quarter (fall and spring). Each class utilizes real projects with the participation of talented, award-winning architectural offices and urban designers to introduce students to urban design and architectural practice.

Washington Alexandria Architecture Consortium

The Consortium, comprised of several universities including Cal Poly, is organized to offer a challenging and stimulating one-year option. The Center functions as an extension of the College of Architecture of Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University (VPI) in the Washington DC Metropolitan Area. The Consortium seeks to explore and expand design pedagogues and processes and establish collaboration with national and international institutions.

Other Programs

The Architecture Department offers a changing variety of off-campus programs throughout the world. Contact the Architecture Department for current information.

Cooperative Education (Co-op)

In addition to traditional classroom study experiences and instructor-led field trips, students have the opportunity to work for professional architecture firms and receive professional elective credits. To find out more about Cooperative Education opportunities, visit the Architecture Department or Career Services. Applications and opportunities for Co-op credit are available year-round.
Undergraduate Program

Bachelor of Architecture

The objective of the five-year Bachelor of Architecture degree program is to develop design and related skills necessary for entry into the professional field of architecture.

Degree Requirements and Curriculum (http://catalog.calpoly.edu/collegesandprograms/collegeofarchitectureandenvironmentaldesign/architecture/bachelorofarchitecture)

Graduate Programs

Graduate Coordinator: Thomas Fowler

Master of Science in Architecture

The Master of Science in Architecture (MS ARCH) degree has a research focus that provides an opportunity for specialization. The MS ARCH Program prepares graduates for specialist and consultation positions in the broad field of Environmental Design within the Architecture, Engineering and Construction (AEC) industry. Graduates with a Bachelor of Architecture degree are welcomed to apply to focus on a post professional area of specialization. Graduates who hold a degree outside of architecture are also welcome to apply.

The MS ARCH Degree is not a professional degree in architecture. If you need more information on the educational requirements for licensure for the field of architecture see: NCARB.org (http://www.ncarb.org), NAAB.org (http://naab.org/home) and ACSA-arch.org (http://www.acsa-arch.org).

Curriculum Overview

The MS ARCH is a degree with a master’s research project (thesis or project) as the principal component. 45 total units are required for completion of the degree. A master’s proposal is prepared by each student, based upon their research interests formulated during the first year of the program.

Professional Practice Focus

Designed for applicants holding an accredited architecture degree wishing to pursue advanced studies with a strong professional practice orientation.

Environmental Design Focus

Designed for applicants holding a degree in one of the several cognate environmental design disciplines, engineering, or computer science, wishing to pursue advanced studies with a strong inter-professional orientation in the field of environmental design, with special reference to its three primary contributory disciplines of Architecture, City and Regional Planning, and Landscape Architecture. The common core curriculum aims to establish a central focus for advanced study and research, while sub-core studies and directed electives provide for in-depth study in one of the contributory disciplines of Architecture, City and Regional Planning, Architectural Engineering, Landscape Architecture and Construction Management.

Graduate Study Areas

Each of these areas listed below encompasses a wide range of potential study topics that may be selected for in-depth research subject to the interests and desires of the individual graduate student. However, regardless of the selected research topic students are expected to be knowledgeable of fundamental building science principles, and advanced information technology concepts. Graduate students are encouraged to build on the knowledge that they have gained from their previous academic studies and/or professional experience, as they acquire and contribute new knowledge in their chosen research specialization within one of the following broadly defined research areas.

- **Innovative Materials Practice**: This practice specialization focuses on design integration through innovations in materials and material assemblies enabled by contemporary modes of digital fabrication and their impact on design and the construction process. Associated with the Digital Fabrication Laboratory, physical prototyping and material testing are integrated into the course of study and research. In addition, sustainable practices in digital fabrication from material economies to cradle-to-cradle methodologies as well as responsive envelopes are of particular interest. This study area promotes interdisciplinary work as an essential key to innovation in design and construction with connections to other disciplines including: Architectural Engineering, Construction Management, Material Engineering, and Mechanical Engineering. Study and research areas include but are not limited to: parametric design and fabrication of material systems, prefabrication, responsive envelopes, and material performance.

- **Sustainable Architecture**: Study of the built environment as a low impact necessary enhancement of the natural environment in the service of man, including: renewable energy systems; waste recycling; energy conservation concepts and practices; self-contained biospheres; materials of construction and embodied energy considerations; green buildings; and, unhealthy building environment.

- **Structural Engineering**: For students holding an accredited degree in architectural engineering or civil engineering. To prepare students in meeting the demands for practice in the structural engineering profession.

Degree Requirements and Curriculum (http://catalog.calpoly.edu/collegesandprograms/collegeofarchitectureandenvironmentaldesign/architecture/masterofscienceinarchitecture)

MS Architecture, Specialization in Architectural Engineering

The Architectural Engineering specialization is designed for students holding an accredited degree in architectural engineering or civil engineering who wish to pursue advanced studies in structural engineering. For students within the Cal Poly Architectural Engineering undergraduate program, a blended BS + MS option is available. The program is developed to better prepare students in meeting the demands for practice in the structural engineering profession. Core curriculum courses expose students to emerging topics in structures, advanced methodologies to predict and analyze structural behavior, and cutting edge design procedures. Additionally, related topics in architecture and construction management are integrated into the curriculum to create a unique masters level education. Elective courses allow individuals to concentrate in an area of interest related to environmental design or technology. Individuals conclude their educational experience through a series of project oriented laboratories designed to increase the student’s awareness of building design issues using projects, reports, or experimentation, and culminating in a report and oral presentation. Additionally, candidates should refer to the “General
Policies Governing Graduate Studies (http://catalog.calpoly.edu/graduateeducation/#generalpoliciesgoverninggraduaterestudytext) section for supplemental University requirements.

Two program options are available:

**Design project.** 36 units of advisor-approved coursework, 9 units of design project, and an oral project defense examination.

**Comprehensive examination.** 45 units of advisor-approved coursework and a comprehensive examination.

**Degree Requirements and Curriculum** (http://catalog.calpoly.edu/collegesandprograms/collegeofarchitectureandenvironmentaldesign/architecture/msarchitecturespecializationinarchitecturalengineering)

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**MBA, Architectural Management Track**

This track is available only to those students who are enrolled in Cal Poly's Bachelor of Architecture (BArch) program. During the fifth/final year of the architecture program, students may request permission to enroll in MBA courses. The request, along with all supporting documents, must be submitted to the Orfalea College of Business – Graduate Programs Office. Permission to participate in the courses is competitive and based upon the student’s previous academic performance and GMAT/GRE results.

Upon completion of the BArch degree, students are eligible to formally apply to the University for admission to the MBA program. Students who fulfill all the requirements first receive the BArch and then the MBA.

**Degree Requirements and Curriculum** (http://catalog.calpoly.edu/collegesandprograms/collegeofarchitectureandenvironmentaldesign/architecture/mbaarchitecturalmanagementtrack)

**Blended BS Architectural Engineering + MS Architecture**

For motivated students a blended BMS program, also referred to as a 4+1 program, is available. The blended program allows students to simultaneously complete both a bachelor's degree in Architectural Engineering and a master's degree in Architecture with a Specialization in Architectural Engineering. The blended program offers promising individuals an opportunity to continue their studies in architectural engineering in a collaborative learning environment.

**Eligibility for the Blended Program**

Architectural Engineering (ARCE) students wishing to pursue a Master of Science in Architecture degree with a Specialization in Architectural Engineering may apply after completing all 300-level Architectural Engineering courses and 180 units. The ARCE Graduate Committee reviews all applications and selects individuals with records that demonstrate success at the undergraduate level as well as potential to succeed at the graduate level. Candidates shall meet the University requirements, as a minimum, stated in “Blended BS+MS Programs (http://catalog.calpoly.edu/graduateeducation/#generalpoliciesgoverninggraduaterestudytext)” in the Graduate Programs section. Contact the Architectural Engineering Department for additional information.