

ARCHITECTURE – Architectural Design

Bachelor of Science (B.S.) – Catalog Year 2024-2025

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

The Department of Architecture at the University of Colorado Denver offers a pre-professional Bachelor of Science in Architecture degree program, and students may choose one of two curricular tracks: The **Architectural Design Track** and the **Architectural Studies Track**.

The **Architectural Design Track** is for students who desire additional Design Studios to hone their design skills. This track also prescribes additional history and technical course work to support design thinking and application.

The **Architectural Studies Track** offers students a less prescribed path, with greater freedom to shape the direction of their studies in the senior year. Based on individual interests and projected career paths, students who choose this track will have the opportunity to focus on one or more areas of study in architecture and/or allied disciplines. These include architectural history/theory, technology, and/or visualization, among other options.

Both tracks will allow students to complete a four studio-track professional Master of Architecture degree (MArch) at CU Denver and pursue a professional career in architecture. In addition to offering a strong foundation in architecture, both the Architectural Design and the Architectural Studies tracks prepare students to pursue graduate studies and future careers in allied design disciplines, including Digital Design (games and animation), Industrial Design, Graphic Design, Landscape Architecture, Urban Design, and Real Estate Development, among others.

Both tracks prepare students for admission to a two-year (minimum) accredited graduate architecture degree program in the United States, Canada, or compatible degree programs internationally. Advanced standing in a Master of Architecture program can be maximized in either track by selecting elective courses in technical studies and professional practice typically recognized by accredited graduate architecture degree programs. **Students should meet with a CAP academic advisor for guidance on determining which track is best suited for their academic and professional goals.**

ACADEMIC ADVISING

Undergraduate students admitted into the College of Architecture and Planning are supported by CAP Undergraduate Advising.

CAP Undergraduate Advising

CAP.UGAdvising@ucdenver.edu

Visit the department website [here](#)

CU Building, 2nd Floor

303-315-1000

SAMPLE ACADEMIC PLAN OF STUDY

The following academic plan is a *sample* pathway to completing degree requirements for this major. Students should tailor this plan based on previously completed college coursework (e.g., AP, IB, CLEP, dual/concurrent enrollment, and transfer credit), course availability, and individual preferences related to course load, schedules, or add-on programs such as minors or double-majors. **Students deviating from this plan must fulfill course prerequisites and should meet with a CAP academic advisor to confirm degree requirements.**

Year One	Semester 1		16
	ARCH 1110 Intro. to Architecture		3
	ENGL 1020 Composition I		3
	MATH 1110 College Algebra or MATH 1130 Precalculus		4
	First-Year Experience / CU Denver Core		3
	CU Denver Core		3

Semester 2		15-16
MATH 1120 College Trig. or CU Denver Core Bio/Phys. Sci.		3-4
ARCH 2230 Architectural History I		3
ENGL 2030 Composition II		3
CU Denver Core		3
CU Denver Core		3

Year Two	Semester 3		15
	ARCH 1711 Visualization I		3
	ARCH 2111 Design Studio I		6
	ARCH 3230 Architectural History II		3
	CU Denver Core		3

Semester 4		14
ARCH 1721 Visualization II		3
ARCH 2121 Design Studio II		6
PHYS 2010/2321 College Physics I with Lab		5

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Year Three	Semester 5	15
	ARCH 3111 Design Studio III*	6
	ARCH 3130 Construction Practices: Material & Structural Systems	3
	General Elective	3
	CU Denver Core	3
	*Required check-in with CAP advisor prior to registration.	

Semester 6	15
ARCH 3121 Design Studio IV	6
ARCH 3430 Construction Practices: Building Envelope	3
ARCH 36XX History/Cultural Elective	3
General Elective	3

Year Four	Semester 7	15
	ARCH 4111 Design Studio V	6
	ARCH 3340 Theory of Structures I	3
	ARCH 3330 Building Systems I	3
	General Elective	3

Semester 8	15
ARCH 4121 Design Studio VI	6
CAP Elective	3
CAP Elective	3
General Elective	3

PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS & POLICIES

Students are responsible for meeting with a CAP academic advisor to confirm degree requirements and progress made toward degree completion. Students fulfilling the BS ARCH degree are required to complete the following minimum program requirements (full information available at catalog.ucdenver.edu):

- 1) Students must complete a minimum of 120 credit hours.
- 2) Students must maintain at least a 2.0 University of Colorado cumulative grade point average to remain in good standing.
- 3) A total of at least 39 upper-division (3000/4000 level) credits is required.
- 4) Students must complete a minimum of 30 credit hours from CU Denver, including at least three design studios.
- 5) Students must repeat *required* architecture core courses in which a grade lower than C- is earned in order to fulfill requirements. CAP electives are not included; see degree plan for more details.

Courses	Credits	Notes
Course pre-requisites change regularly. Students are responsible for consulting advisors and the class schedule in the student portal for pre-requisite information.		
Required CU Denver Core Curriculum Coursework	36 - 37	See CU Denver Core Curriculum Guide
General Elective Coursework	11 – 12	Assumes completion of Foreign Language Proficiency.

Required BS ARCH courses:	72	
MATH 1130 Precalculus or MATH 1110 College Algebra & MATH 1120 College Trigonometry or MATH 1108 & MATH 1109 Stretch College Algebra I and II & MATH 1120 College Trigonometry	4 7 9	Fulfills CU Denver Core Mathematics with C- or higher; MATH 1109 or MATH 1110 and MATH 1120 jointly fulfill CU Denver Core Biological/Physical Sciences non-Lab requirement.
PHYS 2010 College Physics I & PHYS 2321 College Physics Lab I	5	Fulfills CU Denver Core Biological/Physical Sciences with Lab requirement. Pre-requisite: C- or better in MATH 1110 (or MATH 1108 & 1109) & MATH 1120, or MATH 1130
ARCH 1110 Introduction to Architecture	3	
ARCH 2230 Architectural History I	3	Pre-requisite: ENGL 1020 or higher is preferred; SPRING.
ARCH 3230 Architectural History II	3	Pre-requisite: ARCH 2230; FALL.
ARCH 1711 Visualization I	3	
ARCH 1712 Visualization II	3	Pre-requisite: ARCH 1711 and 2111
ARCH 2111 Design Studio I*	6	Pre-/co-requisite: ARCH 1711
ARCH 2121 Design Studio II*	6	Pre-requisite: ARCH 2111, ARCH 1711; pre-/co-req: ARCH 1721
ARCH 3111 Design Studio III*	6	Pre-requisite: ARCH 2121, ARCH 1721
ARCH 3121 Design Studio IV*	6	Pre-requisite: ARCH 3111
ARCH 4111 Design Studio V*	6	Pre-requisite: ARCH 3121
ARCH 4121 Design Studio VI*	6	Pre-requisite: ARCH 4111
ARCH 3130 Construction Practices I: Material & Structural Systems	3	Pre-requisite: FALL
ARCH 3430 Construction Practices II: Building Envelope	3	Pre-requisite: SPRING

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ARCH 3340 Theory of Structures I*	3	<i>Pre-requisite: Pre-calc equivalent and Physics w/lab; FALL</i>
ARCH 3330 Building Systems I*	3	<i>Pre-requisite: FALL</i>
CAP Electives Any ARCH / INTD/ LDAR / URPL / HIPR courses NOT listed above.	6	<i>Check individual courses for pre-requisites; please consult CAP Advising to discuss applicable transfer coursework.</i>
Total Program Hours:	120	

*Course reserved for fully admitted BS ARCH students, only.

CAREER RESOURCES

Are you interested in learning about career and occupational options for this major? Visit the CU Denver Career Center located in the Tivoli Student Union (TV) Suite 267, 303-315-7315 to speak with a career counselor. Undergraduate CAP students are also encouraged to [connect with CAP's career and professional resources](#) to discuss individual career goals ; please call 303-315-1000 to arrange an appointment. Additional resources may be found at <https://www.onetonline.org/> , www.ncarb.org , and www.aia.org .