DEPARTMENT OF ARCHITECTURE

WE INSPIRE STUDENTS to engage the discipline of architecture with the grounding of a rigorous professional education and the confidence to innovate.

WE VALUE THE DIALOGUE between critical thinking, designing, and making as a way to advance the discourse in the profession. The faculty instill in students the power of doing and the importance of engagement in a rich variety of architectural practices. We are committed to affirming the values of social equity and environmental responsibility as they relate to the design of the built environment.
Master of Architecture

Professional Degree Programs

Our graduate degree develops a student’s capacity for creative, cumulative and critical thinking, design literacy, and a lifelong cultivation of design. Ball State offers two options for completing the master of architecture (M.Arch) professional degree which is for students who seek licensure in the profession and is accredited by the National Architectural Accrediting Board (NAAB). A three-year curriculum plan is available for students with any undergraduate degree wishing to pursue a M.Arch and a two-year degree plan is available for students with an undergraduate, pre-professional degree in architecture.

Design Studios

The studio defines the core of the educational experience in the Department of Architecture. The M.Arch program offers a range of courses within a professional curriculum that inspires innovation and provides rich opportunities for a dialogue between critical thinking, designing, and making. Disciplinary issues, digital fabrication, high-performance building design, as well as environmental and social responsibility are integral to the studio discourse. Design-build studios develop skills and allow students to test ideas on a range of scales and project types.

Indianapolis and Muncie

Our unique M.Arch program provides the opportunity to live, work, and learn in two contrasting cities—the large vibrant urban environment of Indianapolis counter-balanced with the small rust belt city of Muncie. You will spend two semesters in each city. The two-year option begins with a rigorous academic experience at the Ball State CAP: INDY Center and is coupled with the Indianapolis Professional Internship Initiative, providing students with exemplary architectural office experience. The final year of the program is staged in Muncie where you will find complex, interdisciplinary issues to explore, community engagement opportunities to engage (a hallmark of your BSU education), and creative prospects for your self-selected, intellectually and independently focused final project thesis inquiry.

Dual Degrees and Certifications

The Master of Architecture interdisciplinary focus can be extended even further through the pursuit of a dual-degree. We offer dual-degree programs in a customizable platform that consolidates curricula in allied disciplines within CAP including the Master of Urban Design (MUD), Master of Landscape Architecture (MLA), Master of Urban and Regional Planning (MURP), Master of Interior Design (MID), and Master of Science in Historic Preservation (MSHP). A multitude of self-initiated dual degrees and certificate programs outside the College are also possible. Certification programs, synchronized to the four required electives offered in Architecture include Digital Design and Fabrication (DDF), Social and Environmental Justice (SEJ) and Historic Preservation.

Assistantships and Internships

For their assistance in either teaching, research, or service work, graduate assistants receive a stipend along with a partial tuition waiver. Graduate assistantships are available to qualified master’s students based on merit. We also align students with architecture firms to establish part-time work opportunities while studying in both Indianapolis and Muncie. The student interns are available for this internship a minimum of 15-hours per week, consistently organized around scheduled classes.
Graduate Certificates [12 credits]

Digital Design and Fabrication
In an open and collaborative environment, this graduate certificate in design computation and digital fabrication introduces students to a broad spectrum of inquiries in the translation of digital processes. Students engage in immersive projects and research methods that challenge existing modes of architectural practice and design using technological innovation.

Social and Environmental Justice
This certificate prepares future professionals to address the impacts of design decisions on communities and to weigh design options relative to the potential effects on populations often excluded from the process. Students engage socio-spatial analysis and design that is inclusive of, and responsive to, issues of marginalization, stigma, dignity, and discrimination.

Historic Preservation
This certificate provides students and practicing professionals with the opportunity to gain a foundational understanding of the impact historic preservation has on economic development, urban policy and the preservation of historic buildings and sites. Exploring leading theories and applying them to challenges in preservation practice and design. Students engage in community projects through interdisciplinary, immersive projects and research.

How to Apply

FIRST STEP: Apply to the Graduate School. Begin the application process at: bsu.edu/gradschool
Questions? Call 866-285-GRAD (toll-free)
Graduate Course Catalog: catalog.bsu.edu

International Students should begin the Admissions process at: bsu.edu/international

Curriculum Map

3-Year M.Arch

DESIGN THINKING
501 DESIGN THINKING/FOUNDATIONS STUDIO
561 VISUALIZATION AND COMMUNICATION
570 INTRO TO ENVIRONMENTAL SYSTEMS
639 CONTEMPORARY HISTORY/THEORY OF ARCHITECTURE
FALL

ENVIRONMENTAL DESIGN
502 ENVIRONMENTAL DESIGN AND SITE CONTEXT STUDIO
571 APPLICATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL SYSTEMS
518 INTRO TO STRUCTURAL SYSTEMS
551 CONTEMPORARY ISSUES IN ARCHITECTURE
SPRING

DESIGN MAKING
503 DESIGN APPLICATION WORKSHOP
520 INTRO TO PROFESSIONAL PRACTICE
538 STRUCTURAL AND MATERIAL SYSTEMS
FALL

2-Year M.Arch (Students with Pre-Professional degrees in Architecture)

COMMUNITY ENGAGED
601 COMMUNITY ENGAGED DESIGN STUDIO
624 APPLIED ARCHITECTURAL BUILDING TECHNOLOGY
620 PROFESSIONAL PRACTICE
FALL

INTEGRATED BUILDING
602 INTEGRATED ARCHITECTURE DESIGN STUDIO
636 RESEARCH METHODS IN ARCHITECTURE
637 FINAL PROJECT PREPARATION
SPRING

MULTI-DISCIPLINARY
603 MULTI-DISCIPLINARY DESIGN KNOWLEDGE STUDIO
618 APPLIED SYSTEMS THINKING
SPRING

INTELLECTUALLY INDEPENDENT
604 INDEPENDENT FINAL PROJECT STUDIO
647 APPLIED THEORY AND REPRESENTATION
SUMMER

INDEPENDENT FINAL PROJECT STUDIO
604 INDEPENDENT FINAL PROJECT STUDIO
FALL

INDIANAPOLIS

MUNCIE

* Certificate Focus, Dual Degrees, or professional practice and licensure.
Community Engagement

The Department of Architecture has more than a 50-year history of community engagement. Examples of student designed and built, community-supported projects are located throughout the state. A strategic alignment between our university and community enables us to address real issues with design solutions.

Travel Experience

Travel is essential to the education of designers by exposing them to a rich array of diverse cultures and examples of the built environment. Our students visit significant sites, attend conferences, and join field study programs nationally and internationally. Travel opportunities include our college-wide Field Trip Week and course-based international trips to Africa, Asia, Central America, or Europe.

Careers in Architecture

Architects combine design skills with technical knowledge to both critically investigate and develop responses to issues of people and the built environment. Within the field of architecture, there are diverse opportunities for how one might practice, engage, and build. Projects range from large to small, institutional to residential, adaptive reuse to new construction.

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 U.S. 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 its degree of 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.

Ball State University, Department of Architecture offers the following NAAB-accredited degree programs:

- M.Arch (pre-professional degree + 57 graduate credits)
- M.Arch (non-pre-professional degree + 99 graduate credits)

Next accreditation visit for all programs: 2021