

THE ARCHITECTURE PROFESSION

The architecture profession is a blend of science and art that incorporates aesthetically pleasing artistic designs while meeting the fundamental needs of society for a certain purpose in a specific environment. This process includes planning, designing, and constructing buildings and other structures. In this constantly developing profession, technological advancements and computational innovations have significant impacts. Architects use their work as a form of art to express certain parts of their culture while meeting specific building codes to create structures that are built with the public's health, safety, and welfare in mind and to be resilient through the years.

In order to advance in the architecture field to the level of a professional "Architect," one must have a license to practice architecture. Licensing requirements and processes vary by state. However, these requirements generally include graduation from an accredited architecture program, experience working under the direction of a licensed architect, and passing the Architecture Registration Examination. Note that graduates in architecture can work in the field without obtaining a license; however, they are not legally "architects" unless they are licensed. Additionally, continuing-education credits are required annually to maintain licensure.

UNDERGRADUATE PREPARATION

A bachelor's degree is required prior to enrolling in a Master of Architecture program. The most common undergraduate majors among pre-architecture students include art and physics.

REQUIRED AND RECOMMENDED COURSES

Although there is no required undergraduate major for entering the architecture field, each graduate program will have a required list of pre-requisite coursework that must be completed. This often includes a college-level calculus course, a physics course, or an art course. In general, a strong command of the physical sciences and math will prepare students well for a professional program in Architecture. Given that some graduate programs might ask applicants to submit a portfolio, pre-architecture students may want to take art classes at Nebraska Wesleyan that allow students to explore freehand drawing and digital design techniques. Working knowledge of AutoCAD, REVIT (BIM), Adobe Photoshop, Adobe InDesign, and Sketchup is helpful.

BEYOND ACADEMICS

Pre-architecture students are encouraged to participate in experiences, such as leadership activities, volunteer opportunities, research, and shadowing of professionals, which will help prepare them for further schooling and the architecture profession. Activities beyond the classroom play a significant role in a student's application to a professional school program, and later on, a job opportunity. Such experiences demonstrate a commitment to and knowledge of the profession. Relevant work experience obtained through internships, part-time jobs, or summer jobs is extremely beneficial, as is membership in related professional organizations.

At Nebraska Wesleyan University, student organizations that may be interesting or useful to a pre-architecture student include the Art Club, Sigma Pi Sigma (Physics Honorary) and the Society of Physics Students.

ARCHITECTURAL EDUCATION

Students who have completed a bachelor's degree in a field other than architecture will apply to a Master of Architecture program, open to applicants with a B.A. or B.S. in any field. Generally, these programs are three years in length. There are currently 119 universities that offer Master of Architecture programs accredited by the National Architectural Accrediting Board (NAAB).

APPLICATION & ADMISSION

Application and admission processes and timelines differ across all architecture programs, so make sure you know early on what the requirements and deadlines are. Note that many schools require letters of recommendation, a personal statement, and interviews for admission. Contact the specific program you are interested in to learn more.

For programs that require portfolio submission, be sure to read the guidelines carefully to ensure you submit your work correctly and in the correct format. Know that programs may have specific guidelines about work that has been produced or aided by generative AI software, so be sure to read carefully about if/how you should submit work that was created with these tools.

Schools	GRE Requirement	Portfolio Submission	Length of Program	Degree Offered
<u>UNL College of Architecture</u>	Not required	Optional	3 years	Master of Architecture
<u>Sam Fox School of Architecture at Washington University (St. Louis, MO)</u>	Not required, but welcome to submit scores; no minimum score	Required	3 years	Master of Architecture
<u>Iowa State University</u>	Not required	Required	3 years	Master of Architecture
<u>University of Kansas</u>	Not required, but preferred	Required	3 years	Master of Architecture
<u>Kansas State University</u>	Not required	Required	3 years	Master of Architecture
<u>University of Michigan - Ann Arbor</u>	Not required	Required	3 years	Master of Architecture

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

[American Institute of Architecture Students \(AIAS\)](#)

[National Architectural Accrediting Board \(NAAB\)](#)

[National Council of Architectural Registration Boards \(NCARB\)](#)

Current students can use the [Career Assistance Network](#) to connect with NWU alumni in the architecture profession.



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