

School of Architecture

P.O. Box 173760, Bozeman, MT 59717-3760
406-994-4256 <http://www.arch.montana.edu/>

Degree Offered

- **Master of Architecture**

The School of Architecture professional curriculum leads to a Master of Architecture degree, a professional degree program in architecture fully accredited by the National Architectural Accrediting Board. The design studio forms the core of architectural education, and every student makes a significant design studio commitment each semester.

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 the extent of its conformance with established educational standards.

Master's 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.

The Montana State University School of Architecture received a full 8 year accreditation standard in Summer 2014.

The next accreditation visit for this program will take place in 2022.

Students wishing to acquire the Masters of Architecture Degree must complete three semesters of graduate study. Throughout this graduate study, students will choose from a variety of architectural studios, craft studios, architectural seminars, and non-architectural electives intended to emphasize the development of a critical position with regard to the environment and architecture. A comprehensive studio is required that demonstrates, through the development of an architectural project, the student's ability to synthesize their aesthetic, technical and theoretical knowledge. The final design studio in the graduate program consists of a student-directed design project that demonstrates the student's design and research capabilities and explores the student's moral, ethical and aesthetic responsibility to society and the natural world.

Students receiving a Master of Architecture degree from the MSU School of Architecture must have completed a minimum of 168 combined graduate and undergraduate credits—of which a minimum of 42 graduate credits are to be completed at MSU. Students who completed a pre-professional undergraduate degree program at another institution, and completed less than 126 undergraduate credits, will be required to take additional credits at MSU in order to meet the combined graduate and undergraduate 168 credit requirement for graduation.

School of Architecture Philosophy

The School seeks to prepare students for a lifelong critical engagement in the arts and science of architecture. Located in “the last best place” of the Northern Rockies we are in an extraordinary position to engage questions regarding the relationship between the natural and built environments. As architects, we strive to play an essential and innovative role in enhancing the human condition. To that end, we teach and practice a moral, ethical and aesthetic responsibility to society and the natural world in the

design of the built environment. The School of Architecture empowers students to critically engage the complexities of society and the natural environment by instilling the fundamental principles of design and inspiring a spirit of exploration and creative experimentation in shaping the built environment.

It is in our design studios, that this philosophy is most clearly demonstrated. Each studio is conceived to build upon the previous studio in a manner that develops a student's mastery of the science of architecture while at the same time exposing the student to the rich diversity of our faculty's philosophical beliefs. Within a structured sequence of increasingly complex problems, emphasis is placed on teaching both an iterative design process and the visualization skills necessary to demonstrate the resultant design proposals. The science of architecture is continuously evolving and will do so over the life of every architect. We are committed to preparing our students to enter the profession with the contemporary scientific knowledge and emerging technical expertise to further this evolution while at the same time ensuring that our graduates are grounded in the fundamental design thinking, investigative and communication skills that have been central to architecture throughout its history. In addition to the science of architecture we are equally committed to ensuring that our graduates acquire a critical philosophy with which they can engage the design of the built environment.

Knowing how to build is a matter of science and technology but knowing what to build is a question of morality, ethics, and aesthetic responsibility. In this regard the faculty shares a commitment to the stewardship of our environment. This is particularly important in the Northern Rockies where our historic fabric of cities, rural communities and the natural landscape coexist in a tenuous balance. Focusing on the broad principles of creating a sustainable social, cultural, economic and physical environment we utilize the region, from its major cities to its national parks, as the canvas for our teaching, research and creative activities.

As a faculty we are committed to emphasizing the architect's responsibility to create and maintain a sustainable environment formulated from a belief system of moral, ethical and aesthetic theories, but our philosophical beliefs with regard to how this is to be achieved are diverse. This is by intent. Each student, as she or he matriculates through the design studio sequence, is expected to develop an understanding of the various critical approaches advocated by their professors and ultimately reaches a position of their own. Thus our graduates become empowered to assume a leadership role in the synthesis of the natural environment, human activity and the built environment from a critical, responsible and mature perspective. In doing so, our students discover the commitment of our faculty to both the future of our environment and that of their students. Because of this an extraordinary sense of community emerges within the School of Architecture at Montana State University. Students develop a sense of responsibility not only to the environment and architecture but also to their peers where all share a passion for design.

Program Requirements

The Master of Architecture professional degree is a Plan B program (professional paper or project plan) that requires forty-two (42) credits of graduate coursework. A student's program of study includes three graduate design studios; Advanced Arch Studio (ARCH 551), Comprehensive Design Studio (ARCH 558), Masters Studio Project ARCH 560, required advanced theory and systems courses (Advanced Architectural Theory (ARCH 526), Adv Bldg Sys Integration (ARCH 535)), a required Professional Paper (ARCH 575) and graduate

electives. The Plan B Program requires that students successfully complete a Masters Studio Project as their comprehensive examination.

Admission

Admission into the architecture graduate program is competitive. The school is able to admit approximately 60 graduate students per year, many of whom represent the best students from our own undergraduate B.A. in Environmental Design program. However, spaces are available for highly qualified students with undergraduate degrees from other universities. Placement may vary depending upon the student's background; students with an undergraduate degree in a field other than architecture will be considered, and must, if accepted, complete a full course of study in design studio.

Portfolio review is of primary importance to the School of Architecture's application review committee. All applicants are required to submit a portfolio of their best work that is reviewed by the school's faculty. For examples of student work and additional information visit the School of Architecture website at www.arch.montana.edu.

Admission Standards/Score

Admissions Numeric Evaluation Scale - Admissions Review is performed by a committee of five faculty members. An admission score is developed based upon the following percentages and are weighted accordingly (see scoring breakdown below). A perfect admissions score is a 12. A minimum score of 7.6 on a 12 point scale is need for admission.

Scoring Breakdown

- **Cumulative GPA** (40%)- Min 3.0/Max 4.0 GPA based on a 4.0 system (4.0 = a letter grade of A)
- **Portfolio** (40%)- Min 6.5/Max 12 -Final Score is determined by averaging 5 reviewers portfolio scores.

12 points Outstanding/ 9 points Excellent/ 6.5 points Good *
Required Minimum/ 3 points Poor/ 0 points Unacceptable
- **Writing Component** (10%) - Min 0/Max 6- This score is the actual score received on written portion of the GRE.
- **Letters of Reference** (10%)- Min 0/Max 3 -Letter of Reference score is determined by averaging the overall recommendation criteria from each of the three letters of recommendation.

**Highly Recommend= 3/ Recommend= 2/ Recommend
with reservations= 1/ Do Not recommend= 0**

Application Submission Requirements

1. On-line application for the MSU Graduate School which can be found at <http://www.montana.edu/gradschool/>.
2. During the online application process, you will be asked to submit an electronic portfolio of architectural work sufficient to demonstrate the one's ability and achievement in architecture. Portfolio form and format are left to the discretion of the applicant, though the portfolio must be suitable for review by a committee. *NOTE: If a hard copy of portfolio work is submitted, please also include a suitable mailing receptacle and sufficient postage for the return. The School of Architecture cannot guarantee its return; portfolios have been lost in transit.*
3. You will be asked to submit three letters of reference during the online application process. Be sure you have contact information on the individuals you wish to ask; as your recommenders will

be prompted through an email upon submission of your on-line application.

4. Official results of the Graduate Record Examination (send to campus code: 4488).
5. \$60.00 non-refundable application fee.
6. Official transcript(s) from universities attended (MSU graduates do not need to submit MSU transcripts)

Deadline

- January 15 - Deadline for application submission of portfolio, application forms, GRE scores to the School of Architecture for Fall admittance.

Expected Placement for Students with an Undergraduate Degree in an Architecture Related Field, Environmental Design, or Architectural Studies

If an applicant has an undergraduate 4-year degree in architectural studies or environmental design and are admitted to the Master of Architecture program, he/she will be placed at an appropriate point in the architecture curriculum and can expect to pursue a series of rigorous design studios, specialized courses in advanced architecture, a research paper/project and a student-directed design project in order to be granted the Master of Architecture degree. Students entering with excellent portfolios can expect to complete the Master of Architecture degree in three to four semesters.

Expected Placement for Students with an Undergraduate Degree in Other Fields

If an applicant has an undergraduate degree in another field and desires to study architecture at Montana State, he/she will be expected to complete the full eleven semesters of design studio. Advanced placement can be made depending on the quality of one's portfolio, which may demonstrate equivalent achievement. The applicant will be placed as a "Second-Degree Student" until the prerequisites for graduate study have been completed. Upon successful completion of the required prerequisites, the applicant can be advanced to "graduate degree" status.

Required Courses

Semester I

ARCH 526	Advanced Architectural Theory	3
ARCH 535	Adv Bldg Sys Integration	3
ARCH 558	Comprehensive Design Studio	6
Graduate Electives		3
Total Credits		15

Semester II

ARCH 551	Advanced Arch Studio	6
Graduate Electives		6
ARCH 559	Master Studio Resesarch	4
Total Credits		16

Semester III

Graduate Electives		5
ARCH 560	Masters Studio Project	6
Total Credits		11

Notes:

1. Students must have completed a total of 45 non-architecture credits to receive their Master of Architecture degree. These credits can occur at the undergraduate or graduate level.
2. All graduate students will be required to receive a minimum grade of "B" (3.0) in any Design Studio (ARCH 558, ARCH 551, ARCH 560). Failure to receive a "B" will result in the student needing to retake that design studio. In addition a student must receive a minimum grade of "B" (3.0) in ARCH 575 Professional Paper/Project in order to be able to progress to ARCH 560.
3. Per Graduate School policy, a student will have only two opportunities to pass a Masters Studio Project similar to a thesis student having only two opportunities to pass the closed door defense and the comprehensive examination.
4. Students may petition the Graduate Program Coordinator to take non-traditional studio classes for graduate elective credit.

All students shall continue to meet with the Graduate Program Coordinator or Administrative Support staff throughout their graduate year to track their progress toward completion of the Master program. The program study will be developed with the advisor, approved by the committee and be submitted to the Graduate School by the add deadline of the first semester of attendance. Final approval of the program and committee rests with the Graduate School. Students may change courses or committee members on the program by completing a Program Change or Change of Committee form. All Graduate School transfer credit policies apply to March students.

The student is expected to be familiar with both School of Architecture and The Graduate School degree requirements. Refer to the For *Master's Students* section on The Graduates School website for additional information.

Financial Assistance

Applicants should contact the director of the school for information regarding the availability of assistantships. See the *Graduate Assistantship* section of the department website for detailed information on appointment criteria.

Degree Offered

- Master of Architecture (<http://catalog.montana.edu/graduate/arts-architecture/architecture/master-architecture>)

Font Notice

This document should contain certain fonts with restrictive licenses. For this draft, substitutions were made using less legally restrictive fonts. Specifically:

Times was used instead of Adobe Garamond Pro.

The editor may contact Leepfrog for a draft with the correct fonts in place.