

Twin Cities Campus**Architecture B.D.A.**

School of Architecture

College of Design

- Program Type: Baccalaureate
- Requirements for this program are current for Spring 2022
- Required credits to graduate with this degree: 120
- Required credits within the major: 72
- Degree: Bachelor of Design in Architecture

In the Bachelor of Design in Architecture (BDA) program, students take a broad approach to design as it relates to architecture. Students learn to think through architecture, often in ways and with projects not necessarily tied to the traditional building scale or to building systems. Students use the lens of architecture to address a broad range of issues within the discipline and practice of architecture and as a bridge to other disciplines and modes of practice. Students develop verbal and visual skills in architecture, and practice the design process as a dialogue between divergent and convergent making and thinking. They undertake projects that link architecture with explorations in visual media (including film, photography, virtual reality), social, cultural and environmental concerns (preservation, disaster relief, neighborhood needs), focused concerns (daylight, facade, material, or modeling studies), and allied disciplines (set design, landscape architecture, urban studies).

All major coursework must be taken A-F.

Program Delivery

This program is available:

- via classroom (the majority of instruction is face-to-face)

Admission Requirements

Students must complete 30 credits before admission to the program.

Freshman and transfer students students are usually admitted to pre-major status before admission to this major

A GPA above 2.0 is preferred for the following:

- 2.80 already admitted to the degree-granting college
- 2.80 transferring from another University of Minnesota college
- 2.80 transferring from outside the University

For information about University of Minnesota admission requirements, visit the [Office of Admissions website](#).

Required prerequisites**Prerequisite Courses, Primary Core**

Student must complete the following classes prior to admission to the BDA program.

[ARCH 1281](#) - Design Fundamentals I [AH] (4.0 cr)

[ARCH 2281](#) - Design Fundamentals II (4.0 cr)

[ARCH 1621W](#) - Introduction to Critical Inquiry in Practice [WI] (3.0 cr)

or [ARCH 1621V](#) - Introduction to Critical Inquiry in Practice [WI] (3.0 cr)

General Requirements

All students are required to complete general University and college requirements including writing and liberal education courses. For more information about University-wide requirements, see the [liberal education requirements](#). Required courses for the major or minor in which a student receives a D grade (with or without plus or minus) do not count toward the major or minor (including transfer courses).

Program Requirements

The Architecture BDA requires 9 upper-division (3xxx-level or higher) credits outside College of Design designators. These include: ARCH, ADES, DES, GDES, IDES, LA, PDES, RM.

At least 24 upper division credits in the major must be taken at the University of Minnesota Twin Cities campus.

BDA Primary Core

NOTE: Students must complete Arch 2301 prior to Design Core requirements.

Take 3 or more course(s) from the following:

- [ARCH 2301](#) - Drawing and Critical Thinking (4.0 cr)
- [ARCH 3412W](#) - Architectural History Since 1750 [HIS, GP, WI] (3.0 cr)
- [ARCH 3411W](#) - Architectural History to 1750 [HIS, GP, WI] (3.0 cr)
or [ARCH 3411V](#) - Architectural History to 1750 [HIS, GP, WI] (3.0 cr)

Design Core - Design Workshops

Topics of courses will vary each semester. Students repeat the courses in order to complete the 9 credit minimum.

Take 9 or more credit(s) from the following:

- [ARCH 3231](#) - Intensive Applications Design Workshop (3.0 cr)
- [ARCH 3232](#) - Extensive Applications Design Workshop (3.0 cr)

Design Core - Advanced Design Workshops

Topics of courses will vary each semester. Students repeat the courses in order to complete the 9 credit minimum.

Take 9 or more credit(s) from the following:

- [ARCH 4231](#) - Advanced Intensive Applications Design Workshop (3.0 cr)
- [ARCH 4232](#) - Advanced Extensive Applications Design Workshop (3.0 cr)

Architecture Electives

Take 9 or more credit(s) from the following:

- ARCH 3xxx
- ARCH 4xxx
- ARCH 5xxx
- [LA 3501](#) - Environmental Design and Its Biological and Physical Context [ENV] (3.0 cr)

BDA Secondary Core

These courses provide introductions to curricular core areas within the school.

Take 3 or more course(s) totaling 9 or more credits from the following:

- [ARCH 3511](#) - Material Transformations: Technology and Change in the Built Environment [TS] (3.0 cr)
- [ARCH 4451](#) - Contemporary Architectural Thinking (3.0 cr)
- [ARCH 4561](#) - Architecture and Ecology [ENV] (3.0 cr)
- [ARCH 4701W](#) - Introduction to Urban Form and Theory [WI] (3.0 cr)
- [ARCH 3711W](#) - Environmental Design and the Sociocultural Context [SOCS, CIV, WI] (3.0 cr)
or [ARCH 3711V](#) - Honors: Environmental Design and the Sociocultural Context [SOCS, CIV, WI] (3.0 cr)

Architecture History / Theory Electives

Take 6 or more credit(s) from the following:

- [ARCH 4421W](#) - Architecture and Interpretation: The Cave and the Light [WI] (3.0 cr)
or ARCH 4423 (*Inactive*) (3.0 cr)
- or [ARCH 4424](#) - Renaissance Architecture (3.0 cr)
- or [ARCH 4425W](#) - Baroque Architecture [WI] (3.0 cr)
- or ARCH 4428 (*Inactive*) [HIS, GP] (3.0 cr)
- or [ARCH 4432](#) - Modern Architecture (3.0 cr)
- or [ARCH 4434](#) - Contemporary Architecture (3.0 cr)
- or [ARCH 4410](#) - Topics in Architectural History (1.0 - 4.0 cr)

Upper-division Electives Outside the College

Take 9 credits upper-division credits (3xxx-level or higher) outside the College of Design designators. These include: ARCH, ADES, DES, GDES, IDES, LA, PDES, RM.

Upper-division Writing Intensive within the major

Students are required to take one upper-division writing intensive course within the major. If that requirement has not been satisfied within the core major requirements, students must choose one course from the following list. Some of these courses may also fulfill other major requirements.

Take 0 - 1 course(s) from the following:

- [ARCH 3411V](#) - Architectural History to 1750 [HIS, GP, WI] (3.0 cr)
- [ARCH 3411W](#) - Architectural History to 1750 [HIS, GP, WI] (3.0 cr)
- [ARCH 3412W](#) - Architectural History Since 1750 [HIS, GP, WI] (3.0 cr)
- [ARCH 3711V](#) - Honors: Environmental Design and the Sociocultural Context [SOCS, CIV, WI] (3.0 cr)
- [ARCH 3711W](#) - Environmental Design and the Sociocultural Context [SOCS, CIV, WI] (3.0 cr)
- [ARCH 4425W](#) - Baroque Architecture [WI] (3.0 cr)
- [ARCH 4701W](#) - Introduction to Urban Form and Theory [WI] (3.0 cr)

Program Sub-plans

A sub-plan is not required for this program.

Accelerated

The accelerated option allows a limited number of qualified undergraduates to complete the BDA and M.Arch in six rather than seven years. Accepted students complete year one of the M.Arch during their senior year.

Some M.Arch courses satisfy upper division BDA requirements: graduate technology for 3 cr. BDA secondary core; graduate history for 3 cr. BDA history elective; and graduate design studio for 6 cr. advanced BDA design workshop; remaining graduate credits may satisfy general elective credits.

Students accepted must substantially complete BDA requirements before their senior year, and have a program plan in place verifying that undergraduate degree program requirements will be met by the end of the senior year.

Accelerated status is granted on a competitive basis. Applications are due to the college registrar January 15 for enrolling in graduate courses the following fall term. Eligibility is based on program GPA (courses with ARCH designator) and overall UMN GPA; preferred program GPA is 3.8 or higher. Application includes: an APAS report, writing samples, three recommendation letters, a design portfolio, and a program plan for completing the BDA degree within the first year of the professional program coursework.

Accelerated students apply for M.Arch advanced standing during normal graduate application (see school website) and must be accepted by the School of Architecture and the Graduate School. Students may choose to update and resubmit application materials.