

AN INTRODUCTION TO ACADEMIC PROGRAMS

PROGRAMS FOR UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS: Architecture and architectural engineering students learn the art and science of building design. With the professionally accredited five-year master's degree in architecture (M.Arch. I) and required work experience, a student can become a licensed architect. With the five-year Bachelor of Science in architectural engineering (B.S. Arce) and work experience, a student can become a licensed engineer, and with approximately two years of additional study, also may receive the architecture degree. The four-year Bachelor of Arts degree (B.A.) in architectural studies combines a liberal arts education with the study of the conceptual content of architecture. Students enter the school of architecture as freshmen. New enrollment in the master of architecture and architectural engineering programs is limited, based on availability of studio space. In the two professional degree programs (M.Arch. I and B.S. Arce), 108 seats in first-year design studio are available each year for new students. Applicants are evaluated on the basis of their academic records (grades, classes, high school class rank, and ACT scores) as well as their interests, talents and experiences. The priority deadline for application for the fall session is February 1 (complete applications received by the School of Architecture and Urban Planning from the KU Office of Admissions).

THE KU DIFFERENCE: The School of Architecture and Urban Planning is home to approximately 725 (including architectural engineering) students and it offers a variety of undergraduate and graduate degrees in architecture, architectural engineering and urban planning. The relatively small size of the school fosters a unique and well known sense of community among its students and this allows for small classes, highly individualized instruction and an unusual array of support services.

Approximately 525 students in the school are enrolled in undergraduate or graduate degrees in architecture. Another 150 students pursue the accredited Bachelor of Science in Architectural Engineering, and roughly 50 students are enrolled in the accredited Master of Urban Planning degree (M.U.P.) offered by the school's Graduate Program in Urban Planning. All of the school's professional programs in architecture, architectural engineering and urban planning have been continuously accredited without interruption by the National Architectural Accrediting Board (NAAB), the Accrediting Board for Engineering and Technology (ABET), and the Planning Accreditation Board (PAB).

The majority of the students within the School are engaged in the study of architecture and they have several different paths of study from which to choose. Most, or about 400, are enrolled in the NAAB-accredited, 5-year professional Master of Architecture degree (M.Arch. I), initially accredited in 1994 and re-accredited in 2004. This is the most direct path into the practice of architecture and high school seniors who apply and are admitted enter directly into this intense and demanding studio-based degree program without remedial pre-professional course work in environmental design or graphics. KU is one of twelve schools in the United States that offer a 5-year accredited Master of Architecture degree.

Approximately 125 other architecture students at KU pursue either the 4-year, undergraduate, pre-professional Bachelor of Arts in Architectural Studies degree (B.A.), or one of three post-professional graduate degrees which include a Master of Arts in Architecture degree (with one track in Architectural Management available at the Edwards Campus and a second track in Architectural Research available on the Lawrence Campus) as well as a Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) in Architecture degree. KU is one of only 20 schools that offer the Ph.D. in Architecture.

Applicants who are admitted into the professionally-accredited M.Arch, whether applying as high-school seniors, transfer students, or students who already hold a degree, must have a strong academic record, talent in drawing and design, and a demonstrated ability to handle a challenging course of study. Generally, with almost 800 applications each year, admission is highly competitive.

Those who are admitted to the M.Arch. enroll in design studio, technical and support classes, and electives each semester. Beginning with first-year studio, each student is assigned his or her own table or work-station with no shared spaces and with each student having 24/7 access to studio as well as to the school's five computer labs, four shops, and various other support facilities. Students in architecture are required to take all the traditional courses in architectural design, theory, and history as well as building technology, structures, environmental systems and professional practice. The M.Arch. also includes course work in research methods and a year-long specialized and advanced studio in design-build, urban design, sustainable design or advanced design. Students in architectural engineering take many of these same classes in addition to advanced courses in mathematics, the physical sciences, engineering sciences and specialized courses in structures, construction management and environmental systems. At KU, there are strong links between architecture and architectural engineering that have endured for a century, links that reflect the interdisciplinary nature of actual professional practice. With the completion of either of the accredited degrees in architecture or architectural engineering, a graduate may sit for licensure examinations after supervised practical experience.

The educational experience is enriched by many unique opportunities for students. The School has extensive student exchange and foreign study programs in Scotland, Germany (4), Denmark, Italy (2), France, and Australia. Students enrolled in the M.Arch. I are required to spend the summer before their final year of study in one of the school's summer study abroad programs or in an internship. Fifth-year students in architecture may apply for the year-long Kansas City Urban Design program in which large-scale urban projects are undertaken through the sponsorship of a number of governmental and private agencies.

The highly successful placement of graduates over many years is based on the excellence of KU's students evidenced by the many awards they have won in national competitions, by the regional, national and international reputation of the faculty, and by long-standing ties the school has with alumni and friends who have enjoyed success throughout the world. Students have the opportunity to interview with dozens of firms from throughout the United States that participate in the school's annual Career Day as well as with individual firms that visit the school regularly and recruit throughout the year. Various other services such as organized visits to firms in Kansas City, Chicago, New York and St. Louis, specialized seminars and workshops on portfolio development, and on-line job searching and portfolio-resume banks are made available to students in the school. KU graduates hold significant leadership positions in many outstanding firms and are sought after for their design capabilities, their solid knowledge of design-build processes, and their leadership potential.

CAREERS: Architect, architectural engineer, architectural historian/critic, designer, developer, educator, urban planner.

UNDERGRADUATE FIELDS OF STUDY:

Architecture (M.Arch. I), 5-year, professional degree
Architectural Studies (B.A.), 4-year, pre-professional degree
Architectural Engineering (B.S. Arce), 5-year, professional degree

GRADUATE FIELDS OF STUDY (for students who already hold a bachelor's degree or higher):

Architecture, (M.Arch. III, 3-year professional degree)
Architecture, (M.Arch. II, 2-year professional degree for students who hold an undergraduate degree in architecture)
Architecture, (M.A. in Architecture, post-professional degree in either Architectural Management (Edwards Campus) or Architectural Research)
Architecture, (Ph.D. in Architecture, post-professional degree)
Architecture, (Graduate Certificate in Facility Management (Edwards Campus))
Urban Planning, (M.U.P., 2-year professional degree)

ADMISSIONS CONTACT: Gera Elliott, Admissions Coordinator, 205 Marvin Hall, (785)864-3167, gera@ku.edu

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