The School of Architecture

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The School of Architecture currently offers three paths of graduate study that each lead to one of two graduate degrees:

- Path A, a four-semester course of study leading to the master of architectural design and urbanism (M.ADU) post-professional degree;
- Path B, a four-semester course of study leading to a two-year master of architecture (M.Arch) N.A.A.B.-accredited professional degree; and
- Path C, a six-semester course of study leading to a three-year master of architecture (M.Arch) N.A.A.B.-accredited professional degree.

The studio course sequence of the final three semesters of each path “track” with one another, i.e., Path A, B and C students take studios with each other in their final three semesters. Each path requires the student to do an independent terminal design project in his or her final semester, and to select a concentration in either classical architecture or urban design in the two semesters prior. All students spend one of those two concentration semesters in Rome, depending upon which concentration they select.

Students choosing to concentrate in classical architecture spend extensive time in both South Bend and Rome on studio projects and ancillary coursework that develop their knowledge of and ability to participate in the 2,500-year old tradition of western classical architecture descending from Greece and Rome.

Students choosing to concentrate in urban design likewise spend time in South Bend and Rome — and travel extensively to other towns and cities as well — learning in their design studios the formal principles of good urban design, and being introduced to the political, legal and cultural frameworks of contemporary traditional urban design through studio-based community design workshops.

An independent semester-long terminal design project is required of all students in their final semester. This project provides an opportunity for students to design in a variety of scales and contexts of their own choosing, in which contemporary architectural issues are explored in projects that require the student to synthesize their academic experience. M.Arch student projects may include an urban design component, but must include the in-depth design of a building.

Path A: The Master of Architectural Design and Urbanism (M.ADU) Post-professional Degree

The two-year master of architectural design and urbanism post-professional degree is intended for students who already hold an accredited professional degree and are seeking to further develop their design skills and critical thinking in the disciplines of classical architecture and traditional urban design. The studio course work consists of a foundational first semester spent in South Bend introducing students to classical architectural design, urban principles and history, and the history of Rome, followed by two semesters of studio work (one in Rome) in the student’s selected concentration, followed by an independent terminal design project in the student’s fourth semester. Thirty-six (36) credit hours are required for graduation, and M.ADU students are limited to 12 credit hours per semester. M.ADU students also serve as teaching assistants in undergraduate courses during their three semesters in South Bend, for which they receive a stipend.

Although Path A leads to a post-professional degree, and although Notre Dame encourages and accepts applications from foreign students with professional degrees in their home country, foreign applicants should note that the master of architectural design and urbanism (M.ADU) degree does not permit persons lacking an N.A.A.B.-accredited degree to sit for the Architectural Registration Examination (A.R.E.) in the United States.

Paths B and C: The Master of Architecture (M.Arch) Professional Degree

The National Architectural Accrediting Board (N.A.A.B.) requires all schools offering professional degree programs in architecture to publish the following statement:

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 (N.A.A.B.), which is the sole agency authorized to accredit US professional degree programs in architecture, recognizes three types of degrees: the bachelor of architecture, the masters of architecture and the doctor of architecture. A program may be granted a six-year, three-year, or two-year term of accreditation, depending on its degree of conformance with established educational standards.

Masters degree programs may consist of a pre-professional undergraduate degree and a professional graduate degree, which, when earned sequentially, comprise an accredited professional education. However, the pre-professional degree is not, by itself, recognized as an accredited degree.

Path B: Two-year M.Arch

Notre Dame’s two-year master of architecture degree is intended for students entering the University of Notre Dame with a four-year pre-professional degree in architecture who are seeking a professional graduate degree that focuses upon classical architecture and traditional urbanism. Studio course work is identical to that of the two-year Path A M.ADU program, with a foundational first semester spent in South Bend, followed by two semesters of studio work (one in Rome) in the student’s selected concentration, followed by a terminal design project in the student’s fourth semester. Required studio and seminar courses are

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supplemented by other courses needed to meet the N.A.A.B.'s substantive curricular requirements for accredited professional architecture degree programs, which will vary from student to student depending upon their undergraduate architectural education. A minimum of 54 credit hours is required for graduation, and the normal course load for Path B / two-year M.Arch students is 15 credit hours per semester.

Path C: Three-year M.Arch
The three-year master of architecture professional degree is intended for students entering the University of Notre Dame with a four-year undergraduate degree in a field other than architecture. An intensive three-semester sequence of studio, history, theory and technology courses prepare students for the final three semester concentration / terminal design project sequence described above. Ninety (90) credit hours are required for graduation, including a normal load of 18 credit hours each of the first three semesters.

Discretionary Dual Degree: M.Arch and M.ADU
Students who pursue the discretionary dual degree (DDD) option spend an additional year of studies at Notre Dame, during which time they spend two semesters rather than one in Rome, complete concentrations in both classical architecture and urban design, serve as a teaching assistant during their additional year of study, and graduate at the end of their additional year with both the professional M.Arch degree and the post-professional M.ADU degree. Students invited to pursue this course of study will receive a full tuition scholarship in their additional year, plus a teaching stipend. All M.Arch students are eligible to apply for the DDD course of study, but all DDD invitations are extended at the discretion of the School of Architecture Graduate Studies Committee and may vary in any year from none to no more than two.

Degree Requirements
As described above, degree requirements include various studio and theory courses in Paths A, B and C, as well as various ancillary history and technology courses for Paths B and C. Minimum credit hour requirements for Paths A, B, C and the dual degree are indicated below, as well as the anticipated time to complete them:

Path A: M.ADU
36 credit hours (48 max); two years

Path B: M.Arch
54 credit hours; two years

Path C: M.Arch
90 credit hours; three years

Dual M.Arch/M.ADU
114 credit hours; four years

Faculty
Francis and Kathleen Rooney Dean of the School of Architecture:
Michael N. Lykoudis
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John Stamper
Associate Dean for Research, Scholarship & Creative Work:
Dennis P. Doordan
Assistant Dean:
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Interim Graduate Director:
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Concurrent Associate Professor:
Robin Rhodes

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Guest Associate Professional Specialist:
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Adjunct Professor:
Frank Huderwitz

Adjunct Associate Professor:
Jed Eide

Adjunct Assistant Professor:
John Mellor