

# MASTER OF ARCHITECTURE IN ARCHITECTURE

The Architecture program at Texas A&M University follows a 4+2 structure with an undergraduate foundation of a pre-professional Bachelor of Science degree and a Master of Architecture (MArch) first professional degree awarded at the graduate level. The Master of Architecture degree is accredited by the National Architectural Accrediting Board, fulfilling the educational component of professional licensure as an Architect. The Texas A&M University Department of Architecture MArch received an eight-year accreditation in 2023.

The Master of Architecture (MArch) program provides graduates with the requisite educational background to enter the professional practice of architecture and its numerous variants. The Master of Architecture (MArch) program lets students explore a range of professional directions related to faculty expertise. Faculty encourage students to develop their own individual course of study, which blends the emphasis areas of the following:

- Architectural Design
- History, Theory, and Criticism
- Design Computation
- Interior Architecture

Students can also direct their studies within existing certificate programs in the following:

- Facility Asset Management
- Health Systems and Design
- Historic Preservation
- Sustainable Urbanism

These certificate programs, offered through the five research centers, institutes, and labs at the college level, provide students with access to resources at the college and University that support diverse interests and engaged activity alongside opportunities for interdisciplinary experiences in tangential areas, including engineering, business, management, and leadership. Studying at Texas A&M offers motivated and tenacious students the unique opportunity to engage with the discipline and profession of Architecture at an impactful level through the diverse faculty comprising both breadth and depth of expertise.

## Program Requirements

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### Student's Advisory Committee

After receiving admission to graduate studies and enrolling for coursework, the student will consult with the head of the department concerning appointment of the chair of his or her advisory committee. The student's advisory committee for the master's degree will consist

of no fewer than three members of the graduate faculty, representative of the student's fields of study and research. The chair or one of the co-chairs of the advisory committee must be from the student's department, and at least one or more of the members must have an appointment to a department other than the student's major department.

The chair, in consultation with the student, will select the remainder of the advisory committee. The student will interview each prospective committee member to determine whether he or she is willing to serve. Only graduate faculty members located on Texas A&M University campuses may serve as chair of a student's advisory committee. Other graduate faculty members located off-campus may serve as a member or co-chair (but not chair), with a member as the chair. The chair of the committee, who usually has immediate supervision of the student's degree program, has the responsibility for calling meetings at any other time considered desirable.

If the chair of a student's advisory committee voluntarily leaves the University and the student is near completion of the degree and wants the chair to continue to serve in this role, the student is responsible for securing a current member of the University Graduate Committee Faculty, from the student's academic program and located near the Texas A&M University campus site, to serve as the co-chair of the committee. The Department Head or Chair of intercollegiate faculty may request in writing to the Associate Provost and Dean of the Graduate and Professional School that a faculty member who is on an approved leave of absence or has voluntarily separated from the university, be allowed to continue to serve in the role of chair of a student's advisory committee without a co-chair for up to one year. The student should be near completion of the degree. Extensions beyond the one year period can be granted with additional approval of the Dean.

If the chair of the student's advisory committee is unavailable for an extended time in any academic period during which the student is involved in activities relating to an internship, professional paper and is registered for courses such as 684, 692 or 693, the student may request, in writing, that the department head appoint an alternate advisory committee chair during the interim period.

The duties of the committee include responsibility for the proposed degree plan, the professional paper and the final examination. In addition, the committee, as a group and as individual members, is responsible for counseling the student on academic matters, and, in the case of academic deficiency, initiating recommendations to the Graduate and Professional School.

The committee members' approval on the degree plan indicate their willingness to accept the responsibility for guiding and directing the entire academic program of the student and for initiating all academic actions concerning the student. Although individual committee members may be replaced by petition for valid reasons, a committee cannot resign *en masse*.

### Degree Plan

The student's advisory committee, in consultation with the student, will develop the proposed degree plan. The degree plan must be completed and filed with the Graduate and Professional School prior to the deadline imposed by the student's college, and no later than 90 days prior to the date of the final oral examination.

This proposed degree plan should be submitted through the online Document Processing Submission System located on the website <https://ogsdps.tamu.edu>.

Additional coursework may be added to the approved degree plan by petition if it is deemed necessary by the advisory committee to correct deficiencies in the student's academic preparation. No changes can be made to the degree plan once the student's Request for Final Examination is approved by the Graduate and Professional School.

## Credit Requirement

A minimum of 55 semester credit hours of approved courses is required for the Master of Architecture degree. A student who is admitted to the Career Change Program will normally be required to complete a structured three-semester leveling sequence in addition to the 55 semester credit hours required for the degree.

## Transfer of Credit

A student who has earned 12 hours of graduate credit in residence at Texas A&M University may be authorized to transfer courses in excess of the limits prescribed above upon the advice of the advisory committee and with the approval of the Graduate and Professional School. Courses taken in residence at an accredited U.S. institution or approved international institution with a final grade of B or greater might be considered for transfer credit if, at the time the courses were completed, the courses would be accepted for credit toward a similar degree for a student in degree-seeking status at the host institution. Otherwise, the limitations stated in the preceding section apply. Coursework in which no formal grades are given or in which grades other than letter grades (A or B) are earned (for example, CR, P, S, U, H, etc.) is not accepted for transfer credit. Courses appearing on the degree plan with grades of D, F or U may not be absolved by transfer work. Credit for thesis research or the equivalent is not transferable. Credit for coursework submitted for transfer from any college or university must be shown in semester credit hours or equated to semester credit hours. An official transcript from the university at which the transfer coursework was taken must be sent directly to the Office of Admissions.

Courses used toward a degree at another institution may not be applied for graduate credit. If the course to be transferred was taken prior to the conferral of a degree at the transfer institution, a letter from the Registrar at that institution stating that the course was not applied for credit toward the degree must be submitted to the Graduate and Professional School.

Grades for courses completed at other institutions are not included in computing the GPA.

## Limitations on the Use of Transfer, Extension and Certain Other Courses

Some departments may have more restrictive requirements for transfer work. If otherwise acceptable, certain courses may be used toward meeting credit-hour requirements for the master's degree under the following limitations.

1. The maximum number of credit hours which may be considered for transfer credit is the greater of 12 hours or one-third (1/3) of the total hours of a degree plan. The following restrictions apply:
  - Graduate and/or upper-level undergraduate courses, taken in residence at an accredited U.S. institution, or approved international institution with a final grade of B or greater, will be considered for transfer credit if, at the time the courses were completed, the student was in degree-seeking status at Texas A&M University, or the student was in degree-seeking status at the institution at which the courses were taken; and if the courses

would be accepted for credit toward a similar degree for a student in degree-seeking status at the host institution.

- Courses previously used for another degree are not acceptable for degree plan credit.
2. The maximum number of credit hours taken in post-baccalaureate non-degree (G6) classification at Texas A&M University which may be considered for application to the degree plan is 12.
  3. A zero credit 684 or 685 course is only allowed for non-thesis option master's students. A zero credit 681 course can be used for either thesis or non-thesis option master's students. Other courses, including 691 (Research) hour, are not eligible for zero credit.
  4. No more than 16 hours may be used in any combination of the following categories:
    - A maximum of 8 hours of 684 (Professional Internship); and/or
    - A maximum of 8 hours of 685 (Directed Studies), or
    - A maximum of 8 hours of 693 (Professional Studies), and
    - Up to 3 hours of 690 (Theory of Research).
  5. A maximum of 2 hours of 681 (Seminar).
  6. A maximum of 12 hours of advanced undergraduate courses (300- or 400-level).
  7. For graduate courses of three weeks' duration or less, taken at other institutions, up to 1 hour of credit may be obtained for each five-day week of coursework. Each week of coursework must include at least 15 contact hours.
  8. No credit hours of 691 (Research) may be used.
  9. Continuing education courses may not be used for graduate credit.
  10. Extension courses taken are not acceptable for credit.
  11. For non-distance degree programs, no more than 50 percent of the non-research coursework required for the program may be completed through distance education courses.
  12. To receive a graduate degree from Texas A&M University, students must earn one-third or more of the credits through the institution's own direct instruction. This limitation also applies to joint degree programs.

Exceptions will be permitted only in unusual cases and when petitioned by the student's advisory committee and approved by the Graduate and Professional School.

## Final Examination

The candidate must pass a final examination by dates announced each semester or summer term in the Graduate and Professional School Calendar (<https://grad.tamu.edu/knowledge-center/dates-and-deadlines/dates-and-deadlines/>). To be eligible to take the final examination, a student's GPA must be at least 3.000 for courses on the degree plan and for all courses completed at Texas A&M which are eligible to be applied to a graduate degree, and no unabsolved grades of D, F or U can occur for any course listed on the degree plan. To absolve a deficient grade, the student must repeat the course at Texas A&M University and achieve a grade of C or better. All coursework on the degree plan must have been completed with the exception of those hours for which the student is registered.

A request to schedule the final examination must be submitted to the Graduate and Professional School *via* ARCS a minimum of 10 working days in advance of the scheduled date for the examination. The Graduate and Professional School will be notified *via* ARCS of any cancellations. A student may be given only one opportunity to repeat the final examination

for the master's degree and that must be within a time period that does not extend beyond the end of the next regular semester (Summer terms are excluded). The final exam cannot be held prior to the mid-point of the semester if questions on the exam are based on courses in which the student is currently enrolled.

The final examination covers all work taken on the degree plan and at the option of the committee may be written or oral or both. The examination is conducted by the student's advisory committee as finally constituted. Persons other than members of the graduate faculty may, with mutual consent of the candidate and the major professor, attend final examinations for advanced degrees. Upon completion of the questioning of the candidate, all visitors must excuse themselves from the proceedings. A positive vote by all members of the graduate committee with at most one dissension is required to pass a student on his/her exam. A department can have a stricter requirement provided there is consistency within all degree programs within a department.

The student's department will promptly report the results of the Final Examination to the Graduate and Professional School *via* the Academic Requirements Completion System (ARCS) within 10 working days of completion of the final examination. If an approved committee member substitution (one only) has been made, their approval must be submitted to the Graduate and Professional School *via* ARCS.

If the program requires the advisory committee to include at least one external member – with an appointment to a department other than the student's major department – and the substitution is for the sole external member of the advisory committee, then the substitute must also be external to the student's major department. In extenuating circumstances, with approval of the Graduate and Professional School, an exception to this requirement may be granted.

A candidate for the Master of Architecture degree does not qualify to petition for an exemption from the final examination.

## Additional Requirements

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### Residence

A student must complete 12 credit hours in resident study at Texas A&M University to satisfy the residence requirement for the Master of Architecture degree.

Students who are employed full-time while completing their degree may fulfill total residence requirements by completion of less-than-full time course loads each semester. In order to be considered for this, the student is required to submit a Petition for Waivers and Exceptions along with verification of his/her employment to the Graduate and Professional School.

See Residence Requirements (<http://catalog.tamu.edu/graduate/academic-expectations-general-degree-requirements/#degreerequirementstext>).

### Time Limit

All degree requirements must be completed within a period of seven consecutive years for the degree to be granted. A course will be considered valid until seven years after the end of the semester in which it is taken. Graduate credit for coursework which is more than seven calendar years old at the time of the final examination (oral or written) may not be used to satisfy degree requirements.

### Foreign Languages

No specific language requirement exists for the Master of Architecture degree.

### Internship or Practicum

A student who undertakes a professional internship in partial fulfillment of master's degree requirements after completing all course requirements for the master's degree must return to the campus for the final examination. The final examination is not to be administered until all other requirements for the degree, including any internship, have been substantially completed. Departmental requirements and regulations related to degree plans, professional internships, etc., may be found in the departmental brochure. A student will not normally be permitted to undertake 684 (Professional Internship) as the final course in the sequence of study leading to the master's degree.

### Application for Degree

For information on applying for your degree, please visit the Graduation (<http://catalog.tamu.edu/graduate/academic-expectations-general-degree-requirements/#degreerequirementstext>) section.