

Architecture

Program Overview

The Master of Science in Architecture gives students a deeper knowledge of the field through advanced study and research of issues and trends challenging the ever-changing design and construction enterprise.

The program appeals to those with a professional degree in architecture or a related discipline who want to pursue research, doctoral studies, and/or teach in the field; and to those seeking a higher level of specialization in a certain area of the profession. The MS Arch does not lead to registration as a licensed architect.

"The MS Arch program provided many personal and professional challenges at a midpoint in my career. It was rejuvenating to return to an academic setting and I am already seeing the benefits of having taken a year away from my busy practice to study and interact with other students and professional educators."

—Catherine Fritz, MS Arch
May 2002, City Architect for the City & Borough of Juneau, Alaska



Areas of Concentration

Students in the Master of Science in Architecture program focus on one of the following areas:

Design Theory: Students in the design theory emphasis explore theories in a historical context (e.g., the effect of democracy on American land planning), current design theories (e.g., New Urbanism, post-structuralism, etc.), or new trends in design process (e.g., computer assisted virtual networks). Students may also develop new theories related to these issues.

Culture, Sustainability, and Aesthetics: This area of emphasis is intended for students who wish to expand their understanding of a particular socio-cultural phenomenon as related to material culture, preservation or environmental design strategies, and questions related to sense perception and beauty.

Design-Build Management: The design-build management option is based on an integrated project management approach. The program provides a collaborative learning experience for design and construction professionals. A separate brochure is available with more information on this option.

Course of Study

The MS Arch degree requires a minimum of 30 credits, including the completion of a research thesis. Core requirements (11 credits) of the program include:

Arch 530: Philosophies and Theories of the Built Environment

Arch 540: Research Methods

Arch 550: Design Applications

Arch 560: Interdisciplinary Seminar

Students round out their required credits with supportive electives (a minimum of 15 credits) taken in consultation with their advisor, and master's thesis research (a minimum of 4 credits).

Areas of Research

The Master of Science in Architecture program provides students with the opportunity to explore design theory and application within a diverse milieu defined by context, process and architectural tectonics. Examples of research include:

- Learning environment as place: design guidelines to enhance principles for school design
- Philosophical basis for evaluating sustainable architectural design
- New Urbanism as an expression of societal gender neutrality
- Contemporary Chinese regionalism
- Guidelines for elderly housing



The Interdisciplinary Experience

The Master of Science in Architecture is offered at the Interdisciplinary Design Institute on the urban campus of Washington State University Spokane. The Institute provides a collaborative learning environment where architecture students learn alongside students and faculty in other design and construction disciplines, including interior design, landscape architecture, and construction management.

The unique interdisciplinary learning experience offers students a more holistic understanding of all design fields, positioning them more competitively in the dynamic marketplace.



Nationally Recognized Faculty

MS Architecture students have the opportunity to learn and receive mentorship from experienced faculty advisors and committee chairs. The MS Arch program's faculty and administration work closely with the administration of the School of Architecture and Construction Management at the Washington State University campus in Pullman. Students in the MS Arch program have access to faculty and resources at both campuses.

Architecture faculty at the WSU Spokane campus include:

John Abell, AIA
PhD, The Architectural Association (London), in progress
MArch, University of Utah
BS, University of Vermont

Matt Cohen
MArch, Harvard University
MA, Syracuse University
BA, University of Vermont

Keith Diaz Moore, NCARB
PhD, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee
MArch, University of Minnesota
BS, University of Illinois-Urbana Champaign

David Wang, AIA
PhD, University of Michigan
MS Arch, University of Michigan
MArch, University of Pennsylvania
BA, University of Pennsylvania