

MASTER OF ARCHITECTURE PROGRAM

UNLV School of Architecture

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1. M. ARCH. PROGRAM

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Introduction:

The purpose of the Master of Architecture degree program is to prepare graduate students for leadership positions in the profession of architecture.

A strong emphasis is placed on solving problems related to architectural design coupled with developing skills in applying research methods to a variety of architectural problems. This is achieved by combining the strength of a core of graduate design studios well founded in theory, history, and technology with the flexibility of a series of advanced cross-disciplinary electives. Additionally, the program requires a final design research project and offers the option of a written thesis. Students are given the opportunity to capitalize on the unique location of the University of Nevada, Las Vegas, by incorporating into their individual curriculum design solutions related to a number of issues, including:

- 1) the environmental, historic, and socio-cultural context of the building site and of occupant comfort,
- 2) tourism and recreation design,
- 3) form, spatial aspects, and aesthetic considerations,
- 4) desert climate architecture, and
- 5) structural, environmental, mechanical, and energy efficient systems.

• **ACCREDITATION**

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 (NAAB), which is the sole agency authorized to accredit U.S. professional degree programs in architecture, recognizes two types of degrees: the Bachelor of Architecture and the Master 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.

Master's degree programs may consist of a pre-professional

undergraduate degree and a professional graduate degree, which, earned sequentially, comprise an accredited professional education. The pre-professional degree is not by itself, however, recognized as an accredited degree.

The UNLV Master of Architecture program was first accredited by NAAB in 1997.

- **ADMISSION**

REQUIREMENTS:

The requirements described in this section are considered minimum standards for admission into the Master of Architecture program. Meeting these standards does not, however, guarantee admission since acceptance into the program is a highly selective process; applicants will be competitively admitted on a space available basis only.

Each applicant to the Master of Architecture program must hold a baccalaureate or a graduate degree from a regionally accredited college or a university recognized by the University of Nevada, Las Vegas, and meet either of the following minimum grade point average (GPA) requirements: a cumulative undergraduate GPA of 2.75 or higher, or a GPA of 3.00 or higher during the last two years of undergraduate course work.

Each applicant is also required to submit the following:

- Graduate Record Examination (GRE) scores of 410 or higher in the verbal section and 430 or higher in the quantitative section with the combined score in these two sections being no less than 850,
- two letters of recommendation,
- a statement of intent,
- a design portfolio in specified format containing representative visual and other creative work, and
- samples of written materials completed in undergraduate courses or professional work.

International students whose native language is not English must also submit a minimum score of 550 (213 computer-based) on the "Test of English as a Foreign Language" (TOEFL) and a financial certificate.

ADMISSION PATHS :

Because of differing levels of preparation among entering master's degree applicants, two paths to admission have been established in accordance with NAAB accreditation requirements: the 4+2 path and the 3+ path.

- The **4+2** path is intended for students holding the Bachelor of Science or Arts degree with a major in Architecture, or its equivalent in curricula content to the UNLV B.S. program with an Architecture major. Students holding a five-year B. Arch. or its equivalent may apply for advanced standing; decisions on advanced standing are made at the discretion of the School of Architecture and on a case-by-case basis.
- The **3+** path is designed for qualified applicants holding undergraduate or graduate degrees in fields of study other than architecture. If admitted, students are required to complete undergraduate- and graduate-level preparatory work as specified by the program faculty before they can proceed to the final four semesters of the Master of Architecture program.

APPLICATION PROCESS:

All applicants to the Master of Architecture programs must submit, by the deadlines shown below, two separate sets of documents.

For domestic applicants, the first set, which is submitted directly to the Graduate College at UNLV, includes the following materials:

1. Three-part, one-page application form along with \$40.00 application fee.
2. One official transcript mailed directly from each

university/college attended after highschool. NO hand-carried, photocopies, or "Issued to Student" transcripts will be accepted.

Applicants seeking graduate assistantships and fellowships/scholarships, must additionally submit an application to the Graduate College to accompany the above listed documents.

For international applicants, the first set, which is submitted directly to the Graduate College at UNLV, includes the following materials:

1. Three-part, one-page application form along with \$95.00 (*U.S. currency*),
2. One official transcript mailed directly from each university/college attended after highschool. NO hand-carried, photocopies, or "Issued to Student" transcripts will be accepted,
3. Official "Test of English as a Foreign Language" (TOEFL) test report direct from the testing center,
4. A certificate of finance as per the Graduate College requirements.

International applicants seeking graduate assistantships and fellowships/scholarships must additionally submit an application to the Graduate College to accompany the above listed documents.

The second set is submitted to the School of Architecture at UNLV by both domestic and international applicants and consists of the following materials:

1. A one-page Master of Architecture application with a Statement of Intent essay on the reverse side,
2. Two letters of recommendation,
3. Official "Graduate Record Examination (GRE)" test reports direct from the testing center.

4. One official transcript mailed directly from each university/college attended after high school. NO hand-carried, photocopies, or "Issued to Student" transcripts will be accepted.
5. A portfolio containing representative examples of visual and other creative work, and
6. A sample of written materials (in English) completed in undergraduate courses or professional work.

All examples must be photographic or other types of reproduction (*i.e.* do not include original works), and in 8½" by 11" format (or closest standard equivalent for international students). In addition, 3-D work is usually photographed on slide film. Up to 20 pages and/or slides may be submitted. A CD-ROM with up to 20 images is also acceptable. Care should be taken with the submitted examples in order to assure that the quality of the reproduction accurately represents the quality of the creative work.

All admissions are selective and limited to the students judged best qualified for the number of spaces available. Students admitted must agree to complete the course of study as scheduled below or seek a leave from the Program to re-enter at an acceptable time, or withdraw and re-apply at a later time.

DEADLINES:

For Fall 2003 and Spring 2004 admission, all application materials for the Master of Architecture Program must be received no later than **June 15** for August admission, and no later than **November 15** for January admission. Applications received by February 1 for August admission and August 1 for January admission will be given priority.

Beginning with applications for Fall 2004 admission, all application materials for the Master of Architecture Program must be received no later than **February 1** for August admission, and no later than **August 1** for January admission. Applications will be accepted continuously until these deadlines and will be considered on a competitive basis until all positions are filled.

Financial Aid:

A limited number of state-supported and extramurally-funded graduate assistantships are available. Please consult the current UNLV Graduate Catalog for a listing of the most important regulations governing these positions.

- **DEGREE REQUIREMENTS**

The minimum graduate credit hours required for the Master of Architecture program is 48 credits. Up to 15 credit hours from previous institutions, if approved, may be applied as transfer credits.

Students admitted into the 3+ path are, in addition, required to complete preparatory undergraduate- and graduate-level work as specified by the program faculty. The 3+ path may require up to 108 credits to complete, depending on each student's prior academic background.

The following requirements apply to all graduate students:

- After graduate admission, students are required to maintain a minimum GPA of 3.00 on a 4.00 point scale.
- Students need to demonstrate satisfactory progress. This is defined as:
 - filing an approved program of studies by the end of the first graduate semester of the course work,
 - completion of at least six credit hours of the approved program per calendar year,
 - maintenance of a GPA of 3.00 (*4.00 scale*), and
 - compliance with the letter and spirit of the Graduate Bulletin and the published policies of the School of Architecture.

If progress is not satisfactory, probation or dismissal may result in accordance with the rules of the Graduate College at UNLV. Any student whose GPA falls below 3.00 (*4.00 scale*) will be placed on probation and will have one semester to raise it to 3.00 or above.

- Each student's program of study must display suitable breadth and

coherence in the selection of approved elective course work related to the area of concentration. As specified in the Graduate Catalog, program of study will be developed by the student and his/her advisor and filed with the Graduate College by the sixth week of the student's first semester in the Master of Architecture program.

- At the end of the final year in the graduate program, each student is required to submit a Master's book and take a comprehensive final oral examination.

THESIS OPTION

The graduate thesis will focus on the area of concentration approved by the student's Graduate Committee and supported by elective course work related to the selected concentration subject.

The final examination of the thesis will be arranged and conducted by the student's Graduate Committee. The instructions outlined in the "*Thesis and Dissertation Guide*" by the Graduate College must be followed in the preparation of and final submission of the thesis. In addition to the requirements of the Graduate College, a bound copy must be submitted to the student's Graduate Committee chair.

NON-THESIS OPTION

Students who do not pursue the thesis option are required to complete successfully a final design project based on a research proposal approved by the student's Graduate Committee. The final project must be a comprehensive building design addressing a significant architectural design problem or other project derived from the student's graduate research.

The School reserves the right to retain any or all student projects for the program's future use and exhibition.

GRADUATE COMMITTEE

The student's graduate committee will consist of the following persons:

- a minimum of three members from the graduate faculty of the School of Architecture, one of whom is designated to chair the committee. The chair must be a full graduate faculty member in the School of Architecture. The other School members may have associate graduate faculty status,
- a Graduate College representative (this member must be a UNLV faculty member from outside the college), and
- Occasionally, an outside member related to the student's area of concentration may serve on the committee. This member may be a registered practitioner or a specialist, in which case, she/he is not considered a voting member. This member may also be a UNLV faculty member from outside the college, in which case, she/he must be given an associate graduate status by the School of Architecture prior to serving on the committee.

FINAL COMPREHENSIVE EXAMINATION

Each graduate student is required to successfully pass a Final Oral Examination as part of her/his Master's of Architecture degree requirement. In both options, Thesis as well as Non-thesis, students will have to demonstrate a comprehensive understanding of the field of Architecture and answer, to the satisfaction of their graduate committee members, any questions pertaining to their M. Arch. program of study including, but not limited to, the 37 NAAB criteria. Each student must also be in compliance with all rules and regulations of UNLV's Graduate College "Final Examination" policies.

- **Sequence of Required Courses:**

M. Arch. program requirements:

FALL	Credits	SPRING	Credits
AAE 771L Architectural Design V	6	AAE 772L Architectural Design VI	6
AAE 751 Contemp. Arch. Theory	3	ABS 741 Integrated Bldg. Systems	3
*Appr. Concentration Elective	3	*Appr. Concentration Elective	3
	12		12

Summer Studies

Students holding the B.S. in Architecture from UNLV normally will have completed international studies, or a summer internship between the third and fourth year. All students who have not completed a summer internship will be required to complete AAD 600.

Elect one of the following courses:

AAD 600	Summer Clinical Internship	0 Credits
AAD 601	International Study	6 Credits

FALL	Credits	SPRING	Credits		
AAE 789	Arch. Research Studio	6	AAE 790	Thesis Writing OR	
AAE 755	Design Practice Mgmt. I	3	AAE 791	Final Project Design	6
*Appr. Concentration Elective		3	AAE 756	Design Practice Mgmt. II	3
			*Appr. Concentration Elective		3
		12			12

* Please consult the current UNLV Graduate Catalog for cross-disciplinary electives and the Architecture Office for new offerings in architecture elective courses.

3 + Path Requirements:

The program requirements for students admitted to the 3+ path will vary according to the background and preparation of each student. A typical sequence of preparatory coursework that would be required of a student with little prior background in design studio or other architecturally related areas is given below. The sequence of courses required for each student, including the summer internship if applicable, must be taken as part of the preparatory work for 5th and 6th year graduate curriculum (4+2 Path) of the Master of Architecture program at UNLV. No more than two preparatory courses can be concurrently taken with the upper division courses. Prerequisite requirements must be met before a student can be admitted to a graduate course.

FALL	Credits	SPRING	Credits
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AAE 711L	Graduate Design I	6	AAE 712L	Graduate Design II	6
AAD 101	His. of the Blt. Environ.	3	AAD 102	Anal. of the Blt. Environ.	3
AAD 265	Computer App. Arch. I	3	AAE 330	Design with Climate	3
ABS 341	Structures. for Arch. I	3	ABS 640	Structures for Architects II	3

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Summer Studies

All students who have not completed a summer internship will be required to complete AAD 600 Summer Clinical Internship.

FALL	Credits	SPRING	Credits		
AAE 713L	Graduate Design III	6	AAE 714L	Graduate Design IV	6
AAE 655	8 th & 19 th Century Arch.	3	AAE 656	20 th Century Architecture	3
ABS 331	Env. Control Systems	3	AAE 440	Societal Concerns in Arch.	3
ABS 321	Construction Tech. I	3	ABS 322	Construction Technologies II	3
	15		15		

Upon completion of preparatory coursework, students follow a sequence of courses identical to that followed by students admitted through the 4+2 path, as listed above.