

Career Information: Architect

Description:

Architects design buildings and other structures. They ensure that the building is functional, safe, economical, and suits the needs of the people who use them. Architects must be licensed before they contract to provide architectural services. Most of their time is spent in offices advising clients, developing reports and drawings, and working with other architects and engineers. However, they often visit construction sites to review the projects.

Degree in Architecture:

Each state architectural registration boards set their own standards, so degree requirements into the profession may vary. In order to become an architect, a Masters in Architecture (M.ARCH) generally is required. Students must receive a professional degree in architecture from one of the 113 schools of architecture with degree programs accredited by the National Architectural Accrediting Board (NAAB).

Prerequisites for Architecture Programs:

BYU does not offer a degree program in Architecture. In spite of this, those that are interested in a M.ARCH can fulfill most undergraduate requirements here at BYU. Schools that offer training in architecture publish a catalog listing their requirements. It is especially important that a student obtains a copy of these graduate school requirements. The following are *types* of requirements for a graduate program offered at BYU for students not completing a Bachelors of Architecture (B.ARCH degree); although it is extremely important to know the exact requirements needed for the graduate program:

There are a few majors at BYU that fulfill many of the prerequisites for entrance to a graduate program. They include: Construction Management, Facilities Management, Civil

CM 105, CM 155, CM 335

CEEn 103, CEEEn 112, CEEEn 113

Math 112

BYU's Freshman and Junior English requirements

Geol 330

BYU's GE Arts and Sciences GE electives

Physics

HFL 102

PAS 103

**These classes are only examples, not prerequisites*

Engineering, and Industrial Design. While these majors help fulfill requirements, they do not guarantee a fulfillment of all requirements for a particular program. It is absolutely necessary to find out a graduate school's requirements by contacting them or researching that program on the internet. A student then must apply for the major that completes the most prerequisites. Again, even if the major is the closest fit, there may be more requirements outside the major that must be fulfilled.

Choosing the right Architectural Program:

When contacting each school, it is important to ask whether or not their programs are accredited. If they are not, it is a waste of time to attend. Only accredited programs lead to a promising career in architecture. Also, students need to check if, while at BYU, they can complete the entrance requirements for each program of interest. See the paragraph on Prerequisites for Architecture Programs. Some architectural programs may be found at: <http://www.petersons.com> : From this website, click on education search, then Masters& PhD. From there click find a graduate school or program.

Lastly, click Architecture in the search box. Simply follow the search guidelines to finding graduate programs.

-Or-

<http://www.naab.org> : From here click Architecture Programs near the bottom of the site. Then click NAAB Accredited Programs in Architecture to download the PDF file. This lists accredited and candidate programs in architecture.

Once you are in Architecture School:

The Master of Architecture usually requires studying a minimum of three years following an unrelated bachelor's degree. These professional degrees are structured to educate those who aspire to registration/licensure as architects. The Master of Architecture curriculum is less homogeneous and structured than the undergraduate study and more characterized by choice and flexibility. The graduate student is typically responsible for assembling, within certain guidelines, a program tailored to their interests and intentions. Although, each school is different on how the program is run.

There are currently 113 schools offering NAAB accredited professional programs in architecture. To find contact information for each program you can go to the National Architectural Accrediting Board (NAAB) website, at <http://www.naab.org> and click architecture programs.

Future of Architects:

Architect employment is projected to grow about as fast as the average for all occupations through 2012. Yet, many individuals are attracted to this occupation, and the number of applicants often exceeds the number of available jobs, especially in the most prestigious firms. Because construction is sensitive to cyclical changes in the economy, architects will face especially strong competition for jobs or clients during recessions, and layoffs may ensue. Those involved in designing institutional buildings will be less affected by fluctuations in the economy.

Architects who are licensed to practice in one State must meet the licensing requirements of other States before practicing elsewhere. Obtaining licensure in other States, after initially receiving licensure in one State, is known as "reciprocity" and is much easier if an architect has received certification from the National Council of Architectural Registration Board (NCARB).

Median annual earnings of wage and salary architects were \$56,620 in 2002. The middle 50 percent earned between \$44,030 and \$74,460. The lowest 10 percent earned less than \$36,280, and the highest 10 percent earned more than \$92,350.

Architects held about 113,000 jobs in 2002—mostly in architectural firms with fewer than five workers. A small number worked for residential and nonresidential building construction firms and for government agencies responsible for housing, planning, or community development. About 1 in 5 architects was self-employed.

Resources BYU offers:

Beverly Harmon-Advisor for Architecture
230 Snell Building (SNLB)
Phone: 422-1818
Email: beverly_harmon@byu.edu
<http://www.et.byu.edu/sot/advisement>

Design Building Institute of America (Architecture Club)
<http://org.et.byu.edu/cmsa>

Related Websites:

<http://www.aia.org>
<http://www.e-architect.com>

All of the information on this sheet has been compiled from a personal interview with Beverly Harmon as well as information gathered from the NAAB website and the Occupational Outlook Handbook found on the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics website under Architects.

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The Career & Learning Information Center
A service of BYU's Counseling and Career Center

2590 WSC, Provo, UT, 84602 • 801-422-2689
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