

Bachelor of Architecture Degree

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY



Program Description

The Bachelor of Architecture (B Arch) professional degree program is designed to prepare students for the practice of architecture with an emphasis on sustainability. The program strikes a balance between architecture as both an art and as a science by leveraging RIT's expertise in design and sustainability.

Students will learn and practice the skills and methods of architecture from *programming & analysis* to *project planning & design* to *project development & documentation*. With an emphasis on data-inspired design, graduates will have the ability to contribute meaningfully to a fully sustainable built environment while being prepared for professional licensure.

Rationale, Mission, and Vision

Enrollment Management Services actually suggested RIT examine a Bachelor of Architecture degree. Their data shows a high interest by high school students in both sustainability and architecture. Given that the focus of the RIT Master of Architecture program is in sustainable architecture this appears to be an opportunity upon which to capitalize.

The very nature of architecture reflects RIT's own self-identity as a university that blends art and design with technology. Thus, a primary goal of this proposal is to capitalize on the reputation of GIS to attract high school students directly into design and sustainability programs at the baccalaureate level both within GIS as well as the other colleges of RIT.

Competing Programs

There are about 150 accredited programs in architecture in about 120 institutions nationwide. About 2/3 are M Arch programs and 1/3 B Arch programs. There is one D Arch program. Upstate NY has three programs of architecture that would be RIT's most direct competitors; Syracuse University, Cornell University, and SUNY Alfred (a candidacy program). All of these programs have a traditional approach allowing for some form of specialization but none feature sustainability as would the RIT program.

Educational Outcomes

1. Graduates will be able to conduct a pre-design analysis that will result in an architectural program.
2. Graduates will be able to create a successful, data-inspired solution to an architectural problem by satisfying program requirements.
3. Graduates will be able to complete a range of technical analyses (architectural, civil, structural,

mechanical, and electrical) to further develop an architectural design.

4. Graduates will be able to integrate all technical aspects of an architectural design.
5. Graduates will be able to demonstrate that they understand state of the art project and office management methods.

Curriculum

The design part of the curriculum is to utilize and build upon the foundation available in the College of Imaging Arts & Sciences with the structural framework of the existing Master of Architecture program but with a baccalaureate level "build out." It is a 5-year, 160 credit hour program.

In the first year students are *exposed* to the historical, artistic, and cultural context in which architecture must exist. They will also begin to develop representational and communication skills.

The second year is dedicated to *developing* basic architectural skills both on the design side and the technical side. At this point, the strong integrative approach to the curriculum design is implemented. Technical courses are linked to design courses, and technical courses are integrated between themselves. That is to say, major building components such as building materials and methods, structure, building services, codes, and financial considerations are covered in every technical course in increasing levels of depth.

In the final three years students gain further *experience*, *synthesize* their knowledge, and *integrate* what they have learned as they prepare to enter the work force. The third year allows for a global experience and the fourth and fifth years allow for cooperative work experiences on a part-time or full-time basis.

Enrollment Projections

AY	Yr. 1	Yr. 2	Yr. 3	Yr. 4	Yr. 5	Total
19-20	40	0	0	0	0	40
20-21	40	35	0	0	0	75
21-22	40	35	34*	0	0	109
22-23	40	35	34*	31	0	140
23-24	40	35	34*	31	28	168

* Includes 2 transfer students