Sam Fox School of Design & Visual Arts  
Degree Descriptions

Undergraduate Degrees in Architecture
The undergraduate curriculum is centered around the studio, where small groups of students and a faculty member work together on design projects. Students learn to evaluate, organize, and refine ideas, developing skills that apply not only to the fields of Architecture and design, but also to art, business, technology, social studies, literature, and the environment. The following degrees are offered by the College of Architecture.

- Bachelor of Science in Architecture
- Bachelor of Design in Architecture (students graduating in 2015 and beyond)
- Bachelor of Arts with a Major in Architecture (students graduating prior to 2015)

The Bachelor of Arts with a Major in Architecture (120 credits)
The Bachelor of Arts with a major in Architecture is a four-year undergraduate degree program that provides the opportunity for students to pursue interdisciplinary studies through second majors and minors. In this program, students can continue to take selected course work in Architecture during the senior year, including senior-level architectural design studios. Alternately, they may also elect to devote the better part of their final year's course work to further study in the College of Arts & Sciences, the College of Art, or the schools of Business or Engineering. The Bachelor of Arts can lead to a three-year master's degree in architecture, putting students on track for teaching and leadership positions in architecture and other related fields. This degree is not currently offered to incoming students. Students graduating in 2015 and beyond may pursue a Bachelor of Science in Architecture or a Bachelor of Design in Architecture.

The Bachelor of Science in Architecture (122 credits)
The Bachelor of Science in Architecture is a four-year undergraduate degree program that provides a more intensive study of architecture during the senior year. Students receiving the BS in Architecture degree will usually be considered by a two-year or two-and-a-half-year Master of Architecture program.

The Bachelor of Design in Architecture (122 credits)
The Bachelor of Design in Architecture is a four-year interdisciplinary degree program that builds on shared foundation studies and combines disciplinary studies in art and architecture with research based design studio instruction. Beginning in the fall of the junior year, the degree includes studies in research methods, systems thinking, and electives. Disciplinary option studios, which continue disciplinary depth, and interdisciplinary studios lead to a capstone project where students and faculty in art, architecture, and other disciplines from around the university work on complex problems. Contexts of study could include health care, environment, energy, transportation, and water. The degree will provide experiences in research, design, collaboration, and transdisciplinary work valuable to many graduate degree options that can be informed by these perspectives.

Graduate Degrees in Architecture, Urban Design & Landscape Architecture
The graduate programs at the School of Architecture offer a variety of degree options and terms of study. A central purpose for all the graduate programs is the establishment of the architect’s identity. The aim of any curriculum sequence is to educate expressive, skillful designers, prepared to act as thoughtful, effective members of the profession and practice of architecture.

The following professional degrees are offered in the Graduate School of Architecture:

- The accredited Master of Architecture degree, a professional degree for students with undergraduate degrees in either architecture or in non-architectural studies.
- The accredited Master of Landscape Architecture degree, for individuals who have completed undergraduate landscape studies as well as those without a background in this discipline.

The following post professional degrees are offered:

- The post professional Master of Urban Design degree, for individuals holding professional degrees in architecture, landscape architecture, or planning with an emphasis on physical design of the built environment who are interested in issues of the metropolitan landscape. This degree program is often taken in parallel with the MArch or MLA degree.
The post professional Master of Science in Advanced Architectural Design degree, previously titled MArch 1, for individuals already holding professional degrees in architecture accredited by the National Architectural Accreditation Board (NAAB) who are interested in pursuing opportunities in design research, teaching, and independent studies.

The post professional Master of Science in Architectural Studies degree, for individuals interested in research specialization or focus beyond that possible within the professional degree programs. This post professional degree program is primarily taken in parallel with, or in succession to, the MArch, MLA, or MUD degree. Two concentrations are currently available: Architectural Pedagogy, and the History and Culture of Architecture.

Master of Architecture
M.Arch 3 (105 credits)
This full, seven-semester professional curriculum is for students holding baccalaureate degrees with majors in architecture and with majors other than architecture. The program begins with a series of core studios and courses before progressing into the advanced studio sequence. This 105-credit program leads to a professionally accredited Master of Architecture degree.

M.Arch 2+/ Advanced Placement (75 credits)
The MArch 2+ curriculum is a five-semester, advanced placement course of study, beginning in a fall semester. Students are considered for placement in the MArch 2+ curriculum on the basis of design portfolio evaluation and the extent of their undergraduate architectural studies. Placement in this curriculum is highly selective. The MArch 2+ sequence begins with the final, comprehensive core studio (419) and concludes with the Degree Project; parallel course work in each of the five semesters matches that of the MArch 2 curriculum, plus electives selected in consultation with the student’s graduate advisor. This 75-credit program leads to a professionally accredited professional Master of Architecture degree.

M.Arch 2 (60 credits)
This four-semester program is for strong architectural design students beginning their studies in either a fall or spring semester who hold baccalaureate degrees in architecture (a BS in Architecture, typically, or a professional degree from outside the United States). Students are considered for placement in the MArch 2 curriculum on the basis of design portfolio evaluation and the extent of their undergraduate architectural studies. Placement in this curriculum is highly selective. The MArch 2 program includes advanced elective work and the Degree Project. This 60-credit program leads to a professionally accredited Master of Architecture degree.

Master of Urban Design (36 credits)
Founded by Fumihiko Maki and Roger Montgomery in 1960, the Master of Urban Design program is an innovative post professional program that focuses on the design of metropolitan urban environments throughout the world. Focused on the design studio, this three-semester program allows students holding professional degrees in architecture, landscape architecture or planning with an emphasis on physical design of the built environment to pursue advanced independent design and research work while acquiring the theoretical and professional foundation for contemporary urban design practice. The program encourages students in the Master of Architecture program and Master of Landscape Architecture program to enhance their professional education with a dual degree. The MArch/MUD and MLA/MUD options have become increasingly popular.

The MUD program builds upon the diverse international student body, the interdisciplinary study opportunities, and the many international semester design studies within the School and University to prepare participants for international practice in the private and public sectors, and for leadership roles in the design and development of the contemporary built environment. Recent graduates have found positions in major planning, architecture, landscape architecture and urban design practices, and the program has a large international network of alumni, many of whom hold important urban design positions around the world.

Urbanization is an increasing trend throughout the world that focuses enormous opportunities for and challenges to creating healthy and sustainable urban environments, which are investigated through both course work and the design studio. This program addresses the multiplicity of urbanizing conditions and environments—the urban transect—occurring in local, national, and global cities both within the United States and internationally, including the transformations occurring in older, more traditional urban environments: the emergent vertical city; edge cities
as part of the multi-nuclei city; suburban intensification and densification; the metropolitan periphery; new development related to urban infrastructure; and informal urbanism within the metropolitan landscape.

To this end, the program integrates concepts and principles of architecture, landscape and infrastructure into a core sequence of urban design studios. At the same time, through a balance of required and elective course work, it provides an introduction to social, political, economic and environmentally responsible principles of development and the history and theory of contemporary urbanism. Course work and associated research serve as a base for the more speculative and exploratory nature of the design studio experience. During their course of study, students will be challenged to explore their role as active and informed participants in the transformation of cities.

Master of Landscape Architecture
The Master of Landscape Architecture degree program is distinguished by a commitment to design excellence, regional and international perspectives, and interdisciplinary studies. The program offers a three-year curriculum for students without prior design education; those with a degree in landscape architecture or architecture may receive advanced placement, thus reducing their course work by one or two semesters. In addition, students may pursue a variety of joint degrees in architecture and urban design. The MLA program has been granted initial accreditation for six years by the Landscape Architectural Accreditation Board. The MLA program focuses on the subjects of design, ecology, and urbanism, using St. Louis as a laboratory for understanding and testing theories at the local and regional scales. The transformative process of design—linking cultural, historical, and technological investigations—forms the pedagogical basis for research. Ecology informs design practice to address a multiplicity of scales and systems within the environment. Finally, urbanism serves as a terrain for contemporary landscape practice. This three-pronged approach is geared to develop the students’ critical abilities to conceptualize the broader environment and prepare them to become leaders within professional and academic spheres.

At its core, the MLA program focuses on the subjects of design, ecology, and urbanism. The transformative process of design—linking cultural, historical, and technological investigations—forms the pedagogical basis for research. Ecology informs design practice to address a multiplicity of scales and natural systems within the environment. Urbanism serves as a terrain of contemporary landscape practice. This three-pronged approach is geared to develop the students’ critical and conceptual abilities, and prepare them to become leaders within professional and academic spheres.

The curriculum is centered around studio teaching supported by instruction in history/theory, natural systems, representation, and technology. Following the core sequence of design studios and course work, students are encouraged to develop their own research interests through advanced design studios and electives. In addition, students have opportunities to deepen their investigations, both within and beyond the Graduate School, through international studios, teaching and research assistantships, and scholarships.

The MLA program draws on a unique set of institutional, regional, and international resources available at the Sam Fox School. Washington University’s outstanding programs in environmental studies, environmental engineering, and American cultural studies expand curricular offerings in ecology, technology, and landscape studies. St. Louis functions as a laboratory for understanding and testing ecological and urban theories at the local scale, from brownfield reclamation to urban agriculture systems. The internationally renowned Missouri Botanical Garden serves as an exceptional tool for research and teaching. Finally, through the Graduate School’s extensive international offerings, students are able to experience different landscapes, cultures, and cultures of practice.

MLA 3-year program (90 credits)
Applicants with a four-year Bachelor of Arts or Bachelor of Science degree, or the equivalent, in any discipline are eligible for admission to the three-year program. Preference will be granted to individuals who have received an education balancing the arts, sciences, and humanities. Requirements include a college-level course in the natural sciences and at least one college-level course in the visual arts, such as drawing, sculpture, graphics, and/or basic design. Students must complete a minimum of 90 credits.

MLA-AP (60 credits)
Applicants with an accredited degree in architecture or a degree in landscape architecture from a non-accredited program may receive advanced placement, depending on qualifications and strength of portfolio, thereby reducing the length of their studies by one or two semesters. Students demonstrating equivalencies in any of the required
landscape architecture courses may substitute these requirements with courses in architecture or urban design upon approval by the chair of the MLA program and faculty in charge of specific curriculum areas. Students in the advanced placement program must complete a minimum of 60 credits.

**Dual Degree Programs**
The Graduate School benefits from its multiple degree programs, providing Architecture students with the opportunity to take courses and option studios in Landscape Architecture or Urban Design. Likewise, Landscape Architecture students are able to take Architecture or Urban Design studios and required or elective courses in Architecture. The majority of Urban Design students are part of the dual degree program with Architecture. Moving through the bulk of the Architecture curriculum before entering the Urban Design program, these students bring strong design experience to their studies. Dual degrees in Architecture and Landscape Architecture contribute to the important interdisciplinary dialogue within the Graduate School.

For students who want to broaden their education at the graduate and post professional levels, the Graduate School of Architecture & Urban Design offers several dual degree programs in conjunction with other divisions of Washington University in St. Louis.

**Master of Business Administration (MBA)**
Offered in conjunction with Washington University’s Olin Business School, this dual degree program prepares architects and urban designers to be both thoughtful designers and effective managers and developers. Both the MArch and MUD degrees may be combined with an MBA degree. Career opportunities that stem from these dual degree arrangements are in the architecture, business and development professions; community development and planning; housing development; and public policy. Students may start their initial year in either school.

Students entering the MArch 2 program who have also been admitted to the MBA program will need three to four years of graduate work to complete the MArch/MBA dual degree program. The requirements and duration of study for students admitted to other MArch programs are determined on a case-by-case basis.

The MUD/MBA dual degree program takes at least three years to complete. Students spend two semesters and a summer in the Graduate School of Architecture & Urban Design completing the MUD requirements and four semesters in the Olin Business School completing the MBA requirements.

**Master of Construction Management (MCM)**
The MArch/MCM dual degree program prepares architectural students for the diverse roles within today’s multidisciplinary design/construction process. The MCM degree focuses on enhancing the student’s technical, management, and leadership capabilities through specialized courses featuring comprehensive, authentic case studies and projects. The course of study is designed to provide a focused, intensive examination of critical issues within construction management.

The MArch/MCM dual degree program includes a unique course — the MArch/MCM Capstone Project. In this course, students apply constructability principles — cost, time, value, methods, and systems — to their final MCM degree project.

Enrollment in the Master of Construction Management program as a dual degree is possible for students who have achieved advanced standing (500 level/MArch 2 or above) in the MArch program. For students already enrolled in the architecture program, it is necessary to complete a dual degree declaration form (available from our registrar), in addition to completing the necessary MCM application procedures and meeting with the Director of Graduate Studies in Construction Management before dual degree enrollment is approved.

The program in Construction Management requires 30 units; this is in addition to any prerequisite work that may be required. Some of the 30-unit requirement or prerequisite course work may be met through courses taken in the MArch program.

**Master of Social Work (MSW)**
This dual degree program links the concerns of physical design with social welfare and practice. The Graduate School of Architecture & Urban Design and the George Warren Brown School of Social Work offer dual degrees
for students who already have an undergraduate degree in architecture (although those with other degrees/majors who are willing to pursue a longer program of study may do so), as well as social work students who want to increase their awareness of the role of physical environs in the welfare of their clientele. The intent of the program is to educate and prepare architects and urban designers to understand the built and urban environment through the lens of social work values, and to be responsive to the emotional, social, and physical needs of individuals, families, and communities. The dual degrees open career opportunities in community development and planning, housing rehabilitation, and residential design for populations at risk, such as people who are developmentally disabled, elderly, or economically disadvantaged.

Students entering the MArch 2 program who have also been admitted to the MSW program will need three-and-one-half to four academic years of study split between the Graduate School of Architecture & Urban Design and the George Warren Brown School of Social Work. Students admitted into the MUD/MSW program spend a minimum of two semesters in the Graduate School of Architecture & Urban Design completing the MUD requirements and four semesters in the George Warren Brown School of Social Work completing the MSW requirements. For both the MArch/MSW and MUD/MSW dual degree programs, students may start their initial year in either school.

College & Graduate School of Art
The College of Art offers the following undergraduate and graduate degrees:

- **Bachelor of Fine Arts**, a four-year, NASAD-accredited undergraduate program with six major areas: painting, sculpture, fashion, design, communication design, printmaking, and digital imaging and photography
- **Master of Fine Arts in Visual Arts**, a two-year, NASAD-accredited graduate program

**Undergraduate Degrees in Art**

**Bachelor of Fine Arts (128 credits)**
Students graduating in 2015 and beyond begin the program with a broad-based foundation that compliments and enhances their chosen track of study. Students begin the BFA program with drawing courses offered to all first year students in Art and Architecture. Throughout the four-year program, students take both studio courses and Sam Fox School Foundation and Commons courses that are offered to both Art and Architecture majors. These opportunities to study “in between” Art and Architecture expose students to different methods and ways of thinking, incorporating topics such as sustainability, public practice, and new technologies. Additionally, students are required to take courses in art history, literature, social science, and natural science or math to provide a well-rounded experience.

The last two years of the BFA, students begin intense study in their chosen major area and a capstone experience that culminates with a public presentation or exhibit. Major areas include: communication design, fashion design, painting, photography, printmaking, and sculpture. A second major may be earned in the College of Arts & Sciences, the Olin Business School, or the School of Engineering & Applied Science while completing the BFA. Students who pursue two majors and complete the requirements of the BFA and the second major will graduate with two majors, one in the disciplines in another school of the University, and one in Art.

**Graduate Degrees in Art**

**Master of Fine Arts (60 credits)**
The Graduate School of Art offers a two-year, critically engaged MFA program that provides the framework for collaboration and both discipline-specific and non-disciplinary study. The program provides the creative and intellectual foundation for its graduates to be practicing artists and grants successful candidates who have completed the necessary program requirements the Master of Fine Arts in Visual Art, the terminal professional degree in studio art. The Graduate School of Art subscribes to the standards for the MFA degree as set forth and accepted by the College Art Association of America (CAA) and the National Association of Schools of Art and Design (NASAD).

Students must complete a total of 60 credit hours over the course of four semesters, usually two years. At the end of the first year of study, the MFA candidate must pass a review by the Graduate Committee, who will recommend program content and thesis approval. The final year, candidates must complete their final degree exhibition, written thesis, and oral defense.