GRADUATE PROGRAMS IN ARCHITECTURE

School of Architecture
College of Architecture and Design
University of Tennessee

M Arch I (post-professional)
M Arch II (professional)
M Arch III (professional)

Graduate Program in Architecture
College of Architecture & Design
The University of Tennessee
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GRADUATE ARCHITECTURE: THE TENNESSEE APPROACH

Architectural education is transformative. Its goal is to build in students the consciousness of an architect. The core values of the Graduate Program in Architecture are based on a design-centered curriculum that promotes personal development, ethical imperatives, critical thinking, and ecologically sustainable practices. These values are expressed in an education that challenges students to expand their awareness, to become leaders, to master the discipline, and to engage real world problems in their cultural and social contexts with the responsibility of stewardship for the built and natural environment. The program is committed to preparing our students for leadership roles not only within the profession, but also within the broader communities they join and influence.

We stand for a whole-place, whole-person approach design, a
Technology,
Ecologically,
Culturally,
Aesthetically
ADEPT architectural education.

Tennessee ’s Graduate Program in Architecture is distinguished by:
• The faculty’s shared approach to design thinking, which pervades the learning community to enable solving complex problems.
• World class faculty with recognized strengths in cutting edge research and practice areas that advance design knowledge.
• Studio engagement with relevant social and community issues to improve and offer service to our world.
• A commitment to sustainable architecture and cities.
• An awesome facility and academic community that turbocharges learning.

— Mark DeKay, Chair, Graduate Program in Architecture
PRINCIPLES

The Future that Wants You
If you are ready to “play full out” at your education, UT is ready for you. We want students who are passionate about design, who care deeply about making a contribution to the world, and who want to engage the most important issues of our time through the practice of design. The Program seeks to attract a diverse student body with a variety of academic backgrounds, experiences and interests. Well-rounded students who are comfortable dealing with a variety of ideas from a number of different disciplines will find the program stimulating, satisfying and rewarding.

Embracing Multiple Value Spheres
Something exciting is happening in Tennessee’s graduate design programs! From our diversity, we are building a learning community that focuses also on collaboration, commonality, and ‘living into’ the apparent paradoxes of multiple approaches to design. We see the pluralism of multiple theories, methods, and distinctions of value not just as mere competing diversity, but also as contributing necessary perspectives to understanding the complexity of design. In our curriculum, we strive to honor and integrate at least these four perspectives, each of which represents a non-reducible and therefore critical value sphere. Understand architecture requires engaging each of these.

• The Individual Perspective, which honors the individual designer’s expression, intentions, awareness, and values, along with the individual user’s experience, needs, and values.
• The Behavioral Perspective, which honors the truth of what can be empirically known about design and how people interact with design as understood from the applied sciences and engineering.
• The Systems Perspective, which honors design’s fitness to ecological and social contexts, including economic, professional, urban, institutional, and technological systems.
• The Cultural Perspective, which honors the language of design and its conveyed meanings and interpretations, along with its intellectual, theoretical, and ethical contexts.
• In seeking to honor and integrate each of these diverse value spheres in the curriculum, some courses focus on one perspective while others use multiple perspectives. Design has always synthesized all of them and in doing so created its own methods.

Think Like An Architect
The faculty at UT is diverse and so are their approaches to design. We do however share a commitment to teaching students to “think like an architect.” You may not find this in any course description, but design thinking pervades each course and our learning community as a whole. In architectural thought, one links intentions (why) to the language of design (how) to the manifestation of form (what). Architectural thinking is complex and synthetic, and involves the following expanded notions of thought and awareness:

• Intellectual Thinking, in which we understand form as a manifestation of ideas expressed via the language(s) of design.
• Critical Thinking, in which we see design as an act of independent judgment based in the broader context of intellectual traditions.
• **Spatial Thinking**, in which the many determinants and influences of form are ultimately always expressed in patterns of space and form.

• **Contextual Thinking**, in which, to understand anything under study, we place it into its larger contexts, whether physical, cultural, or ecological.

• **Process Thinking**, in which we investigate the often invisible patterns of events, such as flows of energy, information, materials, money, psychology, and people that must be guided by form.

• **Multi-scalar Thinking**, in which we see each act of design as simultaneously helping to build design patterns larger than itself, creating its own level of order, and organizing design elements smaller than itself.

• **Analytic Thinking**, in which we study the whole through its constituent parts and measure building performance.

• **Integral Thinking**, in which we continually seek ways to integrate, relate, and combine these multiple modes of design cognition in creating great buildings and places.

**Truth, Goodness, and Beauty**
The classical world values truth, goodness, and beauty. The modern world differentiated these “Big Three,” bringing them into relief against each other. Post-modern thought, expressed as radical pluralism, has often completely dissociated them. These three timeless concerns remain valid for architecture today. At UT we are engaged in a new reconstructive dialogue that seeks to integrate and value each of these approaches to design. The faculty of the Graduate Program welcomes to our community those who wish to explore these issues with passion, enthusiasm and responsibility.

Some examples of these value spheres and their issues include:

**The Value Perspective of ‘Truth’:**

**objective knowledge**

*High-Performance Buildings.* Technology is a means to achieve design ends and brings the necessary discipline to buildings that maximize performance for human needs while minimizing their use of energy and material resources. At UT, technology blends the wisdom of timeless solutions with the newest innovations, the most fundamental spatial choices with the advanced computer modeling and simulation. UT’s strengths in technology empower spatial expression and design possibilities.

*Architecture in its Context.* At any scale, a sense of place arises from the unique attributes of each specific site and region, with its qualities of climate, landscape, social patterns, ecology, and architectural legacy. As Stroud Watson, professor emeritus often told students, “The first job of any building is to make a good street, a good neighborhood, and a good city.” Architecture is shaped in part by its fitness to these many contexts.

*Leadership.* In attracting well-rounded students, the Graduate Program attempts to prepare these students to be leaders, not just within the profession, but also within the broader communities in which the students will inevitably find themselves. In a practice context that is changing to more complex, more distributed teams, leadership becomes critical to align all the players with the highest intentions for a project.
The Value Perspective of ‘Goodness’: collective and subjective knowledge

Being a Contribution. Students who come to UT are inevitably idealistic. Architecture here is a noble art, which we declare is a contribution. Good design, we hold, makes a difference in people’s lives and to the health of the planet. Architects have an obligation to engage the public in a broad discourse, the intention of which is to leave our places of habitation better than we found them.

Building Communities. Architecture at Tennessee is more than the design of individual buildings. Rather, it is dedicated to the shaping of community in the fullest sense of the word. This means both our supportive, professional learning community and meaningful engagement in local communities.

Responsibility for Sustainability. This is the awesome task, the “inconvenient truth” that calls us to deeper commitments in the present “long emergency” of global climate change. Students in our program will become facile at ecological thinking and develop a language of strategies for making buildings that fit their ecological context and contribute to sustaining life in our cities and ecosystems.

The Value Perspective of ‘Beauty’: individual subjective knowledge

Phenomenology of Space and Materiality. Architecture is a phenomenon experienced through all the senses. The individual human experience of users and occupants can be deeply satisfying, appealing to the timeless archetypal self in all of us. In all of our striving for order, responsibility, function, and meaning, we can never forget the power of design, from detail to grand spaces, to engender rich human participation and awareness.

Inspirational Aesthetics. In many schools aesthetics is a lost conversation. At UT, it exists, whether celebrated or contemplatively silent, underneath all “excellent design.” Architects strive to create for others the elevated state of sublime beauty that often refer to as simply, ‘Order.’ While intellectual theories of aesthetics can be debated, our experience shows that people deeply in contact with their own direct inner felt experience mostly agree about what moves, touches, and inspires them.

Personal Transformation. The opening statement about the graduate program says that “architectural education is transformative.” Its goal is to build in students the consciousness of an architect. More than merely learning facts, information, or even knowledge, education is the evolution of consciousness. The UT program seeks to guide this personal development parallel to the curricular content.
GRADUATE ARCHITECTURE DEGREES: 3 MARCH TRACKS

The Graduate Program in Architecture offers both a professional and a post-professional graduate degree. These degrees are distinguished by the length of study required and by the level of study. There are three Tracks.

Post-professional: Master of Architecture (Track 1)

A research-oriented or advanced design-oriented degree designed for students holding an accredited professional degree in architecture (B. Arch or M. Arch) or foreign equivalent, who seek to develop an area of specialization. This degree requires a Thesis and provides opportunities for students to work directly with faculty engaged in research, scholarship, or practice. Each student must, in their application, identify a specific area of focus aligned with the general goals of the Architecture Graduate Program and the existing research interests of the standing faculty in the College of Architecture and Design (see faculty and their research below).

A concentration within the degree consists of 12 hours of graduate course work, which includes research and design options. Two Optional Concentrations, plus a student-designed concentration, within the MArch degree, are offered:

1) Concentration in Urban Design concentration
2) Concentration in Sustainable Design

Strengths of the UT program include:

- Sustainable Building and Urban Design
- Urban and Civic Design
- High-performance Building Technology
- Advanced Visualization and Modeling.
- Socially Engaged Urban Housing
- History and Theory of Architecture

Typical career paths for students with this degree include working in private specialized practices, or as a firm owner, work in research, specialty consulting, or in academia.

The degree requires three semesters minimum, 36 hours of graduate coursework, including a thesis
**Professional Degree: Master of Architecture (Tracks 2 and 3)**

This is an NAAB-accredited, professional degree in architecture, which qualifies the graduate to sit for the Architects Registration Exam in the USA. Both paths culminate in either a written/design Thesis or in a Diploma Studio. Optional Concentrations are offered in all Tracks (see below).

Typical career paths for students with this degree include working in private practice for architecture firms or as a firm owner, work in government agencies, construction, real estate development, or with engineering and consulting firms.

**Track 2: (4 + 2) students with a 4-yr degree in architecture**

Typically two years of study, this program is designed for students who have completed a four-year pre-professional undergraduate degree in architecture.

*60 hours of graduate coursework.*

**Track 3: students with any Bachelor's degree.**

Typically three academic years, plus one summer, in length, this program is designed to accommodate students who come from a variety of backgrounds, including those with no previous formal study in architecture. Students with degrees in related design disciplines, such as Landscape Architecture or Interior Design, may apply for advanced placement. Advanced Standing applications are considered on a case-by-case basis, and no more than a year’s advanced standing may be granted.

*102 hours of graduate coursework.*

**Design Certificates (non-degree)**

The College of Architecture and Design offers a Certificate in Urban Design and a Certificate in Sustainable Design. These non-degree certificate programs are open to Masters students in any degree program within the College and to non-degree-seeking students with a professional design degree, such as professionals seeking continuing education on a part-time or full-time basis.

- Certificate students must meet minimum admission requirements for one of the College graduate programs.
- Requirements for Certificates are the same as for Concentrations.
- Concentrations and certificates are open to all design disciplines.

**Master of Architecture Concentrations (all Tracks)**

Within the Master of Architecture degree, a concentration consists of 12 hours of graduate course work. Two Optional Concentrations, plus a student-designed concentration, within the MArch degree, are offered:

1) **Concentration in Urban Design concentration**
2) **Concentration in Sustainable Design**

A concentration in the MArch Track 2 & 3 requires a minimum of:

- One Focus Area Studio and two Directed Elective courses, or
- Four Directed Elective courses

Requirements may vary by concentration area. Additionally, a concentration in the MArch Track 1 requires an approved thesis in the topic area.
**Requirements for Urban Design Concentration or Graduate Certificate:**

- ARC 573 Architectural Design Studio: Urban Context (6)

**Plus 6 elective credits** from the following list:
- ARC 515 Seminar in Urban Design Theory (3)
- ARC 410 History and Theory of Urban Form (3)
- ARC 525 Special Topics in Architecture: Urban Design (1-6), approved electives
- ARC 589 Urban Site Planning Workshop (4)
- Additional approved courses, varies.

**Of the six elective credit hours,** up to 3 credits may be from:
- ARC 526 Directed Readings in Architecture (3)
- ARC 593 Independent Study (1-9)

**Of the six elective credit hours,** up to 3 credits may be from approved electives outside the College

**Requirements for Sustainable Design Concentration or Certificate:**

- ARC 586 Design of Sustainable Architecture (6),

**Plus 6 credits** from the following list:
- ARC 509 Theory + Practice of Design Integration (3)
- ARC 525 Special Topics in Architecture: Sustainable Design (1-6), approved electives.
- ARC 589 Urban Site Planning Workshop (4)
- LAR 501 Introduction to Sustainable Design (3).
- LAR 513 Strategies and Case Studies in Landscape Stewardship and Restoration Ecology (3)
- LAR 541 Landscape/Site Design I (3)

**Of the six elective credit hours,** up to 3 credits may be from:
- ARC 526 Directed Readings in Architecture (3)
- ARC 593 Independent Study (1-9)

**Of the six elective credit hours,** up to 3 credits may be from approved electives outside the College
MASTER OF ARCHITECTURE
TRACK 1
POST-PROFESSIONAL
For students with a professional degree in architecture
MASTER OF ARCHITECTURE, TRACK 1

Post-professional Degree

- Design Options
- Research Option

As a post-professional degree, the mission of the Track 1 program is to advance design knowledge on significant issues through interactively utilizing methods of research, scholarship, and/or creativity. The program has options for applied design research and for advanced design skills. It is intended for persons who wish to enhance their credentials for teaching or to pursue advanced professional careers.

This is a post-professional degree suitable for applicants who hold an N.A.A.B. accredited professional degree in Architecture (B. Arch., M. Arch.), or the international equivalent, and who wish to pursue advanced study in a particular domain of architectural knowledge. International students who wish to pursue practice in the USA are advised to apply for the professional M. Arch, Track 2.

The program requires 36 semester hours of study, including a thesis, and a minimum residency of three semesters. Students should not expect to complete the program in less than one calendar year or three academic semesters. Residency time may also be extended to allow further development of the thesis and to take advantage of Graduate Teaching Assistantship opportunities and/or Graduate Research Assistant opportunities. Admission is ordinarily for Fall semester, but may be considered for Spring entry.

Areas of Concentration

Students pursue either independent research on a design-related topic or advanced design problems, developing design knowledge and abilities in an area of specialization. The program is oriented toward advanced design, scholarship, and research, particularly topics with the potential to influence contemporary practice.

Concentrations within the MArch

Within the Master of Architecture degree, two 12-hour optional concentrations are offered: Concentration in Urban Design and a Concentration in Sustainable Design. A concentration in the M Arch Track 2 & 3 requires a minimum of:

- One Focus Area Studio and two Directed Elective courses, or
- Four Directed Elective courses

Requirements may vary by concentration area. Additionally, a concentration in the MArch Track 1 requires an approved thesis in the topic area. For more information on Concentrations, see the “Concentrations” section of this document.

Each student must, in their application, identify a specific area of research aligned with the general goals of the Architecture Graduate Program and the existing research interests of the standing faculty in the College of Architecture and Design. See the College Web Site for current information on faculty research interests.

Focus Areas of the program include (but are not limited to):

- Sustainable Design
- Urban Design
- History and Theory
- Advanced Technology
- Socially-Engaged Urban Housing
- Advanced Visualization and Modeling (qualitative and quantitative)

Students admitted to the program are assigned a **faculty advisor** based on their area of interest. The faculty advisor works with the student to identify an appropriate course of study and to develop the thesis proposal during the first semester. The faculty advisor also serves as the chair of the student’s Thesis Committee.

**Curriculum Framework: M. Arch., Track 1 (Post-Professional)**

The post-professional M. Arch. requires 36 graduate credits total. Within the general framework outlined below, a specific curriculum of courses is developed with the primary advisor at the beginning of the first semester.

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An established MArch Concentration OR a Self-Designed Concentration is required. A concentration consists of 12 hours of graduate coursework, which includes research and design options. Self-designed concentrations will also be considered upon petition to the College’s Director of Graduate Studies.
APPLICATION CHECKLIST

Master of Architecture, Track 1: (Post-Professional Degree)

Prerequisites

1) A Professional Degree in Architecture. A 5-yr Bachelor of Architecture (B. Arch), a Master of Architecture (M. Arch), or Doctor of Architecture (Arch D.), or international equivalent degree and equivalent grades, as determined by the UT Graduate Admissions Office. Applicants in their final year of a professional program are eligible to apply.

2) 3.00 GPA (on a 4.0 Scale), or international equivalent as determined by the UT Graduate Admissions Office. Alternatively, a minimum of 3.0 may be earned during the senior year of undergraduate study. Candidates with a 2.7 minimum GPA may be considered for conditional admission when evidence of exceptional promise is identified. Applicants with work experience or who are entering graduate study after a number of years away from an educational institution, usually five years, will be given consideration with greater flexibility relative to GPA.

An international student must have an equivalent 4-year or 5-year bachelor’s degree with at least a B average on all previous course work and a B+ on all previous graduate work. On various grading scales, this corresponds to:

+ 14 on a 20-point scale.
+ 80.0 from Taiwanese institutions.
+ 1st Class or Division from Indian institutions.
+ Upper 2nd Class Honors on various British systems.

If graduating from a U.S. institution, the minimum is the same as that for domestic students. Other grading systems are evaluated, upon receipt of transcripts, in accordance with standard recommendations.

Applicants in their senior year are eligible to apply.

Admissions Application

PART 1: Submit directly to the UT Graduate School:

1) The online application for admission (http://admissions.utk.edu/graduate/), along with the $35 U.S. non-refundable application fee.

2) Official transcripts of all college and university level coursework from every college attended, with certified translations if the records are not in English.

3) A GRE score. Our institutional code is 1843. Examination results reach the University in approximately six weeks. (http://www.ets.org/gre/). There is no set minimum standard.

4) Official scores from Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) if your native language is not English (Institutional code is 1843, http://www.ets.org/toefl) or the International English Language Testing System (IELTS). A minimum score of 213 on the computer-based test, 550 on the paper test, or 80 on the Internet-based test, typically with a score of 20 on each of the
sections of the test (reading, listening, writing, and speaking) is required for admission consideration. The score must be no more than two years old from the requested date of entry. Applicants who have received a degree from an accredited U.S. institution within the past two years are exempt from the TOEFL requirement.

International Applicants, please note:
- International students applying for graduate assistantships will be required to take the **SPEAK test** upon matriculation. (http://gradschool.utk.edu/).
- All International students will be required to take the **UT English Placement Exam**. Students with failing or marginal scores will be placed in English classes upon matriculation. (http://gradschool.utk.edu/).

**PART TWO: Submit directly to the Graduate Program in Architecture:**

Graduate Program in Architecture  
College of Architecture & Design  
The University of Tennessee  
1715 Volunteer Blvd., Room 224  
Knoxville, TN 37996-2400  
Phone: (865) 974-3239  
Fax: (865) 974-0656  
E-mail: gradarchinfo@utk.edu

1) **Three (3) letters of recommendation** from persons with the knowledge and ability to judge your capacity for graduate study, your abilities in architecture, and your character. Referees may be academic or professional. Use the **Recommendation Form** provided.

2) **An essay on intent and expectations** of graduate study in Architecture. Each student must, in their application, identify a specific area of research, scholarship, or advanced design studies aligned with the general goals, strengths, and principles of the Graduate Program in Architecture and the existing research/scholarly/design expertise of the standing faculty in the College of Architecture and Design. Applicants may choose to focus on either advanced design skills or design research. Tell us about your passions for architecture, the areas that interest you, and the contribution that you see yourself making through architecture. Tell us why you think UT is a good fit for your interests. 1500 word maximum. Comment on how your goals for graduate education relate to your undergraduate design education.

3) **A portfolio**, bound in US letter size, A4, or slightly smaller format. Illustrating evidence of visual creativity and/or graphic capabilities, which must include prior academic and (if applicable) professional design work. A few examples of creativity in any other visual media are also encouraged. Technical drawings are not required, but applicants may include up to two examples. Ten to fifteen total examples and 25 pages or less is sufficient. Please briefly label each work. Make sure to identify your exact role in the project, whether the work was individual or group work, and whether the project was done as part of your work in a professional firm.

- **Prior contact** with individual faculty members in the applicants interest area is highly recommended. Admission is ultimately based on an individual faculty member agreeing to serve as advisor to the Track 1 student.
• **Prior contact** with the College’s Director of Graduate Studies is **required**. The Director can help match student and faculty interests.

• **A personal interview** on-site with the Director of Graduate Studies is highly recommended but not mandatory. For distant candidates, in lieu of an on-site interview, a telephone or internet-based interview is possible. International applicants passing the initial application evaluation will be scheduled for a phone or **video conference interview**.

• **All candidates** are highly recommended but not required to attend either the Fall or Spring **Graduate Open House**.

**International Applications**

For international graduate student application procedures, see also the **Admission Guide for International Students**, available on the College web site or through the U.T. Office of Graduate and International Admissions.
MASTER OF ARCHITECTURE
TRACK 2 (PROFESSIONAL)
For students with a 4-year undergraduate in architecture

This is an NAAB-accredited, professional degree in architecture, which qualifies the graduate to sit for the Architects Registration Exam in the USA. It culminates in either a written and design Thesis or in a Diploma Studio. As a professional program, we are committed to help students obtain the requisite knowledge and skills needed to enter and fully participate in the profession of architecture. A professional education is characterized by integrity and responsibility, informed by knowledge.

Track 2 is two years in length, is for students with a 4-year Bachelor’s degree in architecture. This is the two-year portion of what is often called a 4+2 program.
MARCH, TRACK 2, CURRICULUM (PATH A, 3 YEARS)

The M. Arch., Track 2 professional program is appropriate for students with a four-year pre-professional degree in architecture (B.A., B.S., etc.) from a NAAB accredited program or foreign equivalent. It is the 2-year graduate level component of what is often called a “4 + 2” education. Track 2 requires a minimum of 60 semester hours of graduate coursework, taking approximately two years of full-time study. A concentration within the program options is optional. (See the Concentrations section of this document). The Thesis is optional and requires a minimum design studio GPA of 3.5 in the three semesters preceding the thesis semester, as well as approval by the Director of Graduate Studies.

Placement
Students entering Track 2 come with a variety of undergraduate coursework in architecture. In consultation with the Program Head, each student’s case is reviewed and a tailored curricular plan is developed. Advanced placement or course waiver may be given, at the discretion of the Program Chair, for equivalent courses taken at the undergraduate level. Upon the applicant’s acceptance of admission, applicants must provide comprehensive information documenting all professional courses for review of advanced standing or course waivers in the professional degree. This detailed information (syllabi, etc) is not reviewed during the application process. The Track 2 Curriculum Chart (see below) is a guide. Courses shown are required. The list at the top of the Chart page is of courses that we assume most students have in their Bachelor’s program. If one has not taken equivalent courses for all of these, which is often the case, missing coursework (often in Structures or Environmental Controls) will replace one or more electives in the Track 2 program.

The Program
The Track 2 professional curriculum presents architecture as an intellectual discipline and an applied art. The major elements of a professional architecture program include professional practice, applied technology, history and theory, and design studio. It is the design studio, where students spend 12 hours per week in class, which serves as the central organizer of the curriculum. Here the students are challenged to develop their creative capacities directed towards inventive and responsible solutions to the ever-changing problems and opportunities confronting the built environment.

Students are exposed to a variety of ideas and perspectives by a faculty who represent diverse attitudes and approaches to architecture. Most graduate level classes are small with a student teacher ratio in design classes being approximately 12:1. Despite their busy schedules, professors readily make themselves available to students (in a way not seen in any other discipline) to assure that students are supported in their exploration and receive a comprehensive professional education.
FIRST YEAR: M Arch 2 (Integrated Design)

In the first year, Track 2 students join the Track 3 students (who are now in the second year of graduate studies) in studio and some other courses. The first semester focuses on complex architectural production using the skills and knowledge gained in one’s undergraduate program. Options for topical studios open up in the Spring term.
The fall semester studio, *Design IV: Building in the Urban Context* (571) studies building design in the complex setting of cities, investigating the interrelationships of urban architecture and urban space as ‘place.’ Students may design mixed-use and/or civic buildings in an urban neighborhood or district context. Large multi-family housing or institutional buildings are often the vehicle of the studio.

This semester focuses on a range of issues, including cultural and contextual influences and the tectonics of architecture, integrating building systems with aesthetics, phenomenal experience, and construction craft. This studio is linked to the *Seminar in Urban Theory* course (515), taught as a thematically integrated set, often by senior faculty.

Simultaneously, an advanced course in construction, *Design Implementation II* (556) is offered, covering emerging and high-performance building systems.

*The Spring semester* allows for options, electives, and *Concentrations*. The studio this term provides for options in *Design V*. **Topical Studios** have a half-dozen choices, including regular offerings in *Sustainable Design*, *Urban Design, Development* (real estate), *Structural Innovation*, and *Special Topics* that vary from year to year. The topical studios are what we call **vertical studios**, meaning that they combine Track 1, 2, and 3 graduate students with advanced 4th and 5th year B. Arch. students to offer a wide range of elective studios. Studios in this term may be elected that form part of an optional **Concentration in Sustainable Design** or a **Concentration in Urban Design**. The two free electives this term may also be used as part of one of the concentrations.

The required *History/Theory of Architectural Stewardship* course (512), which analyzes buildings as urban interventions that transmit the past into the present and studies approaches to maintaining the architectural fabric of cities, both buildings and landscapes.

**SECOND YEAR: M Arch 2 (Mastery)**

In the Fall, students engage directly with sustainable design practices in a comprehensive design studio project in the *Design VI: Design Integration* studio (572) that models the full range of issues typically addressed by practicing architects. The studio focuses on the integration of technology with design, engaging all of the content of previous work in materials, environmental controls, and structures courses in more deeply developed design solutions. In doing so, an integral approach is used explicitly to keep pragmatic issues infused with expression, meaning, human experience, and beauty. This studio is linked to the *Theory and Practice of Design Integration* course (509), taught as a thematically integrated set, often by senior faculty. These courses are currently engaged in the Solar Decathlon project of UT Zero (see College web site).

Students in the Final Semester take either *Thesis* (500) or *Diploma Studio* (599). Students in the Thesis Option must take *Thesis Preparation* (580), while students in the Diploma Studio Option, take Arch 507, the seminar on *Architecture, Culture, and Modernity* (507), which delves deeper into architectural theory, engaging the scope of ideas generated in architecture’s recent history and providing opportunities for students to focus on contemporary topics of their choosing.

Three professional electives are typically taken in this year, which may be a part of the optional Concentrations.

Central to the final year is the execution of the *Thesis* (500) or *Diploma Project Studio* (599). Both options offer a culmination to the graduate design education. The *Thesis* follows a shortened graduate school calendar and includes a formal defense, and submission of university-formatted thesis.
documents. It is guided by a committee of faculty based on the thesis proposal document from the 580 class. Due to its highly independent nature, it requires a 3.5 GPA in studio for the previous three terms and is appropriate in unique cases. The Diploma Project Studio (599), the typical path, has several topical options with opportunities for students to guide the nature of the project and/or site. It is instructor-led with a class group of peers.

Fundamental to the Thesis and Diploma Project, and their line of inquiry is the synthesis and critical judgment evidenced in the architectural design and accompanying text. While emphasis is not dictated, the student is expected to acknowledge the experiential, environmental, technical, cultural and ethical forces that shape architecture. The graduate Thesis and Diploma Projects are the culmination of the Master of Architecture coursework. Through research and creative application, they are a celebration and confirmation of the skills and knowledge acquired in the program. The final project serves as a benchmark of the student’s development as an architect as she or he enters the profession.

Parallel and complimentary to this, students in the Professional Practice course (562) learn about design as a business, engaging management and organizational theories and practices for delivering professional design services. One or two professional electives are typically taken in the final semester, which may be a part of an optional Concentration.

**Electives**

Of the 60 required graduate credit hours that M. Arch., Track 2 students take, there is the opportunity to take eighteen hours of elective courses plus two elective studios of six credits each. Typical electives offered in the School of Architecture include urban theory and practice, sustainable design theory and practice, historic preservation, technology topics, history, planning, financial development, computing, and theory. A graduate student can develop a purposeful approach to these electives exploring new areas, and/or developing a specialized expertise.
APPLICATION CHECKLIST

Master of Architecture, Track 2 (Professional Degree)

Prerequisites

1) A four-year degree with a major in Architecture (typically, BS, BED, or BA) in architecture, typically from an NAAB-accredited school, with a 3.00 GPA, or international equivalent degree and equivalent grades, as determined by the UT Graduate Admissions Office. Placement in the 2-year Track 2 program requires a minimum of 24 semester hours of design studio. Applicants in their senior year are eligible to apply.

2) 3.00 GPA (Grade Point Average) on a 4.0 Scale, or international equivalent as determined by the UT Graduate Admissions Office. Alternatively, a minimum of 3.0 may be earned during the senior year of undergraduate study. Candidates with a 2.7 minimum GPA may be considered for conditional admission when evidence of exceptional promise is identified. Applicants with work experience or who are entering graduate study after a number of years away from an educational institution, usually five years, will be given consideration with greater flexibility relative to GPA.

An international student must have an equivalent 4-year or 5-year bachelor’s degree with at least a B average on all previous course work and a B+ on all previous graduate work. On various grading scales, this corresponds to:

- + 14 on a 20-point scale.
- + 80.0 from Taiwanese institutions.
- + 1st Class or Division from Indian institutions.
- + Upper 2nd Class Honors on various British systems.

If graduating from a U.S. institution, the minimum is the same as that for domestic students. Other grading systems are evaluated, upon receipt of transcripts, in accordance with standard recommendations.

Applicants in their senior year are eligible to apply.

Admissions Application

PART ONE: Submit directly to the UT Graduate School:

1) The online application for admission. http://admissions.utk.edu/graduate/, along with the $35 U.S. non-refundable application fee.

2) Official transcripts of all college and university level coursework from every college attended, with certified translations if the records are not in English.

3) A GRE score. Our institutional code is 1843. Examination results reach the University in approximately six weeks. (http://www.ets.org/gre/). There is no set minimum standard.

4) Official scores from Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) if your native language is not English (Institutional code is 1843, http://www.ets.org/toefl) or the International English Language Testing System (IELTS). A minimum score of 213 on the computer-based test, 550 on the paper test, or 80 on the Internet-based test, typically with a score of 20 on each of the sections of the test (reading, listening, writing, and speaking) is required for admission.
consideration. The score must be no more than two years old from the requested date of entry. Applicants who have received a degree from an accredited U.S. institution within the past two years are exempt from the TOEFL requirement.

**International Applicants, please note:**

- International students applying for graduate assistantships will be required to take the *SPEAK test* upon matriculation. (http://gradschool.utk.edu/).
- All International students will be required to take the *UT English Placement Exam*. Students with failing or marginal scores will be placed in English classes upon matriculation. (http://gradschool.utk.edu/).

**PART TWO: Submit directly to the Graduate Program in Architecture:**

Graduate Program in Architecture  
College of Architecture & Design  
The University of Tennessee  
1715 Volunteer Blvd., Room 224  
Knoxville, TN 37996-2400  
Phone: (865) 974-3239  
Fax: (865) 974-0656  
E-mail: gradarchinfo@utk.edu

1) **Three (3) letters of recommendation** from persons with the knowledge and ability to judge your capacity for graduate study, your abilities in architecture, and your character. Referees may be academic or professional. Use the *Recommendation Form* provided.

2) **An essay on intent and expectations** of graduate study in Architecture. Tell us about your passions for architecture, the areas that interest you, and the contribution that you see yourself making through architecture. Tell us why you think UT is a good fit for your interests. 1000 word maximum. Comment on how your goals for graduate education relate to your undergraduate design education.

3) **A portfolio**, bound in US letter size, A4, or slightly smaller format. Illustrating evidence of visual creativity and/or graphic capabilities, which must include prior academic and (if applicable) professional design work. A few examples of creativity in any other visual media are also encouraged. Technical drawings are not required, but applicants may include up to two examples. Ten to fifteen total examples and 25 pages or less is sufficient. Please briefly label each work. Make sure to identify your exact role in the project, whether the work was individual or group work, and whether the project was done as part of your work in a professional firm.

- **Prior contact** with the College’s Director of Graduate Studies is highly recommended.
- **A personal interview** on-site with the Director of Graduate Studies is highly recommended but not mandatory. For distant candidates, in lieu of an on-site interview, a telephone or internet-based interview is possible. International applicants passing the initial application evaluation will be scheduled for a phone or *video conference interview*.
- **All candidates** are highly recommended but not required to attend either the Fall or Spring *Graduate Open House*.  

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International Applications

For international graduate student application procedures, see also the Admission Guide for International Students, available on the College website or through the U.T Office of International and Graduate Admissions.
MASTER OF ARCHITECTURE
TRACK 3 (PROFESSIONAL)
For students with any undergraduate degree

This is an NAAB-accredited, professional degree in architecture, which qualifies the graduate to sit for the Architects Registration Exam in the USA. It culminates in either a written and design Thesis or in a Diploma Studio. As a professional program, we are committed to help students obtain the requisite knowledge and skills needed to enter and fully participate in the profession of architecture. A professional education is characterized by integrity and responsibility, informed by knowledge.

Track 3, 3 academic years plus a summer in length, is for students with any Bachelor’s degree and no background in architecture.
MARCH, TRACK 3, CURRICULUM (3 YEARS)

The Track 3 professional curriculum presents architecture as an intellectual discipline and an applied art. The major elements of a professional architecture program include professional practice, applied technology, history and theory, and design studio. It is the design studio, where students spend 12 hours per week in class, which serves as the central organizer of the curriculum. Here the students are challenged to develop their creative capacities directed towards inventive and responsible solutions to the ever-changing problems and opportunities confronting the built environment.

Students are exposed to a variety of ideas and perspectives by a faculty who represent diverse attitudes and approaches to architecture. Most graduate level classes are small with a student teacher ratio in design classes being approximately 12:1. Despite their busy schedules, professors readily make themselves available to students (in a way not seen in any other discipline) to assure that students are supported in their exploration and receive a comprehensive professional education.

SUMMER PROGRAM: M Arch LEVEL 1 (Design Fundamentals)

The beginning portion of the Track 3 program is dedicated to the acquisition of the skills, experience, and architectural vocabulary needed to pursue the professional curriculum in Architecture and Landscape Architecture. The two graduate design programs are introduced together in this joint and thematically integrated summer experience. Courses are offered during the first summer to address these issues. These include courses in Design Representation and Process (518, 519), Studio I: Design Fundamentals (538, the first studio) and an Introduction to Environmental Design (501).

FIRST YEAR: M Arch LEVEL 2 (Informed Composition)

During the Fall semester of the first year, students in the Design II: Principles of Architecture studio (541) learn about building configuration and order as informed by persistent themes of buildings explored at a novice level. Design Principles are also introduced in a graduate seminar on Principles of Architectural Form (521) through investigation to both cultural and environmental forces.

Representational skills are extended in required hands-on workshops in computer applications that emphasizes learning how the computer can assist in the design process by modeling, visualizing and analyzing building designs.

Concurrently, the student receives a substantive grounding in the technical, historical, and theoretical content of building, beginning the structures sequence with Structures I (539) with an introduction to the structural properties of materials, foundations and simple structural assemblies of buildings. This is followed in the spring by a second course, Structures II (540) addressing structures in wood, steel, and concrete.

Principles of Environmental Control I (545) addresses heating, cooling, and lighting of buildings, both passive (site based) systems, such as daylighting, natural ventilation, and solar heating, and active (mechanical) systems. Projects usually include a zero-energy house design and analysis with input from researchers at nearby Oak Ridge National Labs. The course takes an explicit perspective of environmental sustainability.
The Spring Semester studio, Design III: Campus and Urban Architecture (542) continues to develop architectural design principles and methods emphasizing form and space in the design of buildings in a campus/group setting and design of moderately complex urban building type. Projects
emphasize space and form as informed by place and context, building technology, human experience, use and function, technology, and ideas and meanings, context, and expression of buildings.

At the same time, the history / theory survey sequence is begun with History and Theory of Architecture I (511), covering the period up to 1600 in Europe, Asia, and the Americas, along with a beginning course in materials and methods of construction called Design Implementation I (516).

**The Educational Structure**

During the first academic year, design studios are taken exclusively with other graduate students in the Track 3 program, but the Structures, Environmental Controls, and History/Theory lecture courses are taken with undergraduate students. These courses often have special graduate discussion and tutorial sections. Each semester also has a graduate-only seminar: the Principles in the Fall and the Design Implementation course in the Spring.

The first year is designed to immerse the student in architecture; therefore, no electives are offered. First year courses are meant to provide a comprehensive grounding for the next two years, which will deal with synthesizing the pragmatic, aesthetic, systemic, and cultural issues that are part of any architectural work.

**SECOND YEAR: M Arch LEVEL 3 (Integrated Design)**

In the second year, Track 2 students (4+2 students with a previous degree in architecture) join the Track 3 students in studio and some other courses. The second year focuses on more complex architectural production using the skills and knowledge gained in the first year as its base, and open up options for topical studios in the Spring.

The fall semester studio, Design IV: Building in the Urban Context (571) investigates building design in the more complex setting of cities, investigating the interrelationships of urban architecture and urban space as ‘place.’ Students may design mixed-use and/or civic buildings in an urban neighborhood or district context. Large multi-family housing or institutional buildings are often the vehicle of the studio.

This semester focuses on a range of issues, including cultural and contextual influences and the tectonics of architecture, integrating building systems with aesthetics, phenomenal experience, and construction craft. This studio is linked to the Seminar in Urban Theory course (515), taught as a thematically integrated set, often by senior faculty.

Support courses in the fall include the History/Theory of Architecture II course (512), which brings the study of theoretical ideas, building forms, and urban patterns to the twentieth century along with a second level course in construction, Design Implementation II (556).

The Spring semester of second year completes the core of the MArch curriculum and begins a more open phase that allows for options, electives, and Concentrations (see the Concentrations section in this document). The studio this term provides for options in Design V. Topical studios have a half-dozen choices, including regular offerings in Sustainable Design, Urban Design, Development (real estate), Structural Innovation, and special topics that vary from year to year. The topical studios are what we call **vertical studios**, meaning that they combine Track 1, 2, and 3 graduate students with advanced 4th and 5th year B. Arch. students to offer a wide range of elective studios. Studios in this term may be elected that form part of an optional **Concentration in Sustainable Design** or a **Concentration in Urban Design**. A free elective this term may also be used as part of one of the concentrations.
In the final chronological history/theory sequence course, *Modern Architectural History/Theory* (503), students grapple with the buildings and ideas of the late 19th and 20th centuries. Finally, the Environmental Controls Systems II (546) course covers acoustics, power, and electric lighting, again, from a perspective of high-performance buildings and sustainability.

**THIRD YEAR: M Arch LEVEL 4 (Mastery)**

In the Fall, students engage directly with sustainable design practices in a comprehensive design studio project in the *Design VI: Design Integration* studio (572) that models for the first time in the curriculum the full range of issues typically addressed by practicing architects. The studio focuses on the integration of technology with design, engaging all of the content of previous work in materials, environmental controls, and structures courses in more deeply developed design solutions. In doing so, an integral approach is used explicitly to keep pragmatic issues infused with expression, meaning, human experience, and beauty. This studio is linked to the *Theory and Practice of Design Integration* course (509), taught as a thematically integrated set, often by senior faculty. These courses are currently engaged in the Solar Decathlon project of **UT Zero** (see the College web site).

Students in the Final Semester take either Thesis or Diploma Studio. Students in the Thesis Option must take *Thesis Preparation* (580), while students in the Diploma Studio Option, take Arch 507. Previous history / theory courses prepare students for the seminar on *Architecture, Culture, and Modernity* (507), which delves deeper into architectural theory, engaging the scope of ideas generated in architecture’s recent history.

One or two professional electives are typically taken in this year, which may be a part of the optional Concentrations.

Central to the final year is the execution of the *Thesis* (500) or *Diploma Studio Project* (599). Both options offer a culmination to the graduate design education. The *Thesis* follows a shortened graduate school calendar and includes a formal defense, and submission of university-formatted thesis documents. It is guided by a committee of faculty based on the thesis proposal document from the 580 class. Due to its highly independent nature, it requires a 3.5 GPA in studio for the previous three terms and is appropriate in unique cases. The *Diploma Studio Project* (599) has several topical options with opportunities for students to guide the nature of the project and/or site. It is instructor-led with a group of peers.

Fundamental to the Thesis and Diploma Project, and their line of inquiry is the synthesis and critical judgment evidenced in the architectural design and accompanying text. While emphasis is not dictated, the student is expected to acknowledge the experiential, environmental, technical, cultural and ethical forces that shape architecture.

The graduate Thesis and Diploma Projects are the culmination of the Master of Architecture coursework. Through research and creative application, they are a celebration and confirmation of the skills and knowledge acquired in the program. The final project serves as a benchmark of the student’s development as an architect as she or he enters the profession.

Parallel and complimentary to this, students in the *Professional Practice* course (562) learn about design as a business, engaging management and organizational theories and practices for delivering professional design services. One or two professional electives are typically taken in this semester, which may be a part of an optional Concentration.
Electives
Of the 102 required graduate credit hours that M. Arch., Track 1 students take, there is the opportunity to take twelve hours of elective courses, plus two elective studios. Typical electives offered in the School of Architecture include urban theory and practice, sustainable design theory and practice, historic preservation, technology topics, history, planning, financial development, computing, and theory. A graduate student can develop a purposeful approach to these electives exploring new areas, and/or developing a specialized expertise.
APPLICATION CHECKLIST

Master of Architecture, Track 3 (Professional Degree)

Prerequisites

1) A four-year Bachelor's degree in any discipline or major from an accredited college or university, or international equivalent degree and equivalent grades, as determined by the UT Graduate School. Applicants in their senior year are eligible to apply.

2) 3.00 GPA (on a 4.0 Scale), or international equivalent as determined by the UT Graduate Admissions Office. Alternatively, a minimum of 3.0 may be earned during the senior year of undergraduate study. Candidates with a 2.7 minimum GPA may be considered for conditional admission when evidence of exceptional promise is identified. Applicants with work experience or who are entering graduate study after a number of years away from an educational institution, usually five years, will be given consideration with greater flexibility relative to GPA.

An international student must have an equivalent 4-year or 5-year bachelor's degree with at least a B average on all previous course work and a B+ on all previous graduate work. On various grading scales, this corresponds to:

+ 14 on a 20-point scale.
+ 80.0 from Taiwanese institutions.
+ 1st Class or Division from Indian institutions.
+ Upper 2nd Class Honors on various British systems.

If graduating from a U.S. institution, the minimum is the same as that for domestic students. Other grading systems are evaluated, upon receipt of transcripts, in accordance with standard recommendations.

Applicants in their senior year are eligible to apply.

Undergraduate Prerequisites

1) 12 semester hours of humanities courses
2) one course in physics
3) one pre-calculus math course including trigonometry and logarithms (or college calculus or equivalent).

Completion of pre-requisites is not required prior to application. Completion of prerequisites before beginning the program is highly recommended. Applicants are advised to take prerequisites in the Fall or Spring terms during the academic year of application. Remaining prerequisites may be taken during the first year of the Track 3 program. Math and physics are required as prerequisites for certain technology courses.

Preparatory courses recommended but not required include:

1) a second course in physics
2) calculus
3) freehand drawing (highly recommended)
Admissions Application

PART ONE: Submit directly to the UT Graduate School:

1) The online application for admission, http://admissions.utk.edu/graduate/, along with the $35 U.S. non-refundable application fee.

2) Official transcripts of all college and university level coursework from every college attended, with certified translations if the records are not in English.

3) A GRE score. Our institutional code is 1843. Examination results reach the University in approximately six weeks. (http://www.ets.org/gre/). There is no set minimum standard.

4) Official scores from Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) if your native language is not English (Institutional code is 1843, http://www.ets.org/toefl) or the International English Language Testing System (IELTS). A minimum score of 213 on the computer-based test, 550 on the paper test, or 80 on the Internet-based test, typically with a score of 20 on each of the sections of the test (reading, listening, writing, and speaking) is required for admission consideration. The score must be no more than two years old from the requested date of entry. Applicants who have received a degree from an accredited U.S. institution within the past two years are exempt from the TOEFL requirement.

International Applicants, please note:

• International students applying for graduate assistantships will be required to take the SPEAK test upon matriculation. (http://gradschool.utk.edu/).

• All International students will be required to take the UT English Placement Exam. Students with failing or marginal scores will be placed in English classes upon matriculation. (http://gradschool.utk.edu/).

PART TWO: Submit directly to the Graduate Program in Architecture:

Graduate Program in Architecture
College of Architecture & Design
The University of Tennessee
1715 Volunteer Blvd., Room 224
Knoxville, TN 37996-2400
Phone: (865) 974-3239
Fax: (865) 974-0656
E-mail: gradarchinfo@utk.edu

1) Three (3) letters of recommendation from persons with the knowledge and ability to judge your capacity for graduate study, your promise of ability in architecture, and your character. Referees may be academic or professional. Use the Recommendation Form provided.

2) An essay on intent and expectations of graduate study in Architecture. Tell us about your passions for architecture, the areas that interest you, and the contribution that you see yourself making through architecture. Tell us why you think UT is a good fit for your interests. 1000 word maximum. Comment on how your goals for graduate education relate to your undergraduate design education.
3) **A portfolio**, bound in US letter size, A4, or slightly smaller format. Illustrating evidence of visual creativity and/or graphic capabilities, which must include prior academic and (if applicable) professional design work (if applicable). Examples of creativity in any visual media (drawing, painting, photography, sculpture ceramics, furniture, etc.) are acceptable and encouraged. Freehand drawings are especially encouraged. Technical drawings are not required, but applicants may include up to two examples. Ten to fifteen total examples and 10-20 pages is sufficient. Make sure to briefly label each work and present the portfolio as an example of your care and craft.

- **Prior contact** with the College’s Director of Graduate Studies is highly recommended.
- **A personal interview** on-site with the Director of Graduate Studies is highly recommended but not mandatory. For distant candidates, in lieu of an on-site interview, a telephone or internet-based interview is possible. International applicants passing the initial application evaluation will be scheduled for a phone or video conference interview.
- **All candidates** are highly recommended but not required to attend either the Fall or Spring Graduate Open House.

**International Applications**

For international graduate student application procedures, see also the Admission Guide for International Students available on the College web site or from the U.T. Office of Graduate and International Admissions.
HELPFUL WEB SITES

- College of Architecture and Design: http://www.arch.utk.edu
- Graduate School: http://gradschool.utk.edu
- Graduate Catalogue: http://catalog.utk.edu/index.php?catoid=2
- Tuition: http://gradschool.utk.edu/FutureStudents.shtml