Architecture

The architecture program at the Knowlton School is an active liberal arts education that includes the humanities, the sciences and the arts. It is expansive in scope, yet strategic in application. Courses in architectural history engage the humanities, while the sciences are addressed by courses in the environment, digital techniques and building technologies. Through these studies, architecture majors arrive at an understanding of the world: a global ecology of diverse cultures linked by electronic media and the earth’s limited resources.

Most importantly, architecture majors engage this world through the arts. Knowlton Hall is an award-winning facility with a materials/fabrication laboratory, library and computer resources. However, the school’s most prized asset is the design studio where small groups of students meet with faculty to propose architectural design solutions applying a range of media, from digital renderings to full-scale fabrications, to a range of scales, from furniture to institutional buildings. Architecture majors do not only study the world, they shape the world. Theirs is an active, not a passive education—a challenging, exciting and well-rounded education.

Pursuing Architecture at Ohio State

Students interested in studying architecture should have an interest in design and written, visual and oral communication. However, prior experience in design and representation (drawing) is not necessary. Skills in these areas are developed within the curriculum and are not prerequisites for entry courses.

Students interested in architecture should apply directly to the university as a pre-architecture major. Acceptance to the major is competitive and based on academic performance.

To apply to the program, students must meet the following requirements:

- Complete prerequisite classes ARCH 2300: Outlines of the Built Environment, ARCH 2310: Introduction to Design.
- Demonstrate progress toward the completion of Calculus I and Physics.
- Submit a portfolio (developed in ARCH 2310).
- Achieve a minimum cumulative GPA of 2.75 and a minimum GPA of 2.75 in ARCH 2300 and ARCH 2310.

Portfolios and academic records are reviewed at the end of spring semester. Students admitted to the university with either Honors or Scholars standing are offered direct admission to the major and do not need to apply separately. Transfer into the program is possible. Students interested in transferring should consult with an academic advisor.

Co-Curricular Opportunities

Ohio State offers many opportunities for students to learn and grow outside of the classroom. These opportunities range from study abroad programs to student organizations. Ohio State offers more than 100 study abroad programs in 40 countries around the world. The Knowlton School maintains multiple study abroad programs for its students. Recent travel locations include Rio de Janeiro, Rome, London and other major cities around the world.

There are hundreds of student organizations on campus to meet the interests of a diverse student population. These experiences enable students to learn about cultures and take on leadership roles before they enter the workforce or pursue graduate education. Architecture students may join the student chapter of the American Institute of Architecture Students (AIAS), which provides professional mentoring, and SERVitecture, which links students with service-learning projects, such as Habitat for Humanity. All these experiences enhance learning and provide an advantage to students as they embark on professional careers.

Honors & Scholars Programs

Ohio State offers Honors and Scholars programs to create an environment of intellectual support and stimulation within a close-knit community of high-ability undergraduate students. Through these programs, students have access to smaller classes, undergraduate research opportunities, close working relationships with faculty, priority scheduling and unique housing options.

The Honors program in the Knowlton School offers a more rigorous curriculum and gives students the opportunity to participate in Honors seminars and significant research within the discipline. Small classes and greater access to faculty provide Honors students with a stimulating scholarly community.

The Architecture, Landscape and City Scholars Program is a community of talented students who participate in programs and activities designed to offer insight into architecture, landscape architecture, and city and regional planning. Architecture, Landscape and City Scholars focuses on growing students’ understanding of the historical, cultural and social significance of the built and natural environments through site visits, workshops, seminars and travel opportunities. Scholars students live together in a north campus residence hall that provides a supportive and collegial environment. Learn more about these opportunities at honors-scholars.osu.edu.

For more information, check these websites:

Knowlton School: knowlton.osu.edu/students/future-students
Ohio State: osu.edu
Admissions: undergrad.osu.edu
Multicultural Center: multiculturalcenter.osu.edu
First Year Experience: fye.osu.edu
National Council of Architectural Registration Boards: ncarb.org
Career Prospects in Architecture

The four undergraduate years provide a broadly based liberal arts education culminating in the pre-professional Bachelor of Science in Architecture. The architecture major encourages an independent intellectual acuity that uniquely prepares a student for the increasingly dynamic marketplace or competitive graduate programs. It is significant that many people who major in architecture are successful not only in the profession but also in the other arts, in business and in public service.

Students wishing to pursue a professional degree in architecture must apply to an accredited Master of Architecture program. An advantage of the architecture major at Ohio State is that graduates may apply to complete their professional studies at Ohio State or any other accredited architectural program in the United States. High achieving Ohio State students are regularly admitted to top graduate programs across the country such as Harvard, Yale, University of Pennsylvania, Columbia, Ohio State, UCLA and others.

Graduates of a Master of Architecture program become licensed architects after three years of internship and a registration exam. Many architects specialize in design, while others become adept at managing, marketing and other aspects of professional practice. Architecture firms are also involved in real estate development and construction, a form of practice known as “design/build.” Local, state and federal governments and private entities also employ architects to plan and oversee the work of design and planning firms. Architects with expertise in computer-aided design and construction are also in great demand, both inside and outside the profession.

Careers in research and teaching are possible, and many architects combine private practice with teaching or architectural journalism. Others trained as architects enter allied fields of planning, engineering, real estate development and construction, or develop graphic, industrial or interior design specialties. Theater, film and television industries attract architecture graduates, as do museums, display firms and architectural product and materials manufacturers.

New graduates with a pre-professional degree can expect annual salaries above $40,000. Those with professional degrees who have completed their internship and their registration exams may command salaries of $75,000 or more. Partners in large architecture firms earn considerably more, with income and benefits often exceeding $200,000.

Revised August 2015. Information subject to change. For the most up-to-date information on the architecture program, visit knowlton.osu.edu.

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