The School of Architecture at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte offers a number of graduate degree programs and is recognized for the outstanding quality of their faculty and students, their commitment to outreach and community involvement, and the quality and extent of resources offered through research centers, labs, classrooms, and studios.

Each curricular program offers full use of the School’s facilities, a close working relationship with accessible faculty and staff, and a wealth of knowledge and backgrounds given the diverse interests of the graduate student population. The School stresses the importance of making in addition to thinking, and students have full use of wood, metal, computer, and laser workshops equipped with the latest high-performance equipment to allow exploration and innovation.

Contact with the profession is also emphasized, and the School maintains various programs with local and national practitioners. An extensive lecture series involving recognized designers and thinkers further enhances the educational environment and provides exposure to contemporary issues.

Graduate study in the School of Architecture includes not only on campus coursework but also travel and research opportunities. Many studios travel during the semester to learn from regional and national cities such as Charleston, New York, Chicago, Seattle, Portland, and other major cities. The School of Architecture also participates in several international exchange programs and offers summer travel and study programs in Italy, Germany, China, and elsewhere to broaden students’ global understanding and further inform their work.

Sincerely yours,

Emily Makas, Associate Professor
Graduate Program Director, School of Architecture
emakas@uncc.edu
Mission

Student Organizations and Events

Research Centers

Resources, Facilities, & Events

Academics and Curriculum

Education Abroad

NAAB Accredited Graduate Programs

Post Professional Graduate Programs

Master of Architecture I (3+)

Master of Architecture II (2)

Master of Architecture-US + MARCH-China (3)

Master of Urban Design (1)

Master of Architecture + Master Urban Design (3)

MS Architecture + MS Information Technology (2)

Financial Support, Scholarships, & Cost

Web Links

Frequently Asked Questions
The School of Architecture (SoA) is devoted to the energetic study of architecture and its influence on our everyday lives. Faculty and students are committed to a stimulating, open-minded and creative discourse, exploring design thinking and new forms of building, discovering collaborative practices that nurture human potential, and pursuing transformative research. We engage in creative interdisciplinary work, alliances with the profession and industry, and active community participation. Our graduates understand how to integrate their voices with others to influence the art and science of architecture.

The creation of architecture is inherently complex, requiring design vision and competence, effective visual communication and literacy, technological knowledge, environmental responsibility, sophisticated problem solving skills, creative leadership, and cultural, historical and theoretical perspective. Architects must possess knowledge of science and liberal arts, ethics, critical thinking, and research methods. Architects understand the value of building an intellectual foundation that embraces the widest possible range of knowledge and ideas. The School of Architecture seeks to provide both a liberal and a professional education based on a holistic view of the built environment that prepares undergraduate students to become future community and architectural leaders.

The mission of the School of Architecture is to provide intellectual, ethical and innovative leadership in architecture, urban design, and computation. We aim to further the discourse between the theory and practice of architecture through the education and training of students, the work and research of the faculty, and ongoing engagement with the University, the profession, and the community. We invite you to join us in this quest to question, apply knowledge, speculate, and engage in the discourse of how architecture shapes our lives!
UNC Charlotte architecture students actively participate in a range of student organizations within the SoA.

**AIAS**: American Institute of Architecture Students has 140 chapters nationally, and works with the local AIA and the SoA to provide seminars and social events. Two UNC Charlotte students have been elected to national office, and our chapter was named National Chapter of the Year in 2009.

**NOMAS**: National Organization of Minority Architecture Students is dedicated to addressing issues of concern to underrepresented groups and provides a forum for action and networking.

**Freedom by Design**: FBD is an AIAS community service program that puts the design and construction talents of SoA students to work in the community, addressing issues of accessibility and quality-of-life for local residents in need.

**MASS**: Master of Architecture Student Society supports both academic and social events, including the annual CriticalMASS—a graduate thesis symposium for architecture graduate students from throughout the region.

**TΣΔ**: Tau Sigma Delta is the national Architecture Honor Society that recognizes students with exemplary academic performance in architectural education.

**SoA Career EXPO**: The SoA annually hosts an Architecture Career EXPO, providing a venue for interviews with local and regional professional firms for summer internships and full-time employment.
Students may participate in specialized coursework and research revolving around three themes in the School of Architecture, focused in three Research Centers.

**Urbanism (CBL):** The City Building Lab is an interdisciplinary center engaged in public outreach and research related to community development and empowerment through a wide range of advocacy-based practices and strategic partnerships. This center is located in the uptown Center City Building of UNC Charlotte. Courses and research in urbanism focus on the critical role of architecture in the city -- the processes and specific intents of physical interventions in urban landscapes and infrastructures. Through the design of groups of buildings as well as larger scale urban areas, issues of policy, politics, finance, planning, place, and culture are introduced as part of the essential conception and history of the city fabric.

**Technology (IDL):** The Integrated Design Laboratory is composed of the Laboratory for Innovative Housing, the Daylighting + Energy Performance Laboratory, and the Environmental Systems Testing Laboratory. The labs focus on architectural technologies and building performance issues, particularly related to sustainability, energy use, lighting technology, and material systems development. Courses and research in this area focus on emerging issues of sustainable design and the development of innovative building envelopes and systems that utilize both new and traditional materials, technology, and construction methods. Students can engage projects that explore the historical and contemporary realms of thermal, tactile and visual issues of technology, materiality, daylighting, and passive and active systems with consideration of both qualitative and quantitative outcomes.

**Computation (d-Arts):** The Digital Arts Center focuses on digital methods in architecture, examining new technologies related to Fabrication, Interactive Architecture, and Visualization, which increasingly influence architectural design and practice. Through the Center, students network with institutions globally, developing analytic and visualization capacity and collaborating with the profession at a national level.
The School takes pride in its scholarly and applied research work, supported by extensive labs, specialized equipment, faculty and staff. All Graduate students have the opportunity of engaging coursework, assistantships, and specific research activities inspired from the knowledge generated by these Centers and labs.

**Woodworking and Metals Lab**
Full compliment of tools, machinery, and equipment

**Digital Fabrication Lab**
CNC laser, prototyping, router, plasma cutting equipment, 3-D digital scanning and Robotic Arm

**Daylighting Lab**
Artificial sky, heliodon, performance and analysis monitors and simulation software

**Computer Labs and Print Shop**
Dual-platform computers, advanced software, plotting, scanning & printing

**Architecture Resource Center**
Architecture books, references, periodicals, & drawing archive

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**Public Lecture Series**
Leading contemporary architects and world-class scholars

**Exhibition Series**
National and international exhibits in Storrs Gallery

**CriticalMASS**
Graduate thesis symposium with world-renowned guest architecture critics and visiting architecture graduate students from major regional universities

**Beaux Arts Ball**
Annual architecturally-themed social event
The heart of the architecture curriculum is the Design Studio sequence, which is integrated with courses in skills, history and theory, technology, computation, writing, and professional practice. Students also individually select electives in a wide range of subjects.

**Architectural Design Studios and Seminars**

Studios and seminars provide both analytical and synthetic educational experiences and the opportunity to pursue intensive study of the built environment. These studios and courses link humanistic and physical phenomena with social-psychological, behavioral, perceptual and aesthetic studies.

**Building Technology**

Building Technology courses frame quantitative and qualitative investigation of sustainable principles, building materials, structural theory and design, environmental design issues, and building systems integration.

**Architectural History and Theory**

History and Theory courses contextualize the relationships between culture, architecture and urban environments, and design practice from ancient to contemporary times.

**Computation and Digital Methods**

Computational methods are integrated in studio coursework throughout the curriculum, and in-depth required courses prepare students for the crucial roles of computational design, analysis, information management, and fabrication in both research and practice.

**Architectural Electives**

Electives provide opportunities for topical study of subjects including sustainability / environment, critical practice, technology / performance, urbanism, representation, computation, community practice, design/build, watercolor, furniture making, interdisciplinary subjects, real estate development and more.

The School conducts international field-study summer programs in a range of countries including, but not limited to, Italy, Spain, Portugal, Switzerland, Finland, Eastern Europe, China, India, & Brazil.

In addition, exchange arrangements exist through the Office for International Programs for students to study architecture for one or two semesters at various institutions, such as University of Copenhagen (Denmark); Kingston University (London, England); Lund Institute of Technology (Lund, Sweden); University of Technology (Delft, Netherlands); Tongji University (Shanghai, China), The University of Applied Science (Aachen, Germany); Royal Danish Academy of Fine Arts (Copenhagen, Denmark) and the Henry van de Velde Institute (Antwerp, Belgium).
The School offers two program tracks leading to a professional Master of Architecture degree (MArch) which is accredited by the National Architectural Accreditation Board (NAAB). A third option for students to earn a professional Chinese architecture degree as well as an NAAB accredited Masters is the MArch-US / MArch-China Double Degree program, which also features a summer internship in Shanghai. Students in this program take an additional year of study (taught in English) as well as Chinese language seminars. in the College of Architecture and Urban Planning (CAUP) at Tongji University, one of the top ranking architectural programs in China.

**Master of Architecture II (2 Year)**
- 2-Year NAAB accredited professional degree (60 cr. hr.)
- (for students with 4-yr BA or BS in Architecture from NAAB Accredited Programs)

**Master of Architecture I (3+ Year)**
- 3-Year NAAB accredited professional degree (96 cr. hr.)
- (for students with 4-yr undergraduate degrees in other disciplines or non-accredited programs)

The School of Architecture maintains accredited status through the National Architectural Accrediting Board (NAAB), which reviews curriculum, facilities, faculty, and program resources. The NAAB conducts an intensive site visit every six years. The Bachelor of Architecture (4+1) and Master of Architecture (4+2) are fully accredited by the National Architectural Accrediting Board (NAAB).

Professional licensure for architects requires the following:
1) **Education:** Completion of an **accredited professional degree** in Architecture, 2) **Practice:** Completion of the NCARB Intern Development Program (IDP), and 3) **Exam:** Completion of the NCARB Architect Registration Exam (ARE).

The School also offers a **Master of Urban Design (MUD)** post-graduate/post-professional degree that is 12 months in length, as well as a MArch/MUD Dual Degree that takes three and a half years to complete. The dual degree is open to candidates who already hold a 4-year architecture BA or BS. 3+ MArch students may also engage the MUD degree, with both programs completed in four years.

**Master of Urban Design (M.U.D.)**
- 1-Year (36 cr. hr.)

**Dual Degree (M.Arch.) + (M.U.D.)**
- 3-Year NAAB accredited professional degree (84 cr. hr.)

The SoA offers a dual **MS Architecture / MS Computer Science or Information Technology.** This 2-year curriculum includes integrated coursework with a focus on research, structured around the increasing importance of design to computer scientists and the correlative influence of computation in architecture. The program is a unique curriculum that systematically combines the strength and insights of both disciplines.

**Dual Degree (M.Arch III) + (M.S. Computer Science)**
- 2-Year Post-Professional, Non-Accredited degree (47 cr. hr.)

Other graduate dual degrees are available for M.Arch. and M.U.D. students in fields such as:

- **Business / Real Estate Development**
- **Geography**
- **Computer Science and Information Technology.**

Individualized Dual Degrees can also be approved.
3-Year NAAB accredited professional degree (96 cr. hr.)
(for students with 4-yr undergraduate degrees
in other disciplines or non-accredited programs)
2-Year NAAB accredited professional degree (60 cr. hr.)
(for students with 4-yr BA or BS in Architecture from NAAB Accredited Programs)

Note:
Technology coursework listed will serve as the required course of study. Material and Assembly Principles, Structural Principles, Structural Systems and/or Environmental Systems Principles must be completed prior to BSI in order to qualify for this curriculum.
2-Year NAAB accredited professional degree (60 cr. hr.)
1 Year Accredited Chinese Master of Architecture (including Summer internship in Shanghai)
(for students with 4-yr undergraduate degrees in other disciplines or non-accredited programs)
MASTER OF URBAN DESIGN
12 MONTH

Note:
MUDD 5101 is waived for students with prior design background.
Urban History/Theory OR an Elective in Urban Design may be taken in the fall and spring semesters.
3-Year NAAB accredited professional degree (96 cr. hr.)
(for students with 4-yr undergraduate degrees
in other disciplines or non-accredited programs)

Note:
Student must complete Structural Systems and/or Environmental Systems if these competencies have not been met in their prior Pre-Professional degree.
2-Year Post-Professional
MS in Architecture (non-accredited)

MASTER OF SCIENCE IN ARCHITECTURE + MASTER OF COMPUTER SCIENCE / INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
2 YEAR DUAL DEGREE

Note:
The dual degree in Architecture and Computer Science (or Information Technology) is research-based and is not an accredited program for architectural licensure by the NAAB.
The SoA has several Graduate Assistantship opportunities:

1) **Graduate Support Assistant Plans (GASP)** are awarded to Architecture students for the duration of the program and offer tuition-paid enrollment for in-state and non-resident students with an annual stipend for research assistance in one of the School’s three Research Centers,

2) **New Masters Student Tuition Awards** provides tuition relief for in-state and non-resident students during the term of their programs with a stipend for research assistance,

3) **Research Assistantships** are also offered to continuing students separate from tuition deferrals, as are

4) **Teaching Assistant** stipends in varying amounts, and finally,

5) **Merit and Need-Based Scholarships** are offered each spring to continuing students following an application period.

Most support is based on merit and academic performance. All applicants and current students are automatically considered for these awards.

The State of North Carolina offers resident and non-resident tuition scales. Benefiting from State mandates, North Carolina residents receive very modest tuition and fee rates. In addition, non-resident fees, compared to most out-of-state tuition costs, are among the lowest in the Nation. Consequently, UNC Charlotte offers an attractive tuition value for both in-state and out-of-state applicants seeking high levels of educational instruction.

For the 2014 / 2015 Academic Year, Tuition and Fees per semester for full time graduate students (9 or more credit hours) in the School of Architecture are anticipated to be as follows:

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>North Carolina Resident</td>
<td>$4,257</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non North Carolina Resident</td>
<td>$10,400</td>
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Applicants planning their education should estimate an annual increase of 5% for the cost of tuition and fees. The costs above do not include the University’s health insurance policy, which is approximately $800 per semester, and is required of all students without proof of external insurance coverage.
WEB LINKS

Application Process
UNC Charlotte SoA Graduate Admissions:
https://coaa.uncc.edu/academics/school-of-architecture/degrees/admissions

Graduate School Online Application:
http://graduateschool.uncc.edu/apply-now.html

Detailed Program Information
Graduate Catalog:
http://graduateschool.uncc.edu/academics/catalog.html

SoA Graduate Degrees:
https://coaa.uncc.edu/academics/school-of-architecture/degrees

Tuition and Fees:
http://finance.uncc.edu/controllers-office/student-accounts/tuition-and-fees

Housing Information:
http://housing.uncc.edu/

Prospectus of Graduate Student Work
Online Catalogue of Current Work:
http://issuu.com/soauncc/docs/soa-prospectus-issuu-grad
1. How do I apply and confirm that all parts of my application have been received?

The application process is all conducted online via the University’s Graduate School. All materials for the application process are submitted electronically (transcripts, recommendations, statement of intent, GRE test scores, portfolio, etc.).

You are responsible to make sure that all of your materials have been submitted. This applies particularly to the electronic submissions you make to the Graduate School since your application will not be forwarded to the School of Architecture until all required parts of your application are received. The School of Architecture’s Admissions Committee can not finalize a decision until we receive these materials. Therefore, it is critical that you check your online application frequently after it is submitted in order to insure everything has been received. If your online record indicates “referred status,” then your application is complete and has been forwarded from the Graduate School to our Admissions Committee for consideration.

2. What should be included in the portfolio and how should it be formatted?

Your portfolio is an expression and demonstration of your creative work. This should be clear for 2-year MArch applicants familiar with the process of making one. For 3+ MArch students (who typically have degrees in fields outside of design), it is suggested that you include visual work from courses in: visual art, sculpture, and photography as well as from personal projects. You may also include samples of architectural work from offices if you’ve had such experience. In addition, you may also consider any creative work such as essays or reports that you have authored during your college/professional career(s). In general, any creative work you deem worthy may be included in the portfolio.

Digital Portfolio Requirement: The format for the portfolio is limited to a maximum size of 8-1/2” x 11”. It should be formatted as a pdf document and uploaded as part of the online application process. What you include in this folio is an indication and demonstration of your creativity. In all cases it should be elegant, concise, light, and simple. A typical portfolio may have a total of 15-20 pages that demonstrates your accomplishments in an organized, visual manner. Each piece of work featured should be presented with high-quality images and a brief text description. The careful composition, layout, and visual presentation of the portfolio are an important indication of the applicant’s creativity.
3. What GPA do I need to be accepted?

The Graduate School at UNC Charlotte requires an undergraduate GPA of 3.0 or higher. Typically those accepted to the masters program in the SoA have GPAs of 3.25 and higher.

4. What scores do you expect for the GRE?

The Graduate Record Examination (GRE) is the preferred test that the Admissions Committee uses to evaluate all graduate students. Be conscious of the times that this test is offered as you must have the scores reported to the Graduate School prior to the deadline for admission. Hence, prepare to take this early. There are three parts that the Admissions Committee looks at: verbal, quantitative, and analytical scores. In the past, applicants admitted typically score 150+ for the verbal and 155+ for the quantitative sections of the exam. Analytical scores are typically 4.5 and above. The score rating represents the range and numerical standards of the 2011-12 ETS set of examinations.

Note that these scores are only one factor for admission. The Admissions Committee looks comprehensively at all parts of your application (portfolio, transcripts, letters of recommendation, GPA, etc.) when it makes its recommendation for admission.

5. Which program do I apply to if I have completed a four-year bachelors in interior design and/or architectural technology?

Most interior design and architectural tech programs do not provide the necessary design studio experience for entry into our 2-year MArch program. At the same time, applicants with these undergraduate degrees may feel that they have taken some or all of the additional coursework for the 3+ year program (e.g. the completion of history, structures, materials, environmental systems, etc.) during their undergraduate degree. However, in all cases it is recommended that these degree holders apply to the 3+ MArch (3-1/2 year program). During the acceptance process the Admissions Committee will evaluate your application for any advanced standing.
6. I have already taken courses that are required in your graduate program. Will I have to repeat these?

In some cases, the School of Architecture may waive a required course if we determine it is redundant to your studies. In such cases we will need to evaluate the course by reviewing its syllabus, all assignments, as well as the final grade you received for the class. If a waiver is permitted, then you will be asked to enroll in an advanced elective course to replace the required course credit.

7. Can I transfer credits for previous related coursework?

Only 6 credit hours of graduate work may be transferred to UNC Charlotte. A student may be exempted from additional hours of coursework, but will not receive credit. Undergraduate credits can not be transferred to count towards a graduate degree.

8. I am a 2-year MArch applicant but I did not take Structures II during my undergraduate studies. Do I need to complete this class before I apply?

Some four-year architecture bachelor degree holders may have to take one or more courses to fulfill the basic entry requirements for the 2-year MArch program (refer to Graduate Catalog). Hence non-studio coursework – such as, Environmental Systems, Structures II, etc. – may have to be completed. Such coursework may be fulfilled after acceptance to the program. In some cases, the program of study may be longer in order to accommodate these additional classes.

9. Are there prerequisite courses that I must take for the 2-year or 3+ MArch degrees?

3+ MArch applicants are asked to have taken coursework in pre-calculus and basic physics. 2-year MArch applicants with a 4-year degree in architecture are expected to have a minimum of: 6 semesters of design studio, 2 semesters of introductory architectural history/theory, 2 structures courses, 1 environmental systems course, and 1 architectural materials course.

10. If I’m accepted, when does the program begin?

For 3+ MArch students, the program begins in the “second summer term” (typically the first week in July). For 2-year MArch students the program begins in the “fall semester” (typically the third week of August). Please make sure that you apply to the correct program, and hence, register your first course(s) for the correct entry semester.

As a rule, summer (for 3+ MArch applicants) and fall (for 2-year MArch applicants) are the only semesters in which new students are accepted to the School begin their programs.
11. May I take course work as a post-bac student in the School of Architecture prior to admission?

As a rule, you must formally apply and be admitted to either the two MArch programs before you can take required coursework. Some applicants, however, have enrolled in non-required courses such as Liberal Studies (LBST) general education undergraduate lecture classes as an introduction to architecture. These courses do not count towards their master’s studies. Another option is to enroll at UNCC as a Post Baccalaureate student. Post Bac status will allow students to take graduate level elective coursework at UNCC with instructor approval and if space is available. Up to 6 credits of Post Bac studies may be transferred into a graduate program should the student be accepted as a graduate student.

12. Can I attend the program as well as work part-time outside of classroom hours?

The School of Architecture is a full-time enrollment program in which all of our graduate students take an over-load as a course schedule. The typical graduate student enrolls in at least 9 credits of coursework per semester; Master of Architecture students typically enroll in (on average) 15 units per term. Given this heavy course load and given the significant amount of time needed to complete assignments and projects, the School of Architecture highly recommends that students not seek outside employment.

The School of Architecture realizes that full time enrollment in graduate school is a costly endeavor; some students will find it necessary to work off campus to make ends meet. This will represent a significant demand on student time and, therefore, may conflict with the demands of graduate study.
13. What areas of architecture does the School specialize in?

The School of Architecture offers a broad-based program of study. However, since 2003, the School has invested a considerable amount of time and effort into its research centers. These centers have grown around faculty interests and expertise in the areas of: (1) digital fabrication, (2) lighting technology and energy conservation, and (3) urban and community design.

These three research areas have given rise to dedicated electives for graduate study in the program. These areas are seen as local areas of expertise in which students may engage research as well as deepen their programs of study. These areas are particularly important to 2-year MArch students who are asked to identify an area of interest in their first year of study. 3+ MArch students are also encouraged to engage in such coursework as they move into their second year of study.

Graduate students who undertake and perform at a high level in such studies have the opportunity to participate in research projects being conducted in one of the School’s research centers as mentioned above. It is also anticipated that these special interests will contribute significantly to the topic of their final project or thesis, which is completed in the final year.

14. When is my application due for the MArch Programs?

The deadline for all application materials submitted online is January 15 for admission to the following academic year – for example, January 15, 2016 for Summer 2016 (3+ MArch) or Fall 2016 (2-year MArch) entry semesters.

The Master of Urban design program continues to accept applications on a rolling basis until May 1 of the following academic year - for example, May 1, 2016 for Fall 2016 entry.

15. What scholarships, financial awards, research and/or teaching assistantships are available?

The School of Architecture and the UNC Charlotte Graduate School aim to support as many of our graduate students as possible through a combination of research and teaching assistantships, tuition deferrals, stipends, and scholarships. There are a number of awards that all accepted applicants are assessed for during the admission process. These are awarded to the most promising new graduate students on a merit basis. For 2-year MArch applicants, awards are based on prior academic and professional experience as well as skills and achievements in architecture. For 3+ MArch students, awards are based on academic achievement and promise. Admissions awards include the Graduate Assistant Support Plan (GASP) and New Masters Student Tuition Awards. These awards are typically combined with Research Assistantships, which may also be offered to continuing students. We also offer Teaching Assistantships and Scholarships in the School of Architecture.

16. When can I visit the School of Architecture?

The School of Architecture offers a general Open House in the fall semester (typically the first week in October) and a special spring Open House event for applicants accepted to the program held in April. Though different, each of these Open House events features a tour of the School, introduction to faculty and student work/projects, and an opportunity to see the program in action. Please contact SoA Graduate Program Director Dr. Emily Makas at emakas@uncc.edu to learn of the exact dates as well as to schedule your participation at one of these Open House events.
We wish you the best in your endeavors and we hope to see you at the School of Architecture.

Chris Jarrett, Director
Kelly Carlson-Reddig, Associate Director

www.soa.uncc.edu