

# Application Guidelines | Bachelor of Arts in Architecture

School of Architecture College of Arts + Architecture UNC Charlotte

School of Architecture (SoA) students are among the most talented at UNC Charlotte. Their passion and creativity drive the SoA and we expect our applicants to demonstrate a high level of critical thinking, ambition, and curiosity. Applicants are asked to demonstrate their enthusiasm and interest for design and/or the built environment through a set of writings and a portfolio creative and critical work. Completed Application should be emailed to: [SoA-Admissions@uncc.edu](mailto:SoA-Admissions@uncc.edu) no later than February 15<sup>th</sup>.

Your application:

- Should be contained in a single PDF document; multiple PDF files will not be accepted.
- Should be 20MB or smaller; larger files cannot be accepted.
- Should include a cover page, resume, essays, and examples of your creative work, in that order.
- Should be emailed as a PDF attachment to [SoA-Admissions@uncc.edu](mailto:SoA-Admissions@uncc.edu) when completed.

There are five pieces to the SoA Application:

## 1. Cover

- Should include your name and contact information (current UNCC students: be sure to include your student ID number).
- May include an image or example of creative work.

## 2. Resume

- 1-2 pages in length
- Should include (1) academic record with high school GPA, class rank, and SAT or ACT scores, (2) list of relevant coursework you have taken, (3) extra-curricular activities, and (4) work experience. Relevant school, external, or work experiences should include anything related to the arts, design, writing, or other creative and critical pursuits.
- Listed items can include brief descriptions if necessary.
- Resume should be composed thoughtfully and formatted with intention.

## 3. Essay 1

- Please describe why you desire to study architecture (500 words or less). Your essay should address the following:
  1. What aspects of architecture interest you the most?
  2. How do you think an architectural education will prepare you for the future?
  3. Please tell us how you have informed yourself about architecture and how you see architecture playing a role in society.

## 4. Essay 2

- TED Talks, and the TED initiative in general, contributes to an intelligent and substantive discourse about the topics and issues that are meaningful to this moment in time. Although you might be unfamiliar with this initiative, you are asked to find and identify an existing TED Talk and describe (500 words or less) your thinking about why it could be a productive contribution to the topic of architecture. Please include the link to this TED Talk.

## 5. Portfolio of Creative Work

- 10 individual pages that either include an image, or composed set of images, of a creative work or an excerpt of an original piece of writing. Each image(s) or text excerpt should be accompanied by a description of approximately 150 words. Compose texts and images on each page thoughtfully and to ensure legibility.
- Portfolio pieces should represent your skills, creativity, and interests.
- Examples of creative and critical work may include traditional forms of art (poetry, creative writing, freehand drawing, painting, and sculpture) or other forms of creative expression (carpentry, furniture

design, craft, ceramics, dance, model-making, music, poetry, and set/costume design).

- Description of each of your creative works should capture the process behind the work, the circumstance in which the work was created (class, hobby, summer academy, etc.), the media used to create the work, and most importantly, the critical issues, ideas, or themes that the work explores.
- Tips on what to include:
  - o Provide a diverse range of personal work to give a sense of your interests, experiences, and unique voice.
  - o Aim for quality rather than quantity
- Consider including
  - o Work developed in response to a course assignment and created independently
  - o Work that demonstrates visual and creative abilities
  - o Work that demonstrates your analytical abilities, critical thinking, and problem solving
  - o Craft or design-based activities that illustrate your invention and skill
- Include photography if the image is created with intent and attention to composition, lighting, and other factors.
- Include web-based media only if the you can claim authorship of the overall work. Provide a screen capture. Provide a link to a URL address.
- Do not include moving or dynamic media files (i.e., movies, QuickTime, or Flash files). If including film or animated works, create a single page with images (storyboard, for example) using still frames. You may provide a link to a URL address to view the file.
- Only include mechanically drafted or computer aided drawings if you can demonstrate personal creativity through the sample. While a CAD-drawing of a building or object may demonstrate a type of technical skill, such an example is typically not illustrative of your creative or critical abilities.
- Tips for photographing, scanning, and/or manipulating digital images:
  - o When photographing or scanning images, be sure that they are well-positioned, well-lit, in focus, centered, and appropriately cropped (if needed).
  - o Use a neutral-color backdrop for your work (avoid patterns or bright colors).
  - o All images should be sized at 1024 X 768 pixels (landscape) or 768 X 1024 pixels (portrait). Smaller sized images may not exhibit necessary detail; larger may be difficult to upload.
  - o All images should have a resolution of 72 dpi/ppi (dots/pixels per inch).
  - o Save JPEG files as "Quality 10" images using a "Baseline Standard" option.
  - o Always save an original copy of your image and create a back-up of each to ensure that you always have a record of your work.