

ARCHITECTURE

Bachelor of Science (B.S.) – Catalog Year 2026-2027

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

The Department of Architecture at the University of Colorado Denver offers a STEM-designated Bachelor of Science in Architecture degree (BS Arch) on the downtown Denver campus. The program's design studio-based curriculum combines critical thinking with active making in pursuit of creative solutions to contemporary design problems.

In a rapidly changing world where unprecedented challenges emerge with ever-increasing frequency, the education of an architect must remain adaptive. The University of Colorado Denver Department of Architecture fosters the capacity to ask bold questions, take risks, think independently, and approach the work of architecture with curiosity. In doing so, we strive to be agile, flexible, visually adept thinkers and makers who contribute to addressing global challenges over a lifetime of active, inquisitive learning.

The Bachelor of Science in Architecture (BS Arch) program equips students with the fundamentals of architectural design. Through courses in architectural history, visualization, and technology, students develop a strong foundation for design studio—the core of architectural education. These 6-credit studio courses progressively build students' ability to design increasingly complex buildings with greater independence. Ultimately, design studio encourages students to visually communicate architectural concepts while engaging in dialogue with diverse instructors.

Before their final two semesters, students choose between two tracks: Architectural Design or Architectural Studies. The Architectural Design track maximizes studio curriculum, providing valuable design experience that culminates in a comprehensive portfolio suitable for admission to a Master of Architecture program with advanced standing. This pre-professional track prepares students for the workforce, fostering strong design and collaboration skills. Conversely, the Architectural Studies track offers a more flexible path, allowing students to explore individual interests and projected career paths. **Students should meet with a CAP academic advisor for guidance on determining which track is best suited for their academic and professional goals.**

ACADEMIC ADVISING

Undergraduate students admitted into the College of Architecture and Planning are supported by CAP Undergraduate Advising. Students are not assigned to a specific CAP undergraduate advisor and are welcome to meet with an advisor based on their preference and/or advisor availability.

CAP Undergraduate Advising

CAP.UGAdvising@ucdenver.edu

Visit the department website [here](#)

CU Building, 2nd Floor

303-315-1000

SAMPLE ACADEMIC PLAN OF STUDY

The following academic plan is a *sample* pathway to completing degree requirements for this major. Students should tailor this plan based on previously completed college coursework (e.g., AP, IB, CLEP, dual/concurrent enrollment, and transfer credit), course availability, and individual preferences related to course load, schedules, or add-on programs such as minors or double-majors. **Students deviating from this plan must fulfill course prerequisites and should meet with a CAP academic advisor to confirm degree requirements.**

Year One

Semester 1	16
ARCH 1110 Intro. to Architecture	3
ENGL 1020 Composition I	3
MATH 1110 College Algebra or MATH 1130 Precalculus	4
First-Year Experience / CU Denver Core	3
CU Denver Core	3

Semester 2	15-16
MATH 1120 College Trig. or CU Denver Core Bio/Phys. Sci.	3-4
ARCH 2230 Architectural History I	3
ENGL 2030 Composition II	3
CU Denver Core	3
CU Denver Core	3

Year Two

Semester 3	15
ARCH 1711 Visualization I	3
ARCH 2111 Design Studio I	6
ARCH 3230 Architectural History II	3
CU Denver Core	3

Semester 4	15
ARCH 1721 Visualization II	3
ARCH 2121 Design Studio II	6
ARCH 4230 Architectural History III	3
CU Denver Core	3

ARCHITECTURE

Bachelor of Science (B.S.) – Catalog Year 2026-2027

Year Three

Semester 5	14
ARCH 3111 Design Studio III*	6
ARCH 3130 Construction Practices: Material & Structural Systems	3
PHYS 2010/2321 College Physics I with Lab	5
*Required check-in with CAP advisor prior to registration.	

Semester 6	15
ARCH 3121 Design Studio IV	6
ARCH 3430 Construction Practices: Building Envelope	3
CAP Elective	3
General Elective	3

Year Four

Semester 7	15
ARCH 4111 Design Studio V (or ARCH Electives- Arch. Studies)	6
ARCH 3340 Theory of Structures I (or CAP Elective- Arch. Studies)	3
ARCH 3330 Building Systems I (or CAP Elective- Arch. Studies)	3
General Elective	3

Semester 8	15
ARCH 4121 Design Studio VI (or ARCH Electives- Arch. Studies)	6
CAP Elective	3
General Elective	3
General Elective	3

PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS & POLICIES

Students are responsible for meeting with a CAP academic advisor to confirm degree requirements and progress made toward degree completion. Students fulfilling the BS ARCH degree are required to complete the following minimum program requirements (full information available at catalog.ucdenver.edu):

- 1) Students must complete a minimum of 120 credit hours.
- 2) Students must maintain at least a 2.0 University of Colorado cumulative grade point average to remain in good standing.
- 3) A total of at least 39 upper-division (3000/4000 level) credits is required.
- 4) Students must complete a minimum of 30 credit hours from CU Denver, including at least three design studios.
- 5) Students must earn at least a C- grade in **all** Architecture Major requirements (except Architecture Major: Biological & Physical Sciences).

Courses	Credits	Notes
Course pre-requisites change regularly. Students are responsible for consulting advisors and the class schedule in the student portal for pre-requisite information.		
Required CU Denver Core Curriculum Coursework	36 - 37	See CU Denver Core Curriculum Guide
General Elective Coursework	11 – 12	Assumes completion of Foreign Language Proficiency.

Required Architecture Major courses:	72	
MATH 1130 Precalculus or	4	Fulfills CU Denver Core Mathematics with C- or higher; MATH 1109 or MATH 1110 and MATH 1120 jointly fulfill CU Denver Core Biological/Physical Sciences non-Lab requirement.
MATH 1110 College Algebra & MATH 1120 College Trigonometry or	7	
MATH 1108 & MATH 1109 Stretch College Algebra I and II & MATH 1120 College Trigonometry	9	
PHYS 2010 College Physics I & PHYS 2321 College Physics Lab I	5	Fulfills CU Denver Core Biological/Physical Sciences with Lab requirement. Pre-requisite: C- or better in MATH 1110 (or MATH 1108 & 1109) & MATH 1120, or MATH 1130
ARCH 1110 Introduction to Architecture	3	
ARCH 2230 Architectural History I	3	Pre-requisite: ENGL 1020 or higher is preferred; SPRING.
ARCH 3230 Architectural History II	3	Pre-requisite: ARCH 2230; FALL.
ARCH 4230 Architectural History III	3	Pre-requisite: ARCH 3230; SPRING.
ARCH 1711 Visualization I	3	
ARCH 1721 Visualization II*	3	Pre-requisite: ARCH 1711 and 2111
ARCH 2111 Design Studio I*	6	Pre-/co-requisite: ARCH 1110 and ARCH 1711
ARCH 2121 Design Studio II*	6	Pre-requisite: ARCH 2111, ARCH 1711; pre-/co-req: ARCH 1721
ARCH 3111 Design Studio III*	6	Pre-requisite: ARCH 2121, ARCH 1721
ARCH 3121 Design Studio IV*	6	Pre-requisite: ARCH 3111
ARCH 4111 Design Studio V*	6	Pre-requisite: ARCH 3121
ARCH 4121 Design Studio VI*	6	Pre-requisite: ARCH 4111
ARCH 3130 Construction Practices I: Material & Structural Systems	3	Pre-requisite: FALL

ARCHITECTURE

Bachelor of Science (B.S.) – Catalog Year 2026-2027

ARCH 3430 Construction Practices II: Building Envelope	3	<i>Pre-requisite: SPRING</i>
ARCH 3340 Theory of Structures I*	3	<i>Pre-requisite: Pre-calc equivalent and Physics w/lab; FALL</i>
ARCH 3330 Building Systems I*	3	<i>Pre-requisite: FALL</i>
CAP Electives Any ARCH / INTD/ LDAR / URPL / HIPR courses NOT listed above.	6	<i>Check individual courses for pre-requisites; please consult CAP Advising to discuss applicable transfer coursework.</i>
Total Program Hours:	120	

*Course reserved for fully admitted BS ARCH students, only.

CAREER RESOURCES

Are you interested in learning about career and occupational options for this major? Visit the CU Denver Career Center located in the Tivoli Student Union (TV) Suite 267, 303-315-7315 to speak with a career counselor. Undergraduate CAP students are also encouraged to [connect with CAP's career and professional resources](#) to discuss individual career goals ; please call 303-315-1000 to arrange an appointment. Additional resources may be found at <https://www.onetonline.org/> , www.ncarb.org , and www.aia.org .