

ARCHITECTURE – Architectural Studies

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

FOR TRANSFER STUDENTS

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, as well as their plans to transfer to CU Denver.***

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.

For questions related to CU Denver Core Curriculum, BS ARCH, general graduation requirements, university/college academic policies, evaluation of transfer coursework in the major, and campus resources contact:

CAP Undergraduate Advising
CAP_UGAdvising@ucdenver.edu
Visit the department website [here](#)
CU Building, 2nd Floor
303-315-1000

For questions about admission requirements, transfer policies, applying, and the transfer process contact:

Undergraduate Admissions
Admissions@ucdenver.edu
Visit the Transfer Admissions website [here](#)
Student Commons 1005
303-315-2601

PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS & POLICIES

The following program requirements are based on degree requirements for the current Catalog year at CU Denver and are subject to change. Students are responsible for completing degree requirements based on the Catalog year for which they are admitted.

Students are responsible for meeting with a CAP academic advisor to confirm major requirements and progress made toward degree completion. Students completing the B.S. in Architecture 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).

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COURSEWORK THAT CAN BE COMPLETED AT PREVIOUS INSTITUTION

The following is a set of courses that students can complete prior to transferring to CU Denver, and is dependent upon the students home college offerings. To determine the equivalencies of courses to be completed at non-CU Denver institutions, students can visit <https://transferology.com/school/ucdenver>. It is critical students connect with a CU Denver CAP academic advisor to ensure planned courses will transfer *and* apply to CU Denver degree requirements. All non-CU Denver course work must be completed with a C- or better to be eligible for transfer. **NOT ALL CCCS Equivalent classes are available at every CCCS campus. Please work closely with your academic advisor to discuss course availability at your specific campus.**

CU Denver Core

ARCH Major

Requirements	CCCS Equivalent	CRS	Requirements	CCCS Equivalent	CRS
ENGL 1020	GT-CO1 or GT-CO2	3	MATH 1120 College Trigonometry	MAT 1420 College Trigonometry	3
ENGL 2030	GT-CO2 or GT-CO3	3	ARCH 1110 Intro to Architecture	AEC 1100 Intro to Design Theory	3
Mathematics (College Algebra or higher)	GT-MA1 (MAT 1340 College Algebra)	4	ARCH 3130 Const. Prac.: Mat & Str. Sys.	AEC 1009 OR AEC 1510 OR AEC 1500 AND 1502	3
Science with Lab	GT-SC1 (PHY 1111)	5	ARCH 3430 Cons. Prac.: Bldg. Envelope	AEC 2009 OR AEC 1500 AND AEC 1502	3
Arts	GT-AH	3	ARCH Elective 1	Consult ARCH Elective list below	3
Humanities	GT-AH	3	ARCH Elective 2	Consult ARCH Elective list below	3
Behavioral Sciences	GT-SS	3	ARCH Elective 3	Consult ARCH Elective list below	3
Social Sciences	GT-HI	3	ARCH Elective 4	Consult ARCH Elective list below	3
International Perspectives	Additional GT-AH, HI, SS	3			
Cultural Diversity	CCCS Courses will not fulfill this requirement	--			
CAP Foreign Language Proficiency	FOL 1011 and FOL 1012*				
Total Credit Hours		30	Total Credit Hours		24

*CAP Foreign Language Proficiency Requirement This plan assumes completion of the CAP Foreign Language Proficiency requirement through non-curricular means (e.g. completion of level II high school coursework, satisfactory proficiency test, or experiential waiver). Please contact CAP Advising to learn more about your options to complete this requirement, if actual coursework is needed.

ARCH Elective coursework: Select up to 12 credit hours from the following courses to apply as ARCH electives; only 3 credits max. may be transferred from CAD coursework.

AEC 1210, Basic Architectural Drafting (4 cr.) AEC 1220, Architectural Drawing Theory (4 cr.) AEC 1231, Residential Construction Drawing (4 cr.) AEC 1250, Arch Design & Modeling (4 cr.) AEC 1520, Construction Materials and Systems (3 cr.) AEC 1600, Construction Practices & Documents (2 cr.) AEC 1232, Commercial Construction Drawing (4 cr.) AEC 2010, Building Env Systems II (3 cr.) AEC 2520, Building Env Systems I (3 cr.)	AEC 2540, Elementary Site Planning (3 cr.) AEC 2300, Sustainable Building Systems (3 cr.) AEC 2310, LEED Exam Preparation (3 cr.) AEC 2410, Applied Statics and Strengths (3 cr.) -or- AEC 2411, Applied Structural Analysis (3 cr.) -or- AEC 1501 Building Structures (3 cr.) AEC 2550, Building Electrical/Mech. Systems (3 cr.) AEC 2230, Architectural Design & Development (4 cr.) AEC 2640, Contracts & Legal Environment (3 cr.) AEC 2700, International Building Codes (3 cr.) AEC 2930, Professional Workplace Skills & Presentations (3 cr.)	CAD 1102, Computer-Aided Drafting II (3 cr.) CAD 1104, CAD for Architecture (3 cr.) CAD 1110, Sketchup (3 cr.) CAD 1115, Rhino (3cr.) CAD 2220, Revit Architecture (3 cr.) CAD 2204, AutoCAD Architecture (3 cr.) CAD 2221, Advanced Revit Architecture (3 cr.) IND 1100, Interior Design Fundamentals (4 cr.) IND 1102, History of Interior Design (3 cr.) IND 2204, Estimating Interior Materials (3 cr.) IND 2300, Interior Construction (3 cr.)
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SAMPLE PLAN – COURSEWORK TO BE COMPLETED AT PREVIOUS INSTITUTION

The sample academic plan of study below is a sample pathway to completing the bucket of courses above prior to transferring. Students must work with their community college advisor to create an academic plan that accounts for course availability and sequencing at the home campus, previously completed college coursework (e.g., AP, IB, CLEP, etc.), summer term courses, part-time or full-time student status, etc. **Not all courses shown in the bucket will be available at all CCCS campuses.**

Year One

Semester 1		CRS
CU Denver Requirements	CCCS Requirements	
ENGL 1020 – Core Composition I	GT-CO1 or GT-CO2	3
CU Denver Core Mathematics	GT-MA1 Course – MAT 1340 C. Algebra	4
ARCH 1110 Intro to Architecture	AEC 1100 Intro to Design Theory	3
CU Denver Core Social Science	GT-SS1-3 Course	3
General Elective	ART 1201 Drawing I <i>recommended</i>	3
Total Credit Hours		16

Semester 2		CRS
CU Denver Requirements	CCCS Requirements	
ENGL 2030 – Core Composition II	GT-CO2 (with GT-CO1) or GT-CO3 (with GT-CO2)	3
MATH 1120 College Trigonometry	MAT 1420 College Trigonometry	3
CU Denver Core Humanities	GT-AH1-4 Course	3
ARCH Elective	Select course from ARCH Elective list	3
ARCH Elective	Select course from ARCH Elective list	3
Total Credit Hours		15

Year Two

Semester 3		CRS
CU Denver Requirements	CCCS Requirements	
PHYS 2010 & PHYS 2321 College Physics	PHY 1111 Algebra-based Physics w/Lab	5
CU Denver Core Arts	GT-AH1-4 Course	3
CU Denver Core Behavioral Science	GT-SS1-3 Course	3
ARCH 3130 Materials & Struct. Systems	AEC 1009 OR AEC 1510 OR AEC 1500 (and AEC 1502)	3
Total Credit Hours		14

Semester 4		CRS
CU Denver Requirements	CCCS Requirements	
CU Denver Core Science non-Lab	GT-SC2 Course	3
CU Denver Core International Perspectives	GT- HI Course	3
ARCH 3430 Building Envelope	AEC 2009 OR AEC 1502 (and AEC 1500)	3
ARCH Elective	Select course from ARCH Elective list	3
ARCH Elective	Select course from ARCH Elective list	3
Total Credit Hours		15

SAMPLE PLAN FOR BS ARCH: ARCH STUDIES TRACK, COURSEWORK TO BE COMPLETED AT CU DENVER

This plan maps to the BS ARCH – Architectural Studies track; students may complete the BS ARCH – Architectural Design track, but doing so will involve two additional semesters of studio classes, at minimum. Assuming successful completion of the complete set of courses outlined above of, students would have the following remaining to complete at CU Denver. At CU Denver, students must tailor this plan based on the evaluation of previously completed college coursework (e.g., AP, IB, CLEP, dual/concurrent enrollment, and transfer credit), course availability, individual preferences related to course load, summer term courses, part-time or full-time student status, or add-on programs such as minors or double-majors. ^{PE} Prerequisite Enforced ^{PR} Prerequisite Recommended

Year 3

Semester 5		CRS
CU Denver Core Cultural Diversity		3
ARCH 2111 Design Studio I ^{PE}		6
ARCH 1711 Visualization I		3
CAP Elective ^{PE}		3
Total Credit Hours		15

Semester 6		CRS
ARCH 2121 Design Studio II ^{PE}		6
ARCH 2230 Architectural History I		3
ARCH 1721 Visualization II ^{PE}		3
CAP Elective ^{PE}		3
Total Credit Hours		15

Year Four

Fall		CRS
ARCH 3111 Design Studio III ^{PE}		6
ARCH 3230 Architectural History II ^{PE}		3
CAP Elective ^{PE}		3
General Elective		3
Total Credit Hours		15

Spring		CRS
ARCH 3121 Design Studio IV ^{PE}		6
ARCH 4230 Architectural History III ^{PE}		3
CAP Elective ^{PE}		3
General Elective		3
Total Credit Hours		15