Proposal to Modify the Timing of (ITP) *Introduction to the Profession* Course Requirements in the University's Core Curriculum

College of Architecture
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Proposal 1

The College of Architecture (COA) proposes to modify the text of the Undergraduate Curricula, IIT Core Curriculum on p. 25 of the Bulletin as follows:

> Option A
>
> 1. Introduction to the Profession: 2 credit hours ~~Students must complete this requirement in their first year.~~ Students entering with 30 hours or more of transfer credit may have this requirement waived with department approval. If waived, the total credit hours required for the degree still must be satisfied.
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> Option B
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> 1. Introduction to the Profession: 2 credit hours. <u>In most departments</u>, students must complete this requirement in their first year.** Students entering with 30 hours or more of transfer credit may have this requirement waived with department approval. If waived, the total credit hours required for the degree still must be satisfied.
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> **note: *Departments may offer ITP classes in later years per review and approval by the Undergraduate Studies Committee (UGSC).*

Proposal 2

The College of Architecture (COA) proposes to designate **Arch 413 - Professional Practice** in fulfillment of the University's ITP (Introduction to the Profession) requirement.

Rationale

The motivation for the change is threefold:

1. Many of the competing programs in Architecture satisfy Professional Practice requirements as a 2-semester sequence. Often these classes are offered as students approach graduation to assist with the transition to practice. The University requirement for ITP in the first year constrains the COA's ability to optimize the timing and content of these classes for academic and professional objectives.
2. Satisfying both University and NAAB accreditation requirements unintentionally constrains our students' opportunities to engage in General Education courses. The COA exceeds the University's 8-credit ITP/IPRO requirement by 4 credits - offering a 12 credits of designated courses in professional development:

3cr - Intro to Architecture
    3cr - Prof Practice
    6cr - IPROs

3. The COA has identified a strong need for more robust Humanities and writing Composition classes during the early years of the program. Compounding the demand is a steady increase of students entering our program with English as a second language.

Background

Undergraduates in the College of Architecture (COA) currently satisfy the University's Introduction to the Profession (ITP) requirement in the first year of the program with the following course:

> **Arch 100 - Introduction to Architecture**
> Orientation to contemporary local architecture practice in the context of the history of architectural theory; examination of the changing role of the architect through history; introduction to the formal language and vocabulary of the discipline. Emphasis given to developing written and presentations skills. Open only to Architecture majors.

Currently, this course satisfies 2 of the 8 total IIT Core Curriculum requirements for Interdisciplinary and Professional Experience.

> Introduction to the Profession: 2 credit hours Students must complete this requirement in their first year. Students entering with 30 hours or more of transfer credit may have this requirement waived with department approval. If waived, the total credit hours required for the degree still must be satisfied.

> (The remaining 6 credits are satisfied by IPRO.)

Per open discussion at the UGSC, there was unanimous consensus that the intent of ITP is already satisfied by the COA's Professional Practice courses offered later in the program. Some members of the committee indicated that the requirement for ITP in the first-year is a legacy, and does not apply equally as a priority for all departments.

The COA Professional Practice courses are stringent due to the National Architectural Accrediting Board (NAAB) standards for accreditation:

> Graduates from NAAB-accredited programs must understand business principles for the practice of architecture, including management, advocacy, and the need to act legally, ethically, and critically for the good of the client, society, and the public. Student learning aspirations for this realm include

> - Comprehending the business of architecture and construction.
> - Discerning the valuable roles and key players in related disciplines.
> - Understanding a professional code of ethics, as well as legal and professional responsibilities.

> The accredited degree program must demonstrate that each graduate possesses skills in the following areas:

D.1 Stakeholder Roles in Architecture: Understanding of the relationships among key stakeholders in the design process—client, contractor, architect, user groups, local community—and the architect's role to reconcile stakeholder needs.

D.2 Project Management: Understanding of the methods for selecting consultants and assembling teams; identifying work plans, project schedules, and time requirements; and recommending project delivery methods.

D.3 Business Practices: Understanding of the basic principles of a firm's business practices, including financial management and business planning, marketing, organization, and entrepreneurship. D.4 Legal Responsibilities: Understanding of the architect's responsibility to the public and the client as determined by regulations and legal considerations involving the practice of architecture and professional service contracts.

D.5 Professional Conduct: Understanding of the ethical issues involved in the exercise of professional judgment in architectural design and practice and understanding the role of the NCARB Rules of Conduct and the AIA Code of Ethics in defining professional conduct.

To satisfy NAAB requirements, the COA requires students to pass Arch 413 in addition to Arch 100. Because Arch 413 is typically taken later in the program, transfer students also tend to complete it.

Arch 413 - Architectural Practice
Lectures and practical problems dealing with specifications, specification writing, administration of construction, contracts, building law and professional practice.

Though not required for graduation, the COA maintains a culture of professionalism. 5th Year studios are conceived as a transition from University to practice. And the COA offers designated Professional Practice electives:

Arch 424 - Architectural Construction Management
The course endeavors to make clear the activities, the roles, and the respective responsibilities building project participants during the planning, design and construction phases. Whereas certain other courses focus on the integration of the project team's efforts, this course is meant to insure understanding of the component phases of those areas of endeavor being integrated. Additionally, the organization of deliverables from the multiple participants in a project plan, including the estimating, quality control, value realization, scheduling of work, conflict resolution, pay schedules, and project closeout and commissioning are essential to effecting a successful building project. Many of these areas of endeavor are those most directly impacted by the developments addressed in current Architectural Practice. This course will solidify the underpinnings, and will amplify, where needed, the requisite understanding in these areas of the practice. The development of managerial skills requisite to the practice of this coordination, and the basis for developing inter-professional relationships will be stressed throughout the incorporation of the technical methodologies.