New Program Proposal

Date Submitted: 02/10/26 11:03 am

Viewing: BA-ARST : Bachelor of Arts in Architectural Studies

Last edit: 02/10/26 11:03 am

Changes proposed by: nagle

Program Status	Active			
Requestor nagle@iit.edu	Name	Kathleen Nagle	E-mail	
Origination Date	2026-2-10			
Is this an interdisciplinary program?	No			
Is this stem-eligible?	No			
Available for direct application?	Yes			
Academic Unit College	College of Architecture College of Architecture			
Program Title Bachelor of Arts in Architectural Studies				
Effective Academic Year	2026 - 2027	Effective Term	Summer 2026	
Academic Level	Undergraduate			

In Workflow

1. ARCH Curriculum Committee Chair
2. ARCH Chair
3. AR Associate Dean
4. Academic Affairs
5. Undergraduate Academic Affairs
6. Director of Assessment
7. AR Dean
8. Marketing and Communications
9. Undergraduate Studies Committee Chair
10. Faculty Council Chair
11. Faculty Council Chair
12. Provost
13. President
14. Board of Trustees
15. Academic Affairs

Approval Path

1. 02/06/26 4:08 pm Kathleen Nagle (nagle): Approved for ARCH Curriculum Committee Chair
2. 02/09/26 9:20 am Kindon Mills (kmills2): Rollback to ARCH Curriculum Committee Chair for ARCH Chair
3. 02/09/26 10:00 am Kathleen Nagle (nagle): Rollback to Initiator

4. 02/09/26 10:09 am Kathleen Nagle (nagle): Approved for ARCH Curriculum Committee Chair

5. 02/09/26 10:13 am Kindon Mills (kmills2): Approved for ARCH Chair

6. 02/09/26 10:14 am Kindon Mills (kmills2): Approved for AR Associate Dean

7. 02/09/26 10:56 am Ayesha Qamer (aqamer): Rollback to Initiator

8. 02/09/26 11:27 am Kathleen Nagle (nagle): Approved for ARCH Curriculum Committee Chair

9. 02/09/26 11:34 am Kindon Mills (kmills2): Approved for ARCH Chair

10. 02/09/26 11:34 am Kindon Mills (kmills2): Approved for AR Associate Dean

11. 02/10/26 10:45 am Ayesha Qamer (aqamer): Rollback to Initiator

12. 02/10/26 11:04 am Kathleen Nagle (nagle): Approved for ARCH Curriculum Committee Chair

13. 02/10/26 11:08 am Kindon Mills

(kmills2): Approved for ARCH Chair
14. 02/10/26 11:09 am Kindon Mills (kmills2): Approved for AR Associate Dean
15. 02/11/26 1:30 pm Ayesha Qamer (aqamer): Approved for Academic Affairs
16. 02/12/26 10:22 am Joseph Gorzkowski (jgorzkow): Approved for Undergraduate Academic Affairs

If all courses in a subject in your department are required, please enter each subject followed by the number ranges in the "Quick Add" field in the pop up box when you click the green plus button below. For example: ARCH 100-499.

What courses will factor the major GPA?	AURB 465 - Urbanism ARCH 100-499 - Course ARCH 100-499 not Found AAH 119 - History of World Architecture I AAH 120 - History of World Architecture II LA 497 - Special Projects
Program Type	Degree
Degree Type	Bachelor of Science (BS)

CIP Code
  04.0803 - Architectural Studies.

Is there more than one Academic Unit proposer?

  No

Program Code	BA-ARST

Program Attribute

Total Program Credit Hours	120

Program Narrative and Justification

Narrative description of how the institution determined the need for the program. For example, describe what need this program will address and how the institution became aware of that need. If the program is replacing a current program(s), identify the current program(s) that is being replaced by the new program(s) and provide details describing the benefits of the new program(s). If the program will be offered in connection with, or in response to, an initative by a governmental entity, provide details of that initiative.

Overview of the BA in Architectural Studies:

The Bachelor of Arts in Architectural Studies is a new, 4-year, non-professional degree option in the College of Architecture, designed to complement the 5-year, Bachelor of Architecture professional degree that is currently the only undergraduate degree offered in the College. The BA in Architectural Studies is a flexible degree option for students who are interested in exploring the fundamentals of architecture as a discipline, but aren't sure they want to pursue it as a profession—or at least not at this stage. Coursework will include a minimum of three semesters of design, introducing students to the critical thinking, problem-solving, spatial practices and iterative processes fundamental to understanding the discipline. Other required architecture coursework will explore factors that shape the built environment and its historical and sociological contexts. Required architecture electives will allow students to explore history and theory, building technologies and/or making processes, while free electives provide space to investigate another field of study outside the major. Students will be required to declare a specialization or a minor.

The BA in Architectural Studies will prepare students for graduate study in many disciplines, but particularly in the design disciplines, including a three-year professional Master of Architecture degree, Design, Law, Planning, Real Estate, and many more. They will also have solid grounding to pursue co-terminals in the College of Architecture such as the Master of Landscape Architecture, or other co-terminal programs such as a Master of Business Administration.

Need:

Retention: Currently, would-be IIT students interested in Architecture apply directly to the 5-year BArch professional program. And each year, a number of students decide during their first or second studio course that they are still interested in Architecture but are no longer interested in pursuing the full 5-year professional degree. Currently, those students must change their major, adding time (and expense) to their studies; too often, we lose them altogether. The 4-year BA in Architectural Studies will give these students the opportunity to stay within the field of study that interests them, but in a flexible new major that gives them agency to explore a variety of interests within architecture as well as in fields outside of the major. For instance, students in the BA in Architectural Studies could add a specialization in Building Technology, or a minor in AI or Business, thus preparing them for important opportunities within the profession or adjacent to it. However they choose to pursue it, the BA in Architectural Studies keeps students in a meaningful degree program, and keeps them at IIT.

Broaden the prospective student pool: Prospective students interested in Architecture and related disciplines have a wide variety of programs and degree paths to choose from, and they may not be certain that the 5-year professional degree is the right fit. The option of a flexible BA in Architectural Studies offers the prospective student another path in their major of interest. The BA is also a potentially attractive Architecture option for students who have

started at Illinois Tech in another major (including Discover+) and do not want to add 5 years to their academic path. The BA has fewer prerequisite requirements than the BArch and has more possible entry points. The BA provides a positive option for new or continuing students to explore the field and related disciplines in a more flexible and student-driven path.

Narrative description of how the program was designed to meet local market needs, or for an online program, regional or national market needs. For example, indicate if Bureau of Labor Statistics data or State labor data systems information was used, and/or if State, regional, or local workforce agencies were consulted. Include how the course content, program length, academic level, admission requirements, and prerequisites were decided; including information received from potential employers about course content; and information regarding the target students and employers.

There are multiple academic paths to becoming an architect, with different lengths of time to complete a professional degree. Various institutions offer one or more programs, and other than the Bachelor of Architecture, the degree names are not consistent. The path to a professional degree in architecture can be confusing to high school students, and there is not a one-size-fits-all degree.

Types of Architecture degrees offered at institutions across the US:
1. Bachelor of Architecture: Professional 5-year NAAB-accredited degree, satisfies the academic requirements for licensure. This is the fastest path to licensure and is the primary professional degree offered by IIT 's College of Architecture.
2. Bachelor of Science in Architecture (specific degree names vary): Pre-professional 4-year undergraduate degree, non-accredited. Students must complete a 2-year professional Master of Architecture to satisfy the academic requirements for licensure. This path is commonly referred to as a 4+2 and is the most commonly offered architecture undergraduate degree. We are not proposing the addition of a BS in Architecture as it would compete with the BArch. IIT offers a 2-year Master of Architecture.
3. Bachelor of Arts in Architectural Studies (specific degree names vary): Non-professional 4-year degree. The BA typically has fewer required design studios, less technical coursework, and more free electives. Students who choose to study architecture in a professional program at the graduate level would need to complete a 3-year, first professional Master of Architecture the same path that a student in any non-architecture undergraduate degree would need to complete. IIT offers a 3-year Master of Architecture.

The BArch professional degree is the hallmark of IIT's College of Architecture. The BA in Architectural Studies is intended to complement this professional degree rather than compete with it, as a BS in Architecture might (see above). We are specifically proposing a Bachelor of Arts degree, not a Bachelor of Science, to avoid confusion with a BS Architecture pre-professional degree. In our region, UIC and Washington University offer a BA non-professional degree but there is still a need for this more flexible degree that focuses on the contextual study of architecture and its processes.

Undergraduate Architecture degree offerings at universities in our region:
UIC: BS Architecture (pre-professional), BA Architectural Studies (non-professional)
SAIC: BFA Architecture Pathway (pre-professional)
Judson College: BA in Architectural Studies (pre-professional)
UIUC: BS Architecture (pre-professional)
UW Milwaukee: BArch (professional -recently added), BS Arch (pre-professional)
Notre Dame: BArch (professional)
U Michigan: BS Architecture (pre-professional)
Washington University: BS Architecture (pre-professional), BA Architecture (non-professional)

Iowa State: BArch (professional)

Narrative description of any wage analysis the institution may have performed, including any consideration of Bureau of Labor Statistics wage data related to the new program.

Graduates with a BA in Architectural Studies will have different career opportunities depending on how they structure their elective coursework. Careers range from architecture-related industries such as architectural technologies (digital processes, fabrication), preservation/conservation, interiors, exhibit design, planning, development and real estate, to civic, non-profit or government organizations related to the community and built environment. Students will be required to pursue a minor or specialization which will focus their career research. Applicable specializations within architecture include architectural history and theory, digital design (including fabrication), visual studies and building technologies. Suggested minors include Artificial Intelligence, Business, Computer Science, Game Design and Experiential Media, Public Policy, or Sustainability. Each of these areas of study, with the strong foundation in design, can lead to different areas of career possibilities. A student may also choose to pursue a co-terminal degree. The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics projects steady and continued growth in the architectural sector for the next decade or more.

Sample list of occupations with wages (all salary information is from the US Bureau of Labor Statistics, 2024 Median Pay):

Architecture-related roles:
Interior Designer: $63,490
Urban and regional planner: $83,720
Design Technology Specialist: $65,380
Architecture Marketing*
Sustainability Manager*
Real Estate Development*
Historic Preservation/Conservation*

Other Arts and Design:
Graphic Designer: $61,300
Set and Exhibit Design: $66,280
Special Effects Artist and Animator: $99,800
Industrial Designer: $79, 450

*no Bureau of Labor Statistics wage data available

Narrative description of how the program was reviewed or approved by, or developed in conjunction with, one or more of the following: a) business advisory committees; b) program integrity boards; c) public or private oversight or regulatory agencies (not including the state licensing/authorization agency and accrediting agency); and d) businesses that would likely employ graduates of the program. For example, describe the steps taken to develop the program, identify when and with whom discussions were held, provide relevant details of any proposals or correspondence generated, and/or describe any process used to evaluate the program.

The College of Architecture is putting forward two proposals to address student success and retention. The BA in Architectural Studies proposal is primarily a response to in-house research by the curriculum committee on the success and interests of our BArch students, both those who complete the BArch degree and those who select another path. We identified the need for a second undergraduate program in the College of Architecture, primarily for retention purposes, many years ago, but have come to realize in conversations with IIT Vice President Mallik Sundharam that this degree has strong potential for attracting a broader pool of architecture applicants; indeed, Mr. Sundharam believes that number is likely significant. Parallel with this proposal, the College of Engineering and the College of Architecture are proposing a BS in Construction Management and Architectural Technology, which will complement the BA. Vice President Sundharam has also endorsed that proposal as a likely source of new students.

The BA curriculum as proposed uses existing coursework in the College of Architecture. The specific courses included were determined through researching other BA and BS programs, Master of Architecture first professional degree requirements, and coursework that would benefit students' potential career paths (see previous section).

Admission Entry Details

Available Fall Admit	Yes	Available Spring Admit	Yes	Available Summer Admit	No
Available On Campus	Yes			Available Online	No
Available Full-Time	Yes			Available Part-Time	Yes
Available International	No			Available Domestic	Yes

What are the enrollment estimates?

Year 1	4	Year 2	8	Year 3	12

Attach Additional Program Justification Document(s)

Academic Information

Advising

Since quality advising is a key component of good retention, graduation, and career placement, how will students be mentored? What student professional organizations will be formed? How will the department work with the Career Services office to develop industry connections?

Advising:
In the College of Architecture, all first and second-year students are advised by the Assistant Dean for Undergraduate Academic Advising. Since the BA and BArch students will begin their studies with the same coursework, they will initially be advised together. During their first semesters, the advisor will help all architecture students clarify which path they want to continue after their second year. Depending on the BA student's potential area of specialization within architecture, they would be advised by another faculty advisor in that area of specialization.

Student Organizations:
The College of Architecture has several very active student organizations that will also support the BA students. IitAIAS, iit NOMAS, Arquitectos and ASLA are all chapters of professional organizations within the college that offer professional and social programming as well as co-curricular events such as lectures, office visits, portfolio workshops and field trips.

Career Services and Industry connections:
The College of Architecture has a robust connection to local and national architecture firms and related industries through our professional faculty (majority of our faculty are practicing architects). The CoA works with local firms to place interns and externs. We work with Career Services to host firms in architecture and related fields for the Career Fairs. The potential careers within architecture are varied and diverse. Students graduating with a BA in Architectural Studies will have similar opportunities to BArch students, but can fill other roles in the professional setting such as technology specialists, analysts, preservation roles, interior designers, planners, etc.

Program Resources

Which program resources are necessary to offer this program?
Personnel
Facilities

Describe the personnel requirements necessary to offer the program. Describe how and when resources will be made available to hire any additional personnel that are required.

Use existing resources

Describe the facilities requirements necessary to offer the program. Describe how and when resources will be made available to obtain any additional facilities that are required.

  Use existing resources

Proposed Catalog Entry

Admission
Requirements
  Admission to all undergraduate programs at Illinois Tech is evaluated via a holistic approach that takes various factors under consideration, including your high school performance and essays. Your choice of major will impact this process as well, because each major has its own criteria for admission.
  To learn more about our admission selection process, recommended high school coursework, and our admitted student profile, please visit our admission website.

Course Requirements

Architecture Requirements		(33)
ARCH 100	Introduction to Architecture	3
ARCH 107	Design Communication I: Introduction	3
ARCH 108	Design Communication II: Advanced	3
ARCH 113	Architecture Studio I: Elements	6
ARCH 114	Architecture Studio II: Unit	6
ARCH 201	Architecture Studio III: House	6
ARCH 215	Site Design, Planning, and Ecology	3
ARCH 413	Architectural Practice	3
Building Science and Structural Requirements		(6)
ARCH 230	Systems: Structural Analysis	3
ARCH 334	Material: Metal	3
Art and Architectural History Requirements		(9)
AAH 119	History of World Architecture I	3
AAH 120	History of World Architecture II	3
ARCH 321	Contemporary Architecture	3
Architecture and Urbanism Requirements		(3)
AURB 465	Urbanism	3
Architecture Electives		(15)
Select 15 credit hours [1]		15

Free Electives	**(18)**
Select 18 credit hours of which 12 must be 300+ [1]	18
Mathematics Requirements	**(5-6)**
MATH 151	Calculus I [2]	5-6
or MATH 119 & MATH 122	Geometry for Architects and Introduction to Calculus	
or MATH 119 & STAT 225	Geometry for Architects and Introductory Statistics	
Physics Requirement		**(4)**
PHYS 200	Introduction to Energy, Waves, Materials, and Forces	4
Humanities and Social Science Requirements		**(21)**
See Illinois Tech Core Curriculum, sections B and C		21
Interprofessional Projects (IPRO)		**(6)**
See Illinois Tech Core Curriculum, section E		6
Total Credit Hours		120-121

[1]
In place of one 3-credit Architecture Elective and one 3-credit Free Elective (300+), the student may substitute ARCH 202 Studio IV (6 credits) with advisor permission.

[2]
Math 119 (3 credits) and Math 122 (3 credits) are the recommended courses to meet the Mathematics requirement. STAT 225 (3 credits) may be substituted for Math 122. Math 151 (5 credits) can also be taken to satisfy the Mathematics requirement.

Sample Curriculum/Program Requirements

Year 1

Semester 1	Credit Hours	Semester 2	Credit Hours
ARCH 100	3	ARCH 108	3
ARCH 107	3	ARCH 114	6
ARCH 113	6	Humanities 200+	3
Math Requirement[1]	5		
	17		12

Year 2

Semester 1	Credit Hours	Semester 2	Credit Hours
ARCH 201	6	ARCH 230	3
ARCH 215	3	AAH 120	3
AAH 119	3	Architecture Elective[2]	3
PHYS 200	4	Humanities, Social Sciences or COM Elective	3
		Free Elective	3

	16		15

Year 3

Semester 1	Credit Hours	Semester 2	Credit Hours
AURB 465	3	ARCH 321	3
ARCH 334	3	Architecture Elective	3
Architecture Elective	3	Free Elective 300+[2]	3
Social Sciences Elective	3	Free Elective 300+	3
Free Elective	3	Humanities Elective 300+	3
	15		15

Year 4

Semester 1	Credit Hours	Semester 2	Credit Hours
ARCH 413	3	Architecture Elective	3
Architecture Elective	3	Humanities Elective 300+	3
Social Sciences Elective 300+	3	Social Sciences Elective 300+	3
Free Elective 300+	3	Free Elective 300+	3
IPRO Elective I	3	IPRO Elective II	3
	15		15

Total Credit Hours: 120

[1]
Math 119 (3 credits) and Math 122 (3 credits) are the recommended courses to meet the Mathematics requirement. STAT 225 (3 credits) may be substituted for Math 122. Math 151 (5 credits) can also be taken to satisfy the Mathematics requirement.

[2]
In place of one 3-credit Architecture Elective and one 3-credit Free Elective (300+), the student may substitute ARCH 202 Studio IV (6 credits) with advisor permission.

Specialization
Requirements

Program Outcomes and Assessment Process

What are your learning objectives in this program? Please list each learning objective in the boxes below:

Note: These should be the same as described in your assessment plan at the bottom of this form.

Learning Objective 1: History Theory and Culture: Students will understand the historical, cultural, sociological and economic factors surrounding Architectural design and Urbanism and their effect on the development of the built environment.

Learning Objective 2: Fundamentals of Architectural Technologies: Students will be introduced to the principles of structural systems, building material technologies and site design, and will apply these principles to designs in an urban context.

Learning Objective 3: Ecological Responsibility and Awareness: Students will understand the role of Architecture in the built environment. They will have an understanding of the dynamic between built and natural environments and explore designs and practices that encourage environmental responsibility.

Learning Objective 4: Professional Practice: Students will understand the fundamental principles of business and ethics in the profession, as well as regulatory practices related to land use, building standards and contractual relationships.

Learning Objective 5: Visual and Verbal Communication: Students will be able to communicate through evidence-based writing and oral presentation to present a concept or idea. Students shall also be able to use digital media and apply the conventions of architectural representation to communicate a design, design process or analysis.

Upload your assessment plan here:
Assessment Plan_BA_ARCHITECTURAL STUDIES.xlsx

Undergraduate Program Requirements

What courses will factor the major GPA?

Undergraduate Degree Requirements

Minimum credit hours   120

Specialization required?
   Yes

Notes about specialization

requirement
   Students will need to declare either a specialization in architecture or a minor in another field.

Minor required?
   No

Proposed General Curriculum

Degree credit hours
required

Specialization   9
credit hour
requirement

List Major Course
Requirements

ARCH 100	Introduction to Architecture	3
ARCH 107	Design Communication I: Introduction	3
ARCH 108	Design Communication II: Advanced	3
ARCH 113	Architecture Studio I: Elements	6
ARCH 114	Architecture Studio II: Unit	6
ARCH 201	Architecture Studio III: House	6
ARCH 215	Site Design, Planning, and Ecology	3
ARCH 230	Systems: Structural Analysis	3
ARCH 321	Contemporary Architecture	3
ARCH 334	Material: Metal	3
ARCH 413	Architectural Practice	3
AURB 465	Urbanism	3
AAH 119	History of World Architecture I	3
AAH 120	History of World Architecture II	3
Architecture Electives		15

List Mathematics
Requirements

MATH 151	Calculus I	5-6
or MATH 119 & MATH 122	Geometry for Architects and Introduction to Calculus	
or MATH 119 & STAT 225	Geometry for Architects and Introductory Statistics	

List Science
Requirements

PHYS 200 and major requirements will satisfy the Natural Science or Engineering Core requirement.

List Computer
Science
Requirements

Satisfied by major requirements.

List Humanities and
Social Sciences
Requirements

See Illinois Tech Core Curriculum, sections B and C

21 credit hours

List
Interprofessional
Project (IPRO)
Requirements

See Illinois Tech Core Curriculum, section E.

6 credit hours

List Technical
Elective Course
Options

List Free Elective Credit Hours (if applicable)	18

Semester-by-semester plan of study for the degree program

Specialization

To which degree does this specialization / concentration apply?

Title of Specialization / Concentration

Architectural History and Theory

How many credit hours are required for this specialization / concentration?

9

Can credit hours be shared between specialization / concentration and major requirements?

Yes

Explain:

Students will use 9 credits of their architecture electives toward the specialization.

List specialization/concentration courses, including any required choices from formal course groups. Please include the credit hour minimums for all course categories.

ARCH 445, 446, 456, 470, 473, 491

To which degree does this specialization / concentration apply?

Title of Specialization / Concentration

Digital Design

How many credit hours are required for this specialization / concentration?

9

Can credit hours be shared between specialization / concentration and major requirements?

Yes

Explain:

Students will use 9 credits of their Architecture electives for the specialization.

List specialization/concentration courses, including any required choices from formal course groups. Please include the credit hour minimums for all course categories.

ARCH 433, 435, 436, 437, 438, 490

To which degree does this specialization / concentration apply?

Title of Specialization / Concentration

Visual Studies

How many credit hours are required for this specialization / concentration?

9

Can credit hours be shared between specialization / concentration and major requirements?

Yes

Explain:

Students will use 9 credits of their Architecture electives for the specialization.

List specialization/concentration courses, including any required choices from formal course groups. Please include the credit hour minimums for all course categories.

ARCH 331, 332, 440, 441, 493

To which degree does this specialization / concentration apply?

Title of Specialization / Concentration

Building Technology

How many credit hours are required for this specialization / concentration?

9

Can credit hours be shared between specialization / concentration and major requirements?

Yes

Explain:

Students will use 9 credits of their Architecture electives for the specialization.

List specialization/concentration courses, including any required choices from formal course groups. Please include the credit hour minimums for all course categories.

ARCH 480, 482, 483, 488, 489, 494

To which degree does this specialization / concentration apply?

Title of Specialization / Concentration

Self-Directed Specialization

How many credit hours are required for this specialization / concentration?

9

Can credit hours be shared between specialization / concentration and major requirements?

Yes

Explain:

Students will use 9 credits of their Architecture electives for the specialization.

List specialization/concentration courses, including any required choices from formal course groups. Please include the credit hour minimums for all course categories.

A student may propose a self-directed specialization in a relevant architectural subject. A self-directed specialization must be approved by the student's adviser and the college.

Reviewer
Comments

Kindon Mills (kmills2) (02/09/26 9:20 am): Rollback: Minor Edit required

Kathleen Nagle (nagle) (02/09/26 10:00 am): Rollback: edit required

Ayesha Qamer (aqamer) (02/09/26 10:56 am): Rollback: Please revise the course requirements and sample curriculum section as the total credit hours do not match the total program credit hours of 120. If you need assistance, please contact me at: aqamer@illinoistech.edu

Ayesha Qamer (aqamer) (02/10/26 10:45 am): Rollback: Please revise sample curriculum section as this shows 121 credit hours where it does not match the total program credit hours. Additionally in the course requirements section, mathematics has a typo.

Key: 684