

UNIVERSITY OF MASSACHUSETTS AMHERST  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY  
THE FACULTY SENATE

PROGRAM REVISION APPROVAL FORM

50 COPIES REQUIRED

**PROGRAM TITLE:** Revisions to BFA Architecture Major

**PLEASE CHECK:**            GRADUATE                            UNDERGRADUATE X

**DEPARTMENT:** Art, Architecture, and Art History                            **HEAD/CHAIR:** William Oedel

**SCHOOL OR COLLEGE:** Humanities and Fine Arts                            **DEAN:** Julie Hayes

**Submission Date:** 10/08/11                            **Proposed Starting Date:** 9/01/12

**I. PROPOSAL DEVELOPMENT**

**A. Describe the Proposal.**

The Department of Art, Architecture, and Art History proposes to revise its BFA Architecture major. There are currently two tracks in the Architecture major--"BFA Architecture, Design Studies" and "BFA Architecture, Architectural Studies." The changes include:

1. Change the "BFA Architecture, Design Studies" major to simply "BA Architecture" (no concentration).
2. Change the "BFA Architecture, Architectural Studies" major to simply "BFA Architecture" (no concentration).
3. Clarify application and admission procedures.
4. Specify required courses in the curriculum.
5. Clarify other requirements of the major.

**B. Provide a brief overview of the process for developing the Proposal.**

During the 2010-11 academic year, the Architecture + Design Program of the Department of Art, Architecture, and Art History developed this proposal to change the name of the major and eliminate tracks. There are currently two undergraduate tracks in the Architecture + Design Program--"BFA Architecture, Design Studies" and "BFA Architecture, Architectural Studies."

The proposal reorganizes and streamlines existing tracks, taking into account student learning outcomes. The revision is also part of an attempt to increase the diversity of the program by offering more flexibility in the curriculum, so that students can more easily move into the major from community colleges and other majors at the University of Massachusetts Amherst.

**II. PURPOSE AND GOALS**

Describe the Proposal's purpose and the particular knowledge and skills to be acquired.

The BFA Architecture program has evolved into two distinct tracks-- architectural studies (a pre-professional program) and design studies (a more general program). The curricular revisions, the name changes, reflect the new missions. Other requirements, such as revised admissions procedures, reflect the practices of peer institutions.

See attached document

**III. RESOURCES**

If this proposal requires no additional resources, say so and briefly explain why. If this proposal requires additional resources, explain how they will be paid for. For proposals involving instruction, indicate how many new enrollments are expected and whether the courses have room to accommodate them.

This is essentially a name change and no additional resources are required.

## **Proposal to Revise the BFA Architecture Major**

### **Overview**

The Department of Art, Architecture, and Art History proposes to revise its BFA Architecture major. There are currently two tracks in the Architecture major--“BFA Architecture, Design Studies” and “BFA Architecture, Architectural Studies”. The changes include:

1. Change the “BFA Architecture, Design Studies “ major to simply “BA Design” (no concentration)
2. Change the “BFA Architecture, Architectural Studies “ major to simply “BFA Architecture” (no concentration).
3. Clarify application and admission procedures.
4. Specify required courses in the curriculum.
5. Clarify other requirements of the major.

### **The Proposal**

#### **Introduction**

During the 2010-11 academic year, the Architecture + Design Program of the Department of Art, Architecture, and Art History developed this proposal to change the name of the major, and eliminate tracks. There are currently undergraduate two tracks in the Architecture+Design Program--“BFA Architecture, Design Studies” and “BFA Architecture, Architectural Studies”.

The proposal reorganizes and streamlines existing tracks, taking into account student learning outcomes. The revision is also part of an attempt to increase the diversity of the program by offering more flexibility in the curriculum, so that students can more easily move into the major from community colleges and other majors at the University of Massachusetts Amherst.

#### **Names of Major—**

“BFA Architecture” (2 tracks); to “BFA Architecture” and “BA Design”

The existing “BFA Architecture, Architectural Studies” major is a pre-professional degree that is an integral part of UMass’s accredited Master of Architecture. It serves as the four-year component of the 4 + 2 professional MArch (177 credits), which is fully accredited by the National Architecture Accrediting Board. The change of name of the degree program to simply “BFA Architecture” will clarify the status of this degree. This is appropriately titled “BFA” because 2/3 of the curriculum is in architecture or closely related subjects. Schools offering the BFA Architecture as a pre-professional degree include Parsons, Rhode Island School of Design, and the University of Memphis.

The existing “BFA Architecture, Design Studies” major is intended for students with a broader interest in the design fields, including interior design. It has more flexibility in requirements for studio, history, technology, and directed electives related to design. The change of name of the degree program to simply “BA Design” will clarify the status of this degree. This title “BA” is appropriate because less than 2/3 of the curriculum is in architecture or closely related subjects. It eliminates confusion—students will better understand that a BA is more liberal arts, will BFA is pre-professional. Students who graduate with this major will qualify for the 4+3 professional MArch (207 credits). Numerous colleges offer liberal arts focused BA degrees in Architecture.

Similarly, the Studio Arts program maintains two undergraduate degrees: BFA Studio Arts (professional degree) and BA Studio Arts (liberal arts degree).

#### **Application and Admission Procedures**

Admission to the Architecture major (BFA or BA) requires a successful portfolio review in addition to fulfillment of the standard University admission requirements.

The admissions policy will be as follows:

1. High school seniors with exceptional visual arts backgrounds can apply directly to the Architecture or Design majors when they apply for admission to the University, subject to portfolio review.
2. Students can apply to the University as undeclared majors or as majors in other fields and apply to the Architecture or Design majors after completing specifically required foundations level studios and art history surveys, subject to portfolio review.
3. UMass students in other majors (or undeclared status) can apply directly to the Architecture or Design majors while taking foundations level studios, subject to portfolio review.
4. External transfer students with strong visual arts backgrounds can apply directly to the major when applying to the University, subject to portfolio review.

## Curriculum

The Architecture and Design majors will require the following core courses applicable to every student (courses carry the ARCH-DES designation unless otherwise noted):

- Lower Division General Education as required by the University. Some courses in the major will count toward General Education requirements.
- Math/Physics: 2 courses
  - MATH 127 Calculus for Life & Social Sciences I
  - PHYS 131 Physics I
- Foundations: 4 courses
  - ART 110 Basic Studio/Drawing
  - ART 120 Drawing Composition
  - ART 131 Two Dimensional Design I
  - ART 142 Three Dimensional Design I
  - Other 100 and 200 level studios approved by the Program
- Design/Graphics: 5 courses
  - 300 Design I (4 cr)
  - 301 Design II (4 cr)
  - 400 Design III (4 cr)
  - 540 Analysis and Representation I
  - 541 Analysis and Representation II
- History/Theory: 2 courses
  - One survey course (ART-HIST 100, 110, or 115)
  - ART-HIST 118 [History of Architecture and the Built Environment](#)
- Upper Division General Education: 2 courses
  - 370 Junior Year Writing
  - 401 Design IV (5 cr)—Integrative Experience
- Directed Electives: minimum 9 credits
  - Courses in related fields (such as Art, Art-Ed, Art-Hist, BCT, CE-Engin, EnvirDes, Geo-Sciences, LandArch, PlSoilIn, PubHlth, RegionPl, ResEcon) developed in consultation with and approved by the faculty advisor.

The Architecture major will require the following additional courses:

- Design/Graphics: 1 course
  - 403 Design V (6 cr) –or–
  - 404 Design VI (6 cr)
- History/Theory: 1 courses
  - ART-HIST 343 20th Century Architecture
- Technology: 2 courses
  - BCT 211 Energy Efficient Housing
  - BCT 313 Principles of Light Frame Structure Technology

The Design major will require the following additional courses:

- **Design/Graphics: 1 course**  
One advanced Art, Arch-Des, LandArch studio (not otherwise required)
- **History/Theory: 1 course**  
One history/theory course approved by the Program
- **Technology: 1 course from the following list**  
Any BCT course  
510 Furniture Design and Technology

#### Other Requirements of the Majors

##### 1. GPA

In the Architecture major, students must earn an overall GPA of 3.000 in courses required for the major. In the Design major, students must earn an overall GPA of 2.000 in courses required for the major.

##### 2. Computers

Students are required to provide their own laptop computers and software, to specifications provided by Program, for all ARCH-DES design and graphics classes.

#### INFORMATION REQUIRED BY BOARD OF HIGHER EDUCATION

Please note that this is a name change that would result in the titling an existing concentration in an accredited program. Per Massachusetts Board of Higher Education (BHE) rules, this is an “academic program change”, rather than a new program.

Per the BHE,

“In submitting a name change request that would result in titling an existing concentration in an accredited program as a degree, provide program enrollment, graduation, and alumni outcome data for the preceding three years, a copy of the accreditation review report received within the preceding three years, and the most recent accreditation status letter from an accrediting body that is a member of the Association of Specialized and Professional Accreditors.” (BHE, AAC 07-24)


The BFA Architecture plus Master of Architecture is accredited by the National Architecture Accrediting Board, which is member of the Association of Specialized and Professional Accreditors.

BFA Architecture* Both concentrations	08-09	09-10	10-11
Enrollment	113	113	116
Graduation	38	36	42
Alumni Outcome	50% work 40% grad school 10% other	55% work 35% grad school 20% other	45% work 35% grad school 25% other

Most recent accreditation status report

[http://www.naab.org/documents/home\\_origin.aspx?path=Public+Documents%5cAccreditation%5c2010+Visiting+Team+Reports](http://www.naab.org/documents/home_origin.aspx?path=Public+Documents%5cAccreditation%5c2010+Visiting+Team+Reports)

## Most recent accreditation status letter



National Architectural Accrediting Board

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### Architecture Programs

#### University of Massachusetts Amherst

Fine Arts Center  
<http://www.umass.edu/architecture/>

University of Massachusetts Amherst  
Department of Art, Architecture & Art History  
Fine Arts Center, Room 457  
Amherst, MA 01003-9330

413.577.0943 (tel)  
413.545.3929 (fax)

#### Contact Information

Stephen D. Schreiber, FAIA  
Director

#### Accreditation Information

Degree	Master of Architecture
Track	M. Arch. (Undergraduate degree + 57 graduate credit hours)
Next Visit	2016
History	Accredited since 2007.

Track	M. Arch. (Undergraduate degree + 87 graduate credit hours)
Next Visit	2016
History	Accredited since 2007.

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National Architectural Accrediting Board, Inc. 1735 New York Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20006