

**UNIVERSITY OF MASSACHUSETTS AMHERST
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
THE FACULTY SENATE**

PROGRAM REVISION APPROVAL FORM

50 COPIES REQUIRED

PROGRAM TITLE: Revisions to BFA Design Program

PLEASE CHECK: GRADUATE UNDERGRADUATE

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

SCHOOL OR COLLEGE: Humanities and Fine Arts **DEAN:** Joel Martin

Submission Date: 9/11/09

Proposed Starting Date: 1/1/10

I. PROPOSAL DEVELOPMENT

A. Describe the Proposal.

The Department of Art, Architecture, and Art History proposes to revise its BFA Design program by:

1. Changing the current Architectural Studies track of the BFA Design major to "BFA Architecture"
2. Changing the current Interior Design track of the BFA Design major to "BA Design"
3. Clarifying application and admission procedures for both majors.
4. Specifying required courses in the curricula for both majors.
5. Clarifying other requirements of the majors.

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

During the 2007-08 academic year, the Architecture + Design Program of the Department of Art, Architecture, and Art History developed this proposal to change the structure and nomenclature of the BFA Design program. The proposal reorganizes and streamlines existing tracks, taking into account student learning outcomes. The revisions will also 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.

The proposal was also developed in consultation with the College of Humanities and Fine Arts curriculum committee in 2009.

II. PURPOSE AND GOALS

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

The BFA Design program has evolved into two distinct majors: Architecture (a pre-professional program), and Design (a more general program). The curricular revisions and name changes reflect that reality and the new mission of the Architecture + Design Program in the Department. Other requirements, such as revised admissions procedures, reflect the practices of peer institutions.

Please see the attached document

Proposal to Revise the BFA Design Major

Overview

The Department of Art, Architecture, and Art History proposes to revise its BFA Design program by:

1. Changing the current Architectural Studies track of the BFA Design to "BFA Architecture"
2. Changing the current Interior Design track of the BFA Design to "BA Design"
3. Clarifying application and admission procedures for both majors.
4. Specifying required courses in the curricula for both majors.
5. Clarifying other requirements of the majors.

The Proposal

Introduction

During the 2007-09 academic years, the Architecture + Design Program of the Department of Art, Architecture, and Art History developed this proposal to change the structure and nomenclature of the BFA Design program. 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. Note that the University has not approved changes to the BFA Design major since the mid 1970s. In the ensuing three decades a number of ad hoc practices (e.g. regarding admissions) have been adopted. This proposal seeks to formalize those practices.

Names of Majors

The BFA Design program has evolved into two distinct majors: Architecture (a pre-professional program), and Design (a more general program). The curricular revisions and name changes reflect that reality and the new mission of the Architecture + Design Program in the Department. Other requirements, such as revised admissions procedures, reflect the practices of peer institutions.

The BFA Design major (Architectural Studies track) serves as a four-year component of the 4 + 2 professional Master of Architecture, which is now fully accredited by the National Architecture Accrediting Board. The change will enable our graduates to appropriately qualify for admission to other two-year Master of Architecture programs where a four-year degree in "Architecture" is a prerequisite.

Virtually all 60 or so pre-professional degrees in architecture in the United States that are part of an accredited 4 + 2 Master of Architecture include the word "Architecture." The most common are "BS Architecture," "BA Architecture," and "BFA Architecture." Schools offering the BFA Architecture as a pre-professional degree include Parsons, Rhode Island School of Design, and the University of Memphis.

Undergraduate courses already use the ARCH-DES prefix (for Architecture + Design). No change is necessary.

Names of Tracks

The names of the two tracks will be changed from “Architectural Studies” and “Interior Design” to majors: “Architecture” and “Design.” The changes are intended to:

1. Conform to discipline standards for nomenclature of undergraduate Architecture programs.
2. Remove the word “Interior” from “Interior Design.” [The use of the term “Interior Design” is typically restricted to professional programs in that field.]
3. Establish programs that are similar to those in Studios Arts—a BFA program, with a concentrated focus, and a BA program, with a more general scope.

The BFA Architecture major will be intended for students who plan to pursue a professional graduate degree in architecture. It requires more courses in architecture studios, architectural history, and technology, and more directed electives related to design.

The BA Design major will be 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. Because it has fewer requirements, it will also allow students to double major.

Application and Admission Procedures

Admission to the Architecture and Design majors will require successful portfolio reviews in addition to fulfillment of the standard University admission requirements. The Program proposes the following changes in admission policy:

1. High school seniors with exceptional visual arts backgrounds can apply directly to the Architecture and Design majors when they apply for admission to the University, subject to portfolio review.
2. UMass students in other majors (or undeclared status) can apply directly to the Architecture and Design majors while taking foundations level studios and art history surveys, subject to portfolio review.
3. 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):

- General Education as required by the University. Some courses in the major will count toward General Education requirements.
- Math/Physics: 3 courses
 - MATH 104 Algebra/Analytic Geometry/Trig
 - MATH 127 Calculus for Life & Social Sciences I
 - PHYS 131/133 Physics I plus Lab
- Foundations: Choose 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: 6 courses
 - 300 Design I (4 cr)
 - 301 Design II (4 cr)
 - 400 Design III (4 cr)
 - 401 Design IV (4 cr)
 - 540 Analysis and Representation I
 - 541 Analysis and Representation II
- History/Theory: 3 courses
 - One survey course (ART-HIST 100, 110, or 115)
 - ART-HIST 191A Introduction to Architecture
 - 370 Junior Year Writing

The **Architecture major** will require the following additional courses:

- Design/Graphics: 1 course
 - 403 Design V (4 cr) —or—
 - 404 Design VI (6 cr)
- History/Theory: 2 courses
 - ART-HIST 343 20th Century Architecture
 - Additional architecture history course approved by the advisor
- Technology: 2 courses
 - BMATWT 211 Energy Efficient Housing
 - BMATWT 313 Principles of Light Frame Structure Technology
- Directed electives: minimum 9 credits
 - Courses in architecture related fields developed in consultation with and approved by the faculty adviser.

The **Design major** will require the following additional courses:

- Design/Graphics: 1 course
 - 403 Design V (4 cr)
- History/Theory: 1 course
 - Design history course approved by the advisor
- Technology: 1 course from the following list
 - BMATWT 211 Energy Efficient Housing
 - BMATWT 313 Principles of Light Frame Structure Technology
 - 510 Furniture Design and Technology
- Directed Electives: minimum 9 credits
 - Courses in design related fields developed in consultation with and approved by the faculty adviser.

Other Requirements of the Major

1. Grades

Majors must earn a C or better in all courses with ART, ARCH-DES, and ART-HIST prefixes.

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.