

# **SELECTING AN UNIVERSITY PROGRAM**



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# BECOMING AN ARCHITECT



## THE THREE Es

### Education (5 - 8 years)

- 123 Schools in U.S. and Canada
- Student Performance Criteria (NAAB)
- Accredited Professional Degree (NAAB)

### Experience (3 - 5 years)

- Intern Development Program (IDP)

### Exam (1 - 3 years)

- Architect Registration Exam (ARE)

## **TOTAL (9 – 16 years)**

# NAAB STUDENT PERFORMANCE CRITERIA

## Critical Thinking and Representation

- Communication Skills
- Design Thinking Skills
- Visual Communication Skills
- Technical Documentation
- Investigative Skills
- Fundamental Design Skills
- Use of Precedents
- Ordering Systems Skills
- Historical Traditions & Global Culture
- Cultural Diversity
- Applied Research

## Integrated Building Practices, Technical Skills and Knowledge

- Pre-Design
- Accessibility
- Sustainability
- Life Safety
- Comprehensive Design
- Financial Considerations
- Environmental Systems
- Structural Systems
- Building Envelope Systems
- Building Materials & Assemblies

## Leadership and Practice

- Collaboration
- Human Behavior
- Client Role in Architecture
- Project Management
- Practice Management
- Leadership
- Legal Responsibilities
- Ethics & Professional Judgment
- Community and Social Responsibility

■ Source: NAAB 2009 Conditions

# DECISION-MAKING PROCESS



When choosing the institution where you will pursue your degree, strongly consider the following:

- As appropriate, ensure that the degree program is accredited
- Understand the different routes to a professional degree
- Identify, learn and understand the typical coursework
- Determine the criteria by which you will make the decision

# EDUCATION: DEGREE PROGRAMS



Bachelor of Architecture (5 years)

- 55 Programs in U.S./Canada

Pre-professional (B.S.) (4 years) and Professional Master of Architecture (2 years) (Total = 6 years)


- 70 Programs in U.S./Canada

Undergraduate Degree (B.A./B.S. 4 years) in field other than architecture and Master of Architecture (2 years) (Total = 7 - 8 years)

- 65 Programs in U.S./Canada

Doctor of Architecture (7 years - UHawaii only)

# EDUCATION: CURRICULUM



- Design Studio
- Structures
- Systems
- Graphics/Drawing
- Architectural History
- General Education
- Computer
- Site Planning
- Professional Practice
- Programming
- Architectural Electives

# ATTRIBUTES: YOU



## Level of Confidence

- How confident are you in your choice to pursue architecture?

## Personality Type

- What type of person are you?

## Closeness to Home

- How close to home do you wish to be?

## Budget

- What is your budget?

## Art vs. Science

- Are you art or science orientated?

# ATTRIBUTES: INSTITUTION



## Type of School

- University, Four year college, polytechnic institution, community college

## Locale

- Rural vs. Urban

## Institution Size

## Public vs. Private

## Cost

- Advertised cost vs. what you actually pay

## Financial Aid/Scholarships

# ATTRIBUTES: ACADEMIC UNIT



- Degree(s) offered
- Academic Structure - Own academic unit or with other departments
- Philosophy/Approach
- Reputation/Tradition
- Enrollment - How many students? Faculty/Student Ratio
- Academic Resources (Facilities)
- Special Programs - Study Abroad, Lecture series, Co-op
- Faculty - Who are they?
- Student Body - Who are they?
- Career Programs - How do they help you gain experience?
- Postgraduate Plans - Where do graduates go?

# DECISION-MAKING PROCESS



Review attributes and narrow complete list of accredited programs based on selected criteria.

Contact both **school** and **academic unit** to request information.

Review materials and narrow down list of schools through campus visits, meetings with students/alumni, websites.

Proceed with application process of narrowed list.

Make an informed decision based on complete information including financial aid.

After enrolled, review decision and verify fit with school.

# RESOURCES: DEGREE PROGRAMS



- Promotional materials, videos, catalogs, websites, etc.
- Guide to Architecture Schools – ACSA
  - [www.archschools.org](http://www.archschools.org)
- National Architectural Accrediting Board – [www.naab.org](http://www.naab.org)
- Council for Interior Design Accreditation – [www.accredit-id.org/](http://www.accredit-id.org/)
- Landscape Architecture Accreditation Council -  
[www.asla.org/schools.aspx](http://www.asla.org/schools.aspx)
- American Council for Construction Education (ACCE) -  
[www.acce-hq.org](http://www.acce-hq.org)
- Campus Visits - Overnight
- Admission Counselors / Administrator
- Students / Alumni / Professionals

# RANKINGS OF PROGRAMS: CAUTION



No ranking of architecture programs, beyond their accreditation status, is attempted or advocated by any of the associations involved with architectural education. Qualities that make one school good for one student may not be as important to another. You should consider a variety of criteria in making your choice among schools.

**DesignIntelligence** ([www.di.net](http://www.di.net)) attempts to assess the best programs by asking practitioners. The report provides valuable information but it urges critical evaluation of research results.

# RESOURCE: CAREER

## Books

- Becoming an Architect: 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition (Waldrep, 2010)
- Becoming a Landscape Architect (Foster, 2009)
- Becoming an Interior Designer: 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition (Piotrowski, 2008)
- Construction Management Jumpstart, 2<sup>nd</sup> Ed. (Jackson, 2010)



# RESOURCES: CAREER

## Professional Associations

- American Institute of Architects (AIA) – [www.aia.org](http://www.aia.org)
- American Society of Interior Designers – [www.asid.org](http://www.asid.org)
- American Society of Landscape Architects – [www.asla.org](http://www.asla.org)
- Construction Management Assn. of America - [www.cmaanet.org](http://www.cmaanet.org)
- American Institute of Architecture Students (AIAS) – [www.aias.org](http://www.aias.org)

## Website

- ARCHCareers -- [www.archcareers.org](http://www.archcareers.org)
- Careers in Interior Design – [www.careersininteriordesign.org](http://www.careersininteriordesign.org)

[www.ARCHCareers.org](http://www.ARCHCareers.org)

Gateway to process of becoming an architect

**ARCHcareers.org**

- Intro to Architecture
- Architecture Education
- Internship & Experience
- Examination & Licensure
- Professional Development
- Resources

**Education Experience Examination**

Welcome to ARCHcareers.org, a gateway that will introduce you to the steps in becoming an architect. The "Three E's" of architecture will be your guide. They are: Education, Experience and Examination. Whether you are a high school student, a parent, a university student or an intern, these are the three core principles of the architecture profession. This Web site will give you an overview to the varied and diverse paths to a career in architecture.

If you cannot find the answers to all of your questions here, you can write to [Dr. Architecture](#) for a personal response.

Much of this information is specific to the requirements and opportunities in the United States but may be applicable in other countries which have similar educational and licensure systems, such as Canada, Mexico and the United Kingdom.

ARCHcareers.org is a resource of:

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# Careers in Interior Design

[What is an Interior Designer](#) | [Practice](#) | [Stages of Career](#) | [Professional Associations](#) | [Getting Involved](#) | [FAQs](#) | [Home](#)

## Thinking of a career in INTERIOR DESIGN?



- Do you have an interest in physical spaces? When you are in a space do you tend to take notice of your surroundings?
- Do you frequently make suggestions on how to improve your home surroundings, or do you like to design or redesign your personal space?
- Can you some day see yourself as the person responsible for redesigning the interior of your school, your favorite restaurant or nightspot, or a clothing store?
- Are you creative or artistic?
- Do you work well in teams to solve problems and overcome challenges?

If you answered YES to one or more of these questions, then [CLICK HERE](#) to learn more about a career in interior design, a challenging and rewarding career that directly affects the health, safety and well being of those who occupy the spaces that interior designers create.

## Education

### CAREER DISCOVERY

So what's it like to work as landscape architect and how do you become one? This Career Discovery page answers those questions, and more. It contains stories about and interviews with landscape architects; videos, illustrations and text showcasing brilliant landscape architecture projects; links to Bureau of Labor Statistics data on the profession; results of ASLA's annual graduating student surveys; information on educational programs and schools; plus introductory materials such as a PowerPoint presentation on the profession, a downloadable brochure, a graphic-novel-like telling of the landscape architecture story, and even a coloring book for the younger set. Begin the journey!

*U.S. News & World Report* named landscape architecture among the best career choices for 2010. Check out [Career Discovery activities](#) that teach about the profession. Also visit the Landscape Architecture pages on [CollegeMajors101](#). Facts, figures, info, and video. It's FREE! And here's what [Iowa Public Television](#) has to say about the profession.

And this just in! Matt Busa, a graduate student in landscape architecture at the University of Maryland, hosted a [one-hour presentation and question-and-answer webinar March 25 on CollegeWeekLive](#). Some 150 students attended...now you can, too. Watch the stream of his talk and learn more about landscape architecture.

### Landscape Architecture – It's All Around You

Look at your community. How did the parks, residential developments, campuses, shopping centers, gardens, transportation facilities, corporate and institutional take shape? Planning, designing, and land-use management is the work of landscape architects. Interested in the environment and art?



### ASLA's 2010 Graduating Student Survey

Each year ASLA conducts a survey of students graduating with undergraduate and graduate degrees in landscape architecture. See the [2010 results](#), or [full archive](#).



### EDUCATION

- > [Career Discovery](#)
- [Schools](#)
- [LA Students](#)
- [LARE Prep](#)
- [Accreditation and LAAB](#)
- [Continuing Education](#)
- [LA CES](#)

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