

Architectural Studies and Design, BS (Boston)

The combined major in architectural studies and design integrates the study of architecture with the practice of understanding humans, their surrounding contexts and systems, and designing alternative futures. Students pursue a flexible curriculum focused on key contemporary topics related to the built environment to actively pursue meaningful goals with a holistic and integrative approach to understanding principles and systems of perception, communication, and action.

Students are offered several options for the study of design: experience design, a holistic and integrative approach that focuses on the quality of the human experience in concrete situations; graphic design, the integration of text and image to communicate critical concepts; information design, the visualization and physicalization of data to enhance human understanding of complex knowledge; or interaction design, the creation of navigable interfaces and systems that allow audiences to take an active role to achieve meaningful goals.

Program Requirements

Complete all courses listed below unless otherwise indicated. Also complete any corequisite labs, recitations, clinicals, or tools courses where specified and complete any additional courses needed beyond specific college and major requirements to satisfy graduation credit requirements.

Universitywide Requirements

All undergraduate students are required to complete the Universitywide Requirements (<https://catalog.northeastern.edu/undergraduate/university-academics/university-wide-requirements/>).

NUPath Requirements

All undergraduate students are required to complete the NUPath Requirements (<https://catalog.northeastern.edu/undergraduate/university-academics/nupath/>).

NUPath attributes Engaging with the Natural and Designed World (ND), Exploring Creative Expression and Innovation (EI), Interpreting Culture (IC), Analyzing and Using Data (AD), and Engaging Differences and Diversity (DD) are met through the major course requirements.

In order to graduate, students must complete Formal and Quantitative Reasoning (FQ) and Ethical Reasoning (ER) in their electives.

*Note: Students who wish to be eligible for the two-year Master of Architecture degree should take the following courses: Architectonic Systems (ARCH 2240), Architecture, Infrastructure, and the City (ARCH 3170), Structural Systems (ARCH 5230), along with calculus and physics.

Architectural Studies Courses

Code	Title	Hours
Required Courses		
ARCH 1110	Fundamental Architectural Representation	4
ARCH 1120	Fundamental Architectural Design	6
ARCH 1310 and ARCH 1311	Buildings and Cities, A Global History and Recitation for ARCH 1310	4
ARCH 2130	Site, Space, Program	6
ARCH 2260	Introduction to Building Systems	4
ARCH 3450	Advanced Architectural Communication	4
Architecture History Elective		
Students must complete at least one ARCH 2300-level history course.		4
Electives		
Complete two of the following:		8
ARCH 1450	Understanding Design	
ARCH 2140	Urban Housing	
ARCH 2370	Topics in Architectural History	
Any second ARCH 2300-level history course		
ARCH 3351	Architecture Topics Abroad: Theory	
ARCH 3352	Architecture Topics Abroad: Drawing	
ARCH 3370	Advanced Topics in Architectural History	
ARCH 4850	Urban and Architectural History Abroad	
ARCH 5310	Design Tactics and Operations	

Design Requirements

Code	Title	Hours
Art + Design Fundamentals		
ARTF 1220	Elements of Visual Composition (with optional ARTF 1221)	2
Art + Design Fundamentals Elective		
Complete three of the following:		6
ARTF 1200	Representational Drawing	
ARTF 1210	Abstract Drawing	
ARTF 1230 and ARTF 1231	Making with Form and Materials and Making with Form and Materials Tools	
ARTF 1240 and ARTF 1241	Making with Video, Sound, and Animation and Making with Video, Sound, and Animation Tools	
ARTF 1250 and ARTF 1251	Designing Interactive Experiences and Designing Interactive Experiences Tools	
Design Required		
ARTG 1001 and ARTG 1002	Design Perspectives: An Introduction to Design in the World and Seminar for Design Perspectives	4
ARTG 1270 and ARTG 1271	Design: Process + Practices and Studio for Design: Process + Practices	4
ARTG 1290 and ARTG 1291	Typographic Systems and Studio for Typographic Systems	4
Design Elective		
Complete any one ARTG course as long as prerequisites have been met and course has not been used to fulfill other requirements of the program. ¹		4
Art + Design History Elective		
Complete any one ARTH course. ARTH 1001 Visual Intelligence and ARTH 1002 Seminar in Visual Intelligence is recommended to fulfill this requirement.		4
Art + Design Elective		
Complete any one ARTD, ARTE, ARTG, ARTH, ARTS, or GAME course as long as prerequisites have been met.		4
If ARTG 5000 Topics in Design (or any other topics course in the subjects listed above) is completed more than once, the additional completions may be allowed toward the electives.		
Degree Capstone Project		
ARTG 4550	Design Degree Project	4

¹ Successful completion of *both* Prototyping with Code (ARTG 2262) and Lab for Lab for ARTG 2262 (ARTG 2263) may satisfy this requirement.

Design Option

Code	Title	Hours
Complete one of the following options:		8
Experience Design Option		
ARTG 3462	Experience Design Principles	
ARTG 3464	Topics In Experience Design Inquiry	
Graphic Design Option		
ARTG 2252	Graphic Design Principles	
ARTG 3452	Topics In Graphic Design Inquiry	
Information Design Option		
ARTG 2242	Information Design Principles	
ARTG 3444	Topics in Information Design Inquiry	
Interaction Design Option		
ARTG 2400	Interaction Design Principles (with optional ARTG 2401)	
ARTG 3400	Topics In Interaction Design Inquiry	

Integrative Requirement

Code	Title	Hours
The following course is already required in the major:		
ARTG 4550	Design Degree Project	4

Major Credit Requirement

Complete 88 semester hours for the major.

Program Requirement

132 total semester hours required

Plan of Study**Sample Plan of Study: Four Years, Two Co-ops in Summer 2/Fall**

Year 1							
Fall	Hours	Spring	Hours	Summer 1	Hours	Summer 2	Hours
ARCH 1310 and ARCH 1311		4 ARCH 1110		4 ARTF elective		2 Vacation	
ARTF 1000 or ARCH 1000		1 ARCH 1120		6 ARTF elective		2	
ARTF 1220 (with optional ARTF 1221)		2 ARTG 1270 and ARTG 1271		4 Elective		4	
ARTF elective		2 ARCH history elective		4			
ARTG 1001 and ARTG 1002		4					
ENGW 1111		4					
	17		18		8		0
Year 2							
Fall	Hours	Spring	Hours	Summer 1	Hours	Summer 2	Hours
ARCH 2130		6 ARCH 2340 and ARCH 2341		4 Elective		4 Co-op	0
ARCH 2260		4 ARCH 3450		4 Elective		4	
ARTG 1290 and ARTG 1291		4 EEAM 2000		1			
ARCH elective		4 ARTH elective		4			
		Design option level 1		4			
	18		17		8		0
Year 3							
Fall	Hours	Spring	Hours	Summer 1	Hours	Summer 2	Hours
Co-op		0 ARCH elective		4 Elective		4 Co-op	0
ENGW 3314 or 3302 (online)		4 A+D elective		4 Elective		4	
		Design option level 2		4			
		Elective		4			
	4		16		8		0
Year 4							
Fall	Hours	Spring	Hours				
Co-op		0 ARTG 4550		4			
Elective (online)		4 ARCH elective		4			
		Design elective		4			
		Elective		4			
	4		16				

Total Hours: 134