Urban Architecture & Community Planning

Overview

The University of the District of Columbia (UDC) program educates the next generation of architects, with an emphasis on preparing them to make a significant impact on the sustainable infrastructure and urban sustainability initiatives of the District of Columbia and urban areas around the world. The Urban Architecture & Community Planning program is part of UDC's College of Agriculture, Urban Sustainability and Environmental Sciences (CAUSES), whose mission includes offering research-based academic programs to improve the quality of life of people in communities across the globe. As the only architecture program in the nation housed within a college of agriculture, we harness the potential afforded by the interdisciplinary nature of our college to provide a rich learning environment that is full of experiential learning opportunities.

UNIVERSITY OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE, URBAN SUSTAINABILITY AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES

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STATEMENT OF ACCREDITATION
In the United States, most state registration boards require a degree from an accredited professional degree program as a prerequisite for licensure. The National Architectural Accrediting Board (NAAB), which is the sole agency authorized to accredit U.S. professional degree programs in architecture offered by institutions with U.S. regional accreditation, recognizes three types of degrees: the Bachelor of Architecture, the Master of Architecture, and the Doctor of Architecture. A program may be granted an eight-year, three-year, or two-year term of accreditation, depending on the extent of its conformance with established educational standards.

Doctor of Architecture and Master of Architecture degree programs may require a preprofessional undergraduate degree in architecture for admission. However, the preprofessional degree is not, by itself, recognized as an accredited degree. The University of the District of Columbia, Department of Architecture and Urban Sustainability, offers the following

NAAB-accredited degree program:
» M. Arch. (pre-professional degree + 49 graduate credits)
» M. Arch. (non-professional degree + 85 graduate credits)
» Next accreditation visit for all programs: 2020

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» **Bachelor of Science in Architecture**
» **Master of Architecture**

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Programs

Both our undergraduate and graduate programs provide opportunities for students to engage in research-based academic collaborations with a variety of partners in the health professions, nutrition science, environmental studies, water resource management, agriculture and Cooperative Extension Services. Students experience a research and community service agenda that utilizes the University's human resources and capital assets to support the District of Columbia's mission of providing affordable and energy efficient shelter to its citizens. These degrees develop student competencies that are expected of graduates who seek architectural and urban planning jobs.

Learning Objectives

⚙ Demonstrate effective critical thinking and communication skills, including: the ability to build abstract relationships; an understanding of the impact of ideas based on the study and analysis of multiple contexts; and the ability to use a diverse range of skills to create and convey architectural ideas.

⚙ Demonstrate the ability to comprehend and apply both the technical aspects and the environmental impacts of design, building systems, and building materials.

⚙ Demonstrate the ability to synthesize a wide range of variables into an integrated design solution.

⚙ Demonstrate an understanding of the business principles required for the practice of architecture, and the critical role of the architect in the advocacy and service to underserved populations.

Curriculum

Both our Bachelor of Science in Architecture (B.S. Arch.) and Master of Architecture (M. Arch.) programs stress the importance design as a tool for creating sustainable urban environments through research-based academic collaborations. A major focus is the relationship between architecture and urban agriculture, as we strive to provide leading-edge ideas on farming and food security in urbanized areas.

The Bachelor of Science in Architecture degree is a four-year program and requires 120 credit hours. Students may opt for a concentration in urban sustainability, which includes 12 credits of environmental science courses.

The Master of Architecture program includes coursework, research and a thesis submission. The program requires 85 credit hours (Track II). Students with a pre-professional degree in architecture are granted advanced standing, and may be able to complete the program (Track I) in 49 credit hours. Entering students are evaluated individually to determine their specific program of study.

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