



COLLEGE OF
**Architecture &
Urban Studies**

WHETHER you want to design buildings, industrial products, or interiors; explore studio and graphic arts; plan parks and pedestrian-friendly streetscapes; manage construction projects; direct public or non-profit organization programs; or manage cities, the College of Architecture and Urban Studies (CAUS) challenges you with a broad range of educational experiences that will help you develop into a highly sought-after professional.

The School of Architecture + Design has been recognized as one of America's World-Class Schools of Architecture with highest distinction, tied with Harvard, Yale, and Columbia Universities. The multidimensional ranking by Design Intelligence, the only national college ranking survey focused exclusively on design, is based on five criteria: current rankings by professional practices; historic 10-year rankings by professional practices; rankings by academic department deans and chairs; overall campus environment and student evaluations; and program accreditation. The individual programs within the School of Architecture + Design were also nationally ranked by Design Intelligence: undergraduate architecture, #2 (#4 for analysis and planning, #2 for communication skills; #2 for computer applications, #3 for construction methods and materials and #2 for design); graduate architecture, #6; undergraduate industrial design, #13 of 47 programs; undergraduate interior design, #9 of 148 programs; and graduate interior design, #6. In the School of Public and International Affairs, U.S. News and World Report ranks undergraduate public affairs #27 in the nation.

The programs within the college are diverse, yet they share a common goal—to prepare students to engage in and manage the human environment through the processes of art, design, construction, policy-making, planning, and management.

Students who wish to combine degree options within the college, or with related disciplines in the university, are encouraged to create a program of study best suited to their individual interests.

Majors:

- architecture
- art history
- building construction
- environmental policy and planning
- industrial design
- interior design
- landscape architecture
- public and urban affairs
- studio art
- visual communication
(graphic) design

HIGH SCHOOL PREPARATION & ADMISSION TO THE COLLEGE

A challenging college preparatory curriculum is your foundation for success in the College of Architecture and Urban Studies. Specifically, you must present a minimum of 18 units, and the breakdown of preferred courses depends on the individual program. Four units of English is a standard requirement. The university requires three units of math (including algebra II and geometry), but CAUS strongly recommends an additional unit of higher math. For building construction students, four units of math are required. Two units of social sciences (including history) are required, and

additional units are preferred for students majoring in public and urban affairs. Two units of lab science (chosen from biology, chemistry, or physics) are sufficient for most majors, but additional natural science courses, particularly in biology, are recommended for landscape architecture. The completion of two or three units in a foreign or classical language is recommended.

Architecture, interior design, industrial design, and landscape architecture (known as School of Architecture + Design majors) are highly competitive, restricted majors, and admission into the programs

is a demanding process, both at entrance from high school and as a transfer student.

Freshman applicants enrolled in a rigorous high school academic curriculum with a solid A average and a combined SAT (critical reading and math) score of 1200 or better or an ACT score of 26 or higher will be given preference in the admissions review process.

Transfer applicants have limited space in the School of Architecture + Design majors. Competitive transfer applicants will present A averages on all college-level work to be considered.

CURRICULUM & OPPORTUNITIES

The College of Architecture and Urban Studies offers ten undergraduate degrees: architecture, industrial design, interior design, studio art, art history, visual communication (graphic) design, building construction, landscape architecture, public and urban affairs, and environmental policy and planning. Both architecture and landscape architecture

are five-year professional programs.

In addition to on-campus programs, the college also provides opportunities for students to study in urban and foreign settings. The National Capital Region facilities in Alexandria, Va., including the Washington-Alexandria Center for Architecture, are ideal for students interested in urban issues.

The Center for European Studies and Architecture, located in the village of Riva San Vitale in southern Switzerland, provides perspective on culture and its influence on the way we plan, design, and build. Many other international travel programs also exist for students.



Explore, Learn
www.vt.edu

Programs of Study



ARCHITECTURE

Architecture is a combination of artistic ideals, cultural forces, and physical facts. Our studio-based curriculum provides a learning environment that cultivates vigorous dialogue and debate, intellectual discipline, and a self-motivated search for architectural values.

The pedagogical goal of the architecture program is to develop students who are creatively independent, enterprising, and inventive, who have the ability to or-

der and structure intellectual difficulties, and the skills, judgment, and desire to make lasting contributions to society.

The five-year, professional degree program in architecture is accredited by the National Architectural Accreditation Board. Upon completion of degree requirements, the student receives a bachelor of architecture degree and is prepared to enroll in the Intern Development Program (IDP) while employed by

a licensed architect. Upon completion of the IDP, an intern architect is eligible to take the Architectural Registration Exam for licensure.

The architecture program is enriched by its relationship with industrial design, interior design, and landscape architecture. Together the four programs compose the School of Architecture + Design.

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MORE INFO

BUILDING CONSTRUCTION

Accredited by the American Council for Construction Education, this program combines the technical and managerial aspects of the construction industry. The required courses focus on construction, technical competency, and business. Students are also involved in team mentoring and leadership exercises. Upon completion of the four-year,

134-credit-hour curriculum, students receive a bachelor of science in building construction.

The program offers two track options wherein students take classes in structural, mechanical/electrical systems, engineering design, construction means, methods, building materials, real estate, and land development. Required courses

also cover topics in estimating and bidding strategies, planning and scheduling, construction procedures, financing, contracts, economics, company operations, and project management.

Graduates are prepared to pursue management, supervisory, and leadership positions in construction, development, homebuilding, and facilities professions.

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MORE INFO

ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY & PLANNING

The bachelor of science in environmental policy and planning is a university-wide interdisciplinary degree focusing on one of the critical challenges facing society, managing human interaction with the natural environment while

protecting important natural systems.

Majors learn to apply the social sciences, planning, policy, the natural and physical sciences, ethics, and the humanities to environmental problem solving. In addition to receiving this grounding

in the liberal arts tradition, the curriculum provides pre-professional skills in oral and written communications, computer applications, planning and policy analysis, and problem solving to prepare students for meaningful employment.

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MORE INFO

INDUSTRIAL DESIGN

As described by the Industrial Designers Society of America, "Industrial Design (ID) is the professional service of creating and developing concepts and specifications that optimize the function, value and appearance of products and systems for the mutual benefit of both user and manufacturer.

Industrial designers develop these concepts and specifications through collection, analysis, and synthesis of data guided by the special requirements of the user, client, and manufacturer. They are trained to prepare clear and concise recommendations through drawings,

models, and verbal descriptions.

Industrial design services are often provided within the context of cooperative working relationships with other members of a development group. Typical groups include management, marketing, engineering, and manufacturing specialists. The industrial designer expresses concepts that embody all relevant design criteria determined by the group.

The industrial designer's unique contribution places emphasis on those aspects of the product or system that relate most directly to human characteristics, needs and interests. This contribu-

tion requires specialized understanding of visual, tactile, safety, and convenience criteria, with concern for the user. Education and experience in anticipating psychological, physiological, and sociological factors that influence and are perceived by the user are essential industrial design resources."

The internationally recognized program at Virginia Tech, fully accredited by the National Association of Schools of Art and Design, prepares individuals to enter this dynamic field through a rigorous curriculum and interaction with an experienced, dedicated faculty.

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MORE INFO

INTERIOR DESIGN

The interior design program offers a four-year professional degree program in interior design accredited by the National Council for Interior Design Qualification (NCIDQ). Students receive a bachelor of science in interior design, which is the first step in preparation for taking the NCIDQ exam and membership in professional organizations.

Practical studio experience builds competencies in fundamental design, materials, finishes, lighting, computer-aided design, historical interiors, professional practice, interior construction, space planning, programming, and communication skills. Most students also take field study in interior design to acquire work experience before graduation. The

program requires students to maintain a minimum grade point average to continue in the program.

Graduates obtain employment in architectural and design firms, corporations, and institutions as interior designers, space planners, and in other related design positions.

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MORE INFO



LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE

Landscape architecture encompasses the design, analysis, planning, management, and stewardship of sustainable environments. Landscape architects design and engage the landscape across a wide range of projects and scales—from garden to plaza, to park, to entire regional landscapes. Projected demand for landscape architectural services outpaces current supply, and is expected to remain strong with a growing emphasis on sustainable design.

Graduates can look forward to many employment and professional opportunities including work in private practice, multidisciplinary firms, and public agencies.

Virginia Tech offers an accredited five-year bachelor of landscape architecture degree in a highly selective program in the School of Architecture + Design. Students are educated to be independent thinkers in a program where theoretical and applied approaches to design are emphasized. Students often work with communities addressing real issues on actual sites. The studio sequence culminates in a year-long capstone project developed with a faculty advisor.

The program provides:

- » opportunities to specialize in site design, urban design, ecological design, environmental planning and design, and regional landscape planning;

- » an environment for collaborative learning with other disciplines in the School of Architecture + Design;
- » access to state-of-the-art technology and resources;
- » opportunities for education abroad in Europe and Asia;
- » opportunities for professional internships;
- » pre-professional experience through the college's Community Design Assistance Center;
- » preparation for a profession that is licensed/certified in 49 states;
- » opportunities for further study at advanced degree levels.

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PUBLIC & URBAN AFFAIRS

The bachelor of arts in public and urban affairs is an interdisciplinary social science degree with a professional focus. It offers students interested in urban issues and public policy the opportunity to study these areas within a liberal arts tradition, and also to develop pre-profes-

sional skills in planning, policy analysis, and public management. Faculty members with backgrounds in economics, environmental studies, geography, history, sociology, law, political science, planning, and engineering work together to provide students with a sound under-

standing of how communities (large and small) work, and how to facilitate positive change within them. Students may choose from five concentrations: urban planning and policy, public policy, global development, public and non-profit management, and environmental affairs.

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SCHOOL OF VISUAL ARTS

The School of Visual Arts offers degrees in three programs: art history, studio art, and visual communication design.

Art history develops the student's ability to place a work of art in its historical, cultural, social, and political contexts by giving equal weight to the development of both analytical and visual skills. While an undergraduate concentration in art history may lead directly to graduate studies and to a career in teaching and scholarly research, there are also many opportunities in museums, galleries, auction houses, and publishing companies. There is no entry portfolio requirement for art history.

Studio arts majors can choose a concentration from disciplines including creative technologies, digital art, painting,

drawing, ceramics, animation, and sculpture. The built-in flexibility of the studio curriculum encourages students to explore and develop their talents and interests. While specialization in the traditional sense is open to all majors, the school also encourages innovative approaches by exploring areas in which different media and disciplines overlap or intersect. The bachelor of fine arts in studio arts is specially addressed to students who aim to continue their education as artists at the graduate level. A required entry portfolio review determines acceptance into studio arts.

Visual communication and graphic design offers concentrations in creative technologies, visual communication design, graphic design, 3D animation, and

modeling. Students in this program develop conceptual abilities, problem solving skills, and technical know-how required by fast-paced, competitive fields. These concentrations demand individual creativity, teamwork skills, and adaptability to changing markets and technologies. Graduates are prepared for the job market with practical experience and a full, professionally reviewed portfolio and may find themselves working in print design, product and packaging design, multimedia web page design, gaming, film, or advertising design. Visual communication design is a restricted option requiring a special application, portfolio review, and completion of specific art prerequisites.

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FACULTY & FACILITIES

The main administrative building for the college is Cowgill Hall, which contains 60,000 square feet of office and studio space. Cowgill Hall is also the main administrative building for the School of Architecture + Design and the architecture and industrial design programs, and houses the Art and Architecture Library. Burchard Hall houses architecture and industrial design studios and offices. The school's programs in interior design and landscape architecture are based in Burruss Hall.

The Architecture Annex is the main administrative building for the School of Public and International

Affairs. The school's Center for Public Administration and Policy is located in the Thomas Conner House.

The Art Armory is the main administrative location for the School of Visual Arts. The school also has studio, office, and class space in Henderson Hall, Collegiate Square, the Art and Design Learning Center, Sandy Hall, Kent Square, and the Cyber Studio and the student-run XYZ Gallery, both in downtown Blacksburg.

The Department of Building Construction, which is part of the Myers-Lawson School of Construction, is located in Bishop-Favrao Hall.

Research and outreach centers include the Research and Demonstration Facility on Plantation Road and the Community Design Assistance Center on Main Street.

The college's national capital region facilities include the Washington-Alexandria Architecture Center and the Northern Virginia Center in Old Town Alexandria, Va., and the Richmond Center in Richmond, Va. The Center for European Studies and Architecture is located in Riva San Vitale, Switzerland, and is home to a permanent architecture studio.

Explore

Find all this information and more, including course catalogs, at: <http://www.vt.edu>



ARCHITECTURE & URBAN STUDIES

College & Career Opportunities

FRESHMAN CURRICULUM

Courses of study will vary greatly among majors in the College of Architecture and Urban Studies. There are certain university core requirements that all students must fulfill, usually during the first year. A typical first-year schedule follows, but please contact the academic department for further information:

1ST SEMESTER

English
Math
Science
Department-specific requirements

2ND SEMESTER

English
Math
Science
Department-specific requirements

HONORS, CO-OP, & EDUCATION ABROAD

University Honors is available to students who have either a cumulative GPA of 3.70 (as reported on the high school transcript) and a minimum SAT score of 1350 (critical reading and mathematics) or a minimum ACT composite score of 30. Current college students who have a 3.5 or higher GPA are also eligible for University Honors. For more information, visit www.univhonors.vt.edu.

Qualified students may participate in the **Professional Extern Program**. This program allows students to spend at least one semester in a professional office setting in the United States or abroad, while receiving academic credit. Students can learn more about extern and co-op opportunities at www.career.vt.edu.

The Center for European Studies and Architecture enables students

to study architecture in a European setting. For more information, visit www.oired.vt.edu/cesa/.

The college also has formal exchange agreements allowing students to study architecture, landscape architecture, or public affairs at other institutions within the United States and abroad.

STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS

In addition to the wide variety of clubs and special-interest groups available at Virginia Tech, the following curricular activities are open to students in the College of Architecture and Urban Studies:

- » American Institute of Architecture Students
 - » American Society of Landscape Architects
 - » Construction Consortium
 - » Graduate Urban Affairs & Planning Association
 - » Industrial Design Society of America
 - » Interior Designers for Education and Sustainability
 - » National Organization of Minority Architecture Students
 - » Planning, Governance, and Globalization Student Association
 - » Public Administrators of Virginia Tech
 - » Urban Affairs & Planning Student Association
 - » XYZ Student Art Association
- Honor societies include:
- » Sigma Lambda Chi
 - » Tau Sigma Delta

Contact Us

For more information about the College of Architecture and Urban Studies, please contact:

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If you have questions about admission to Virginia Tech, please contact:

Office of Undergraduate Admissions
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Web: www.vt.edu

INSIDE LOOK:

Career Opportunities

In the past decade, career opportunity growth has occurred in the state and local public sectors. Opportunities for CAUS graduates also exist in a range of private sectors and nonprofit organizations. Whatever field you choose, your degree from this college can make you very competitive in the job market. A partial list of career opportunities follows. More information is available from Career Services at www.career.vt.edu.

- » Architect
- » Artist/art historian
- » Budget analyst
- » Campus planner
- » City/town manager
- » City/town planner
- » Computer methods analyst
- » Construction manager
- » Construction site developer
- » Field engineer
- » Furniture designer
- » Graphic designer
- » Health planner
- » Historic preservationist
- » Housing developer
- » Industrial designer
- » International development manager
- » Interior designer
- » Landscape architect
- » Land use planner
- » Legislative analyst
- » Lighting designer
- » Museum curator
- » New town designer
- » Non-profit manager
- » Park designer
- » Planner
- » Policy analyst
- » Product designer
- » Program analyst
- » Project director/manager
- » Public manager
- » Real estate developer
- » Research analyst
- » Staff researcher
- » Urban planner
- » U.S. foreign service officer