PATHWAYS
TO A DEGREE IN ARCHITECTURE

1. High School Preparation
   Courses in art, design, math (algebra, trigonometry, calculus), physics and related areas

2. Bachelor of Arts (BA) in Architecture*
   4 YEARS

3. Bachelor of Arts (BA) or Bachelor of Science (BS) in an area other than Architecture
   4 YEARS

4. Bachelor of Arts (BA) or Bachelor of Science (BS) in an area other than Architecture
   4 YEARS

5. Master of Architecture (M.Arch)
   2 YEARS

6. Master of Architecture (M.Arch)
   2 YEARS

7. 3+ Master of Architecture (M.Arch)
   3 YEARS**

7 YEARS
Pathways to an Architecture Degree

If you are interested in studying architecture, there are a number of ways to begin to prepare yourself. In high school you can take courses in design, art, mathematics, computer programming, digital media and physics, to name a few. You can also participate in design and architecture summer camps. Consult our website at design.uky.edu/architecture for additional recommendations.

A degree in architecture provides you with an essential first step toward becoming a licensed practitioner. It is also an excellent foundation for a broad spectrum of career trajectories and related fields of study. The paths to becoming an architect are as diverse as the career possibilities.

**BACHELOR OF ARTS IN ARCHITECTURE (4 YEARS).** This is the shortest path to a degree, perfect for students who want to start working in the field as soon as possible or continue on to the Master of Architecture program. While a professional degree (B.Arch or M.Arch) is required for licensure, students who earn a BA can still work in the field in a wide range of positions, including visual designer, fabricator and project coordinator.

**BA IN ARCHITECTURE + MASTER OF ARCHITECTURE (6 YEARS).** This is the most direct route to professional licensure as an architect. After completing the bachelor’s, students can move directly into the M.Arch program or gain experience in the field and then return to complete their master’s when they are ready to apply for licensure.

**3+ MASTER OF ARCHITECTURE (7 YEARS).** This option is ideal for students who hold a bachelor’s degree in an area other than architecture but would like to pursue a professional architecture degree. It’s essentially a 2-year master’s program with an extra year at the beginning to prepare students for studio work and the rigorous design curriculum. Actual credit hours and course requirements for the 3+ degree may vary based on the applicant’s portfolio, transcripts and previous experience.

Becoming a licensed architect is a 3-step process. The first is education — a professional degree (B.Arch or M.Arch) is required to apply for licensure. Second is experience. Most architecture students will participate in internships or gain experience working in the field before beginning their master’s. Finally, architecture students must complete the Architect Registration Examination (ARE) before applying for a license to practice architecture. Detailed information on the examination and licensure process can be found at [www.ncarb.org](http://www.ncarb.org).
Graduate Program
Master of Architecture
Master of Architecture

The Graduate School of Architecture offers an accredited Master of Architecture, a two-year or three-year professional degree program, which qualifies graduates to pursue licensure in architecture. Applicants with NAAB accredited Bachelor of Science or Arts in Architecture may apply for advanced standing, in order to complete the graduate program within two years.

GRADUATE YEAR ONE (FOR STUDENTS WITH NON-ARCHITECTURE DEGREES)
The foundation year for graduate students from non-architectural disciplines introduces architecture culture and production. Studio/Communications corequisites build your visual communication skills, while challenging you to solve an increasingly complex series of real-world design problems. The Architectural History sequence situates the studio core within a larger historical context of modern architecture culture and ideas, while Building Technology courses introduce technical fundamentals of building construction. Students complete this year with a foundation of disciplinary expertise and an ability to apply architectural knowledge toward problem-solving in the built environment.

GRADUATE YEAR TWO
In the second year, students with undergraduate architecture degrees join the students who just completed the foundation year. Year Two focuses upon the advancement of disciplinary expertise, technical skills and applied critical thinking, with courses being taught as interdependent co-requisites. A Critical Theory seminar introduces students to contemporary ideas, challenging them to hone analytical skills and establish critical positions. Graduate students define an intellectual trajectory through their choice of seminars and electives.

Students complete this graduate year with a strong foundation of disciplinary expertise and the critical and technical skills to solve complex problems in the built environment.

GRADUATE YEAR THREE
In the final year, students deploy their knowledge, skills, and a critical intellectual position into independent projects. World-class visiting faculty teach advanced outreach-themed projects in the fall semester. The spring semester centers around the Commonwealth Studio, where students define, research and implement an independent studio project. This final year puts a strong emphasis on self-directed studies, encouraging students to recognize their own agency through the outreach and improvement of the built environment.
In partnership with the City of Louisville and Portland Investment Initiative (Pii), the UK College of Design launched its first mobile satellite studio in West Louisville in fall 2017. Through an invitation and meetings with Louisville Mayor Greg Fischer in 2016, Dean Mitzi Vernon established the inaugural studio-away experience as a mobile studio designed to integrate students into the physical and cultural environment of the project.

Operating as a studio inside the project neighborhood, students are able to engage with the residents, community organizations and other key groups to address the needs of the area. “What better opportunity to give students than a chance to sit inside a place and be a part of its reshaping, to understand the community and build inside it,” explained Dean Vernon. “This is the beginning of a dynamic relationship between Louisville and the College of Design as we move to build a studio that anchors with it historic preservation and urban design.”

Studio Louisville is directed by Associate Professor David Biagi. “The lessons these students will learn — from needs assessment to community development — give them a head start in the real-world dynamics of design,” said Biagi. Planned to have long-term impact on the communities in which it serves, Studio Louisville gives students in the College a unique approach to design thinking. “The students are really the future generation of design,” said School of Architecture Director Jeffrey Johnson. “Having been given the opportunity to explore the potential and power that design can have, that’s what’s really valuable.”

**Studio Louisville will offer courses in architecture, historic preservation and urban design.**
Commonwealth Studio

The Commonwealth Studio was born from the belief that local issues can actually have broader national and international relevance and impact. The studio tasks Master of Architecture students in their final year to seek out and define individual projects that are rooted in the challenges and opportunities within the Commonwealth of Kentucky. The studio pedagogy places emphasis on research, both in developing the project’s thesis and throughout the design process.

The Commonwealth Studio functions like a design collective where each architecture student works independently on their own project, but in a shared studio. Each project, although unique and independent, participates in a collective conversation in the studio that challenges conventional definitions of the profession and its potential impact. Throughout the semester, the students receive input from a group of architecture faculty, including those from history and theory, general architectural studies and building technologies. They are also encouraged to work with outside experts and various other stakeholders.

Each independent project in the Commonwealth Studio participates in a collective conversation that challenges conventional definitions of architecture.

The history of the UK School of Architecture is rooted in innovation through experimentation. The Commonwealth Studio is an experimental design studio that challenges the preconception that architecture is limited to solving a narrowly defined and mutually agreed upon set of relevant questions. This mindset ultimately limits our capacity as designers to fully comprehend our potential as innovators and as agents for positive change. The Commonwealth Studio, grounded in the issues and topics of Kentucky, is an effort to promote what might seem to be merely the obvious and ordinary and demonstrate its potential to inspire the ideas that will shape the vision for the future of the built environment.