



## Architectural Studies Academic Program

Program information can also be found on the webpage at <https://www.swarthmore.edu/art/architectural-studies-major>



- Major, Honors, and Honors Minor in Architectural Studies (Art Program)
- Architectural Studies Major (Art Program)

## Major, Honors, and Honors Major in Architectural Studies (Art Program)

Beginning with Sophomore Planning in January 2025, Swarthmore students may elect Architectural Studies as a major, choosing either a “studio” track within the Art Program, or a “history” track within Art History.

Students considering the Architectural Studies “studio” track should contact Sony Devabhaktuni. Students graduating in or before the spring of 2026 may continue to elect Architectural Studies as a “Special Major”.

Architectural Studies at Swarthmore focuses on the skills and methods needed to develop an architectural design project. Projects share a conception of architecture studies that aligns making, craft and materials with humanistic inquiry and social urgency. The major prepares students for graduate study in a broad range of design disciplines including architecture, landscape, urban planning, historic preservation and industrial design. The major also serves as a meaningful introduction to methods of spatial analysis and design for students interested more broadly in the role of the built environment in human experience. All students complete the program with design and critical thinking skills that can be applied to non-professional roles in design, policy, curation and beyond.

A required three-credit, year-long Senior capstone offers majors a chance to bring interdisciplinary methods to their architectural education. Over the course of the capstone, each student independently defines and develops an architectural design research agenda that draws from their broader Swarthmore experience.

Students in Architectural Studies rigorously document their work each semester design portfolio. These portfolios track a student's development through the program and become an important part of their record for graduate school applications and off-campus opportunities.

### Requirement for Admission to the Architectural Studies Major

- Completion of at least 2 courses in Architectural Studies from either the "Studio" or "History" track at Swarthmore with grades of B or better.
- Students interested in the major must take at least one ARTT course from the list below.
- Courses in the "History" track (ARTH) are also listed.

### Distribution Requirements for Completion of the Architectural Studies Major (Art Program)

The Architectural Studies (ART) major comprises 12 credits.

**Six** Pool A credits from Art and Art History; these six credits are inclusive of the 2 credits taken for admission to the major. **Three** Pool B credits from throughout the college that allow students to develop an interdisciplinary expertise that relates to their study of the built environment. **A three credit** full-year Senior Capstone; the senior capstone is an independent thesis that synthesizes a student's education at Swarthmore in a design project. Architectural Studies majors are granted individual studios in Whittier Hall, alongside other art majors, to complete their capstone.

#### Pool A Credits

Pool A credits comprise design, art and architectural history courses that introduce majors to the methods, skills, concepts and issues that are central to architectural design and practice. All architectural design classes

are "vertical studios" in which students who have never taken a design class work besides more experienced students. Peer-learning and collaborative work become an important part of the design studio. Design courses in Pool A cover a wide diversity of subjects and methods; students should make their selection in consultation with Art Program staff and based on their own interest and curiosity.

(PLEASE SEE POOL A & B COURSE TABLES AT THE END OF THIS DOCUMENT)

Students should take pool A courses with at least **three different faculty**, two of whom must be from studio-based courses.

### Pool B Credits

3 credits from pool B.

Pool B courses come from outside the Art Program and reflect the broad range of knowledge and methods that designers may be called on to synthesize in practice and research. Students are encouraged to choose Pool B credits to develop an expertise (for example, on questions of the city, on biological and material processes, or on the mechanics of movement) that can be further explored in their Senior Capstone.

NOTE: Courses listed in Pool B will vary based on course offerings. This list is not exclusive; students are encouraged to speak with their advisor to identify courses that reflect their own interdisciplinary interest.

### Senior Capstone

The 3-credit Senior Capstone comprises 2 credits in the fall (ARTT 101: Contemporary Art Practice) and 1 in the spring (ARTT 102: Senior Capstone) of the senior year. The Senior Capstone is required for all Architectural Studies Majors and cannot be fulfilled through exchange or study abroad program.

## **Architectural Studies Majors and the 20-Course Rule**

It is a college requirement that 20 of the 32 credits required for graduation must be *outside* the major. This means that students can take no more than 12 courses in the major unless they graduate with more than 32 credits, in which case the surplus can also be in the major. For Architectural Studies majors, the required one credit in art history counts within the major, but additional credits in art history count outside the major.

## **Off-Campus Study**

The Art Program strongly encourages those with an interest in art and its history to consider incorporating study abroad — either during a summer or a regular academic term — into their Swarthmore program. Important examples of art and architecture are scattered throughout the world, and the encounter with works still embedded in their original context is vital to an understanding of their historical and contemporary significance. Students who are interested in bettering their chances of gaining a full Swarthmore credit for a course taken in a foreign program are advised to meet with Sony Devabhaktuni and the chair of the Art Program before leaving the campus. Up to two credits abroad can count toward the major.

## **Academic Program Requirements for the Honors Architectural Studies Major**

Students may also elect to combine the Senior Capstone with other courses for evaluation in the college Honors program. Students graduating as an Honors major are granted a solo show in one of the List Gallery's two rooms.

Please reference Honors Major and Minor admission and completion requirements in the Honors Art section above. For further detail, please contact Sony Devabhaktuni, Assistant Professor.

**ALL PREPARATIONS FOR HONORS MUST BE APPROVED IN ADVANCE BY THE DEPARTMENT.**

## Pool A courses

ARTT006E. ARCH 2D: EXPERIMENTS IN DRAWING
ARTT006H. ARCH 2D: MAPPING AND GIS
ARTT 006E. ARCH 3D: THE ANALYTICAL MODEL
ARTT060B. ARCH 3D: FULL SCALE FABRICATION
ARTT006F. ARCH DESIGN: DWELLING AND INHABITATION
ARTT006G. ARCH DESIGN: COLLECTIVE LIVING
ARTT006I. ARCH DESIGN: CIVIC REALM/PUBLIC HOME
ARTT 006D. ARCH DESIGN: CITIES, TERRITORIES, INFRASTRUCTURE
ARTT 006A. STUDIO ARCHITECTURE I: TURNING CORNERS; DRAWING ARCH AND 3-D DESIGN
ARTT 054C. SCULPTURE AND THE ENVIRONMENT
ARTT 006A. STUDIO ARCH. I: TURNING CORNERS
ARTT 005A. SCULPTURE I: FORM, MATERIAL, PROCESS
ARTT 054D. SCULPTURE II: INSTALLATION
ARTT 054E.SCULPTURE II: METAL
ARTT 054F: SCULPTURE II: CASTING
ARTT059B. SCULPTURE III: ADVANCED SCULPTURE
ARTT 003. PAINTING I: DRAWING INTO PAINTING
ARTT 033. PAINTING II: COLOR AND STRUCTURE
ARTH 001D. FIRST-YEAR SEMINAR: ARCHITECTURE OF PHILADELPHIA
ARTH 003. ASIAN ART: PAST AND PRESENT
ARTH 028. REPLICATION IN CHINESE ART
ARTH 040: MICHELANGELO TO MUSSOLINI
ARTH 046: SOCIALLY ENGAGED ART IN THE AMERICAS
ARTH 060. BUILDING NEW WORLDS: THE ARTS AND ARCH. OF LIBERATION
ARTH 061. ART AND CULTURE OF INDIGENOUS PHILADELPHIA: FROM SHACKAMAXON TO THE PRESENT
ARTH 062. LAND ART, PLACE, AND ENVIRONMENT
ARTH 066. RACE, SPACE, AND ARCHITECTURE
ARTH 067. BUILDING ARCHITECTURE FROM DIRT TO DUST
ARTH 072. GLOBAL HISTORY OF ARCHITECTURE: PREHISTORY TO 1750 CE
ARTH 073. GLOBAL HISTORY OF ARCHITECTURE: 1800-PRESENT
ARTH 076: ART MUSEUMS: HISTORY, THEORY, CONTROVERSY
ARTH 098: INTERPRETING THE CLASSICAL TRADITION: NEOCLASSICISM & ROMANTICISM
ARTH 152: ARTS & CRAFTS AS AVANT-GARDE LABOR.
ARTH 153. MODERN ARCHITECTURE AND URBANISM: HONORS SEMINAR

## Pool B courses

ANTH 122. URBAN ETHNOGRAPHIES
ENGR 006. MECHANICS
ENGR 007. ART AND ENGINEERING OF STRUCTURES
ENGR 062. STRUCTURAL DESIGN
ENVS 001. INTRO TO ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES
ENVS 013. OUR TRASH
ENVS 047. ENVRN., CULTURAL MEMORY, AND SOCIAL CHANGE IN JAPAN
GSST 035. CRITICAL DISABILITY THEORY
HIST 056. POLICE, PRISONS, & PROTESTS
HIST 114. CITIES AND SOCIAL MOVEMENTS
JPNS 036. ENVIRONMENT, CULTURAL MEMORY, AND SOCIAL CHANGE IN JAPAN
PHIL 011. MORAL PHILOSOPHY
PHIL 012. LOGIC
PHIL 021. SOCIAL AND POLITICAL PHILOSOPHY
PHIL 047. UTOPIAS
PHIL 117. ARISTOTLE: ETHICS AND POLITICS
POLS 047. ETHICS AND ECONOMICS
PSYC 001. INTRO TO PSYCHOLOGY
PSYC 035. SOCIAL PSYCHOLOGY
SOCI 007B. INTRODUCTION TO RACE AND ETHNICITY IN THE UNITED STATES
SOCI 058C. MANUFACTURING SCARCITY: THE HOUSING CRISIS IN AMERICAN CITIES
THEA 004. SET DESIGN