



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 design-focused track within the Art Program, or an architectural history-focused track within Art History. Students considering the Architectural Studies Art Program track should contact Sony Devabhaktuni.

The Art Program's Architectural Studies track focuses on the development of architectural skills and methods including observation, drawing, model-making, mapping and photographic documentation. Semester long studios vary in scale, methods and thematic focus, but share a conception of architecture that aligns making, craft and materials with analytical thinking, humanistic inquiry and social urgency. The major prepares students for professional degrees or 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 for students interested more broadly in the role of the built environment in human experience.

A required, three-credit, year-long Senior capstone offers majors a chance to develop an architectural design that demonstrates the knowledge, skills and methods acquired during their time in the program. Students in the Art Program's Architectural Studies track rigorously document their work in design portfolios that 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.

In total, students in the studio-based concentration must complete at least 4 pool A credits focused in studio-based courses and 2 pool A credits focused in history and theory.

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.