



Proposed Changes to 2020 Conditions

The following text incorporates the changes that are being proposed to the NAAB Conditions for Accreditation

Statement on Use of B.Arch., M.Arch., and D.Arch.

P. 5, [NAAB Conditions for Accreditation, 2020 Edition](#) (excepted below)

4.2 Professional Degrees and Curriculum

The NAAB accredits professional degree programs with the following titles: the Bachelor of Architecture (B. Arch.), the Master of Architecture (M. Arch.), and the Doctor of Architecture (D. Arch.). The curricular requirements for awarding these degrees must include professional studies, general studies, and optional studies.

4.2.1 **Professional Studies.** Courses with architectural content required of all students in the NAAB-accredited program are the core of a professional degree program that leads to licensure. Knowledge from these courses is used to satisfy Condition 3—Program and Student Criteria. The degree program has the flexibility to add additional professional studies courses to address its mission or institutional context. In its documentation, the program must clearly indicate which professional courses are required for all students.

4.2.2 **General Studies.** An important component of architecture education, general studies provide basic knowledge and methodologies of the humanities, fine arts, mathematics, natural sciences, and social sciences. Programs must document how students earning an accredited degree achieve a broad, interdisciplinary understanding of human knowledge.

In most cases, the general studies requirement can be satisfied by the general education program of an institution's baccalaureate degree. Graduate programs must describe and document the criteria and process used to evaluate applicants' prior academic experience relative to this requirement. Programs accepting transfers from other institutions must document the criteria and process used to ensure that the general education requirement was covered at another institution.

4.2.3 **Optional Studies.** All professional degree programs must provide sufficient flexibility in the curriculum to allow students to develop additional expertise, either by taking additional courses offered in other academic units or departments, or by taking courses offered within the department offering the accredited program but outside the required professional studies curriculum. These courses may be configured in a variety of curricular structures, including elective offerings, concentrations, certificate programs, and minors.

For many decades, the terms B.Arch., M.Arch., and/or D.Arch. have been recognized as referring to NAAB-accredited professional degree programs that are accepted by several states as a requirement for state licensure or that facilitate obtaining state licensure. Using those terms for unaccredited programs may result in confusion on the part of the public and may be misleading to students, to prospective students, to the profession, and to other educational institutions. **To mitigate that possibility, the terms B.Arch., M.Arch., and D.Arch. are reserved for use by the institutional sponsor's NAAB-accredited architecture degree programs, except in the case where compliance with this requirement would violate state, federal, or national law.** Additionally, the institutional sponsor's unaccredited architecture degree programs must place clear statements in all relevant publications and marketing materials, electronic as well as print, that the programs are not NAAB-accredited and may not be accepted as meeting licensure requirements in many U.S. states.

The number of credit hours for each degree is outlined below. All accredited programs must conform to minimum credit-hour requirements established by the institution's regional accreditor.

- 4.2.4 **Bachelor of Architecture.** The B. Arch. degree consists of a minimum of 150 semester credit hours, or the quarter-hour equivalent, in academic coursework in general studies, professional studies, and optional studies, all of which are delivered or accounted for (either by transfer or articulation) by the institution that will grant the degree. Programs must document the required professional studies courses (course numbers, titles, and credits), the elective professional studies courses (course numbers, titles, and credits), the required number of credits for general studies and for optional studies, and the total number of credits for the degree.
- 4.2.5 **Master of Architecture.** The M. Arch. degree consists of a minimum of 168 semester credit hours, or the quarter-hour equivalent, of combined undergraduate coursework and a minimum of 30 semester credits of graduate coursework. Programs must document the required professional studies classes (course numbers, titles, and credits), the elective professional studies classes (course numbers, titles, and credits), the required number of credits for general studies and for optional studies, and the total number of credits for both the undergraduate and graduate degrees.
- 4.2.6 **Doctor of Architecture.** The D. Arch. degree consists of a minimum of 210 credits, or the quarter-hour equivalent, of combined undergraduate and graduate coursework. The D. Arch. requires a minimum of 90 graduate-level semester credit hours, or the graduate-level 135 quarter-hour equivalent, in academic coursework in professional studies and optional studies. Programs must document, for both undergraduate and graduate degrees, the required professional studies classes (course numbers, titles, and credits), the elective professional studies classes (course numbers, titles, and credits), the required number of credits for general studies and for optional studies, and the total number of credits for the degree.

Deletion of Reference to Previously Eliminated Two-Year Term of Continuing Accreditation

P. 12, [NAAB Conditions for Accreditation, 2020 Edition](#) (excepted below)

Appendix 2—Statement on NAAB-Accredited Degrees

The following statement must be included, in its entirety, in the catalogs and promotional materials, including the program's website, of all accredited programs and candidate programs.

"In the United States, most 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 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 term, an eight-year term with conditions, or a three-year term of initial accreditation, depending on the extent of its conformance with established education standards.

Doctor of Architecture and Master of Architecture degree programs may require a non-accredited undergraduate degree in architecture for admission. However, the non-accredited degree is not, by itself, recognized as an accredited degree."

That text must be followed by this information about each NAAB-accredited program:

[name of university, name of academic unit] offers the following NAAB-accredited degree program(s) (If an institution offers more than one track for an M. Arch. or D. Arch. based on the type of undergraduate/preparatory education required, please list all tracks separately):

[name of degree] (prerequisite + total number of credits required)

Programs that have been granted candidacy status must also include the following in its entirety:

“The NAAB grants candidacy status to new programs that have developed viable plans for achieving initial accreditation. Candidacy status indicates that a program expects to achieve initial accreditation within six years of achieving candidacy, if its plan is properly implemented.

In order to meet the education requirement, set forth by the National Council of Architectural Registration Boards, an applicant for an NCARB Certificate must hold a professional degree in architecture from a program accredited by the NAAB; the degree must have been awarded not more than two years prior to initial accreditation. However, meeting the education requirement for the NCARB Certificate may not be equivalent to meeting the education requirement for registration in a specific jurisdiction. Please contact NCARB for more information.”

That text must be followed by this information about each candidate program:

[name of university, name of academic unit] was granted candidacy status for the following professional degree program(s) in architecture:

[name of degree] [prerequisite + total number of credits required]

Year candidacy awarded: [year]

Next visit: Continuation of Candidacy, [year] *or* Initial Accreditation, [year]

Projected year to achieve initial accreditation: [year]

Earliest graduation date projected to meet NCARB education requirement: [year]