

Assessment Cycle: 2015

Mission Statement

Our mission is to provide graduate level education that:

- Provides a holistic design curriculum and instruction through a variety of pedagogical approaches.
- Encourages individual and collaborative discoveries.
- Emphasizes continuity between design and construction.
- Builds technical and professional proficiency.
- Offers wide ranging global learning experiences.
- Provides opportunities for engagement with diverse communities.

and for students and faculty to conduct scholarly research and creative activity that:

- Is innovative, disciplinary, and interdisciplinary.
- Advances the understanding of the built environment as it relates to society and culture.
- Contributes to theory and practice in the disciplines of architecture and urbanism.
- Is relevant to local communities.
- Advances the contemporary state of critical practice.
- Provokes (stimulates/instigates) critical discourse on architecture and urbanism.
- Explores (embraces) emerging technologies.

Our aim is to graduate professionals who will be recognized for their design excellence in enhancing the quality of the built environment.

Goal 1: Discipline Specific Knowledge and Skills

Learning Outcome

The graduate student **will resolve and develop a design concept to meaningful completion.**

Method of Assessment

The work generated in the design studio is assessed both by the studio instructor and by the faculty as a whole. The instructor sets up both progress reviews and formal final reviews of assigned architectural design or urban design projects. The work is juried by an outside panel of practicing architects, architecture professors, urban designers and planners, and by experts in the specific area of the assigned project's program. The instructor and panel of jury members will assess the design concept based on:

- 1) the development of a conceptual idea into a tangible architectural or urban design project;
- 2) the appropriateness of the design to its program and location;
- 3) the level of resolution depicting the understanding of architectural or urban space, and
- 4) the student's understanding and use of appropriate forms, technologies, and materials.

The entire faculty also reviews the progress of each student by means of two portfolio reviews that serve as gateways as the student advances through the program.

Performance Targets

All students are required to meet this requirement.

Assessment Results

Use of Assessment Results

Learning Outcome

Master of Architecture (M. Arch.) **students will develop a Master's Project (MP -- formerly thesis) that presents defensible conclusions drawn from verifiable evidence.**

Method of Assessment

In order to be eligible for the MP year, students must pass a portfolio review process. Each student submits a portfolio of project from advanced studios for review by the entire faculty. Each portfolio is assigned a pass/fail mark from each faculty. Students must accumulate at least 50% of the faculty vote to move into the MP semester. Between 85 - 100% of students pass the portfolio review,

Master's Project:

The MP chair (selected by the student) will review a draft to determine if:

- 1) the student demonstrates knowledge of the relevant issues related to the subject;
- 2) the argument presented in the thesis is well situated in the current discourse and knowledge on the subject;
- 3) the evidence presented is relevant and clearly related to the thesis topic;
- 4) the sources and citations used are appropriate and
- 5) the conclusions are justified, convincing and clearly reasoned. The student is required to revise the document based upon the feedback on these components. Following these revisions, two committee members will evaluate the thesis based on the same criteria.

Performance Targets

All students will demonstrate, in their written thesis, defensible conclusions from verifiable evidence as determined by the thesis chair and two committee members.

Assessment Results

Use of Assessment Results

Learning Outcome

The graduate student will execute a project with appropriate **craft and precision** for effective communication to a jury of academics and professionals.

Method of Assessment

The work generated in the studio is assessed both by the studio instructor and by the faculty as a whole. The instructor sets up both progress reviews and formal final reviews of assigned architectural or urban projects. The work is juried by an outside panel of practicing architects, architecture professors, urban designers and planners, and by experts in the specificities of the assigned project's program. The instructor and panel of jury members will assess the quality of documentation based on: 1) the creative use of documentation methods and materials that are appropriate to the design project and 2) the quality of craftsmanship in the drawings, models, and other modes of documentation of the design project. The entire faculty also reviews the progress of each student by means of two portfolio reviews that serve as gateways as the student advances through the program.

The school is also subject to NAAB professional accreditation on a six year cycle. It should be noted that the most recent accreditation yielded areas of distinction in design/ design communication, technical matters of technology and structures, sustainability, and urban/community design.

Performance Targets

- Measures/Levels of Expectation: all students are required to meet this requirement

Assessment Results

Use of Assessment Results

Learning Outcome

Master of Architecture (M. Arch.) **students will conceive of, execute and graphically present a design project that supports the written MP proposal.**

Method of Assessment

Master's Project: The thesis chair and committee will review the preliminary presentations of the Design Project during MP 1 and MP 2 and a final presentation at the end of each semester. MP 2 students will have a "mid-term" at the 5-6 week point of the spring term.

The MP chair will review the design project to determine if:

- 1) the design concept is derived from the research conducted by the student on the subject;
- 2) the design concept for the project furthers the current discourse and knowledge on the subject;
- 3) there is a suitable program developed for the design project, and
- 4) the design concept responds to the context and program for the project.

If during either of these reviews the student has not made sufficient progress on the above-mentioned criteria as determined by the MP chair, the student may be asked to retake MP 1.

MP 2 students will have a mid-term and final review during the MP 2 semester (normally the spring term). Students, in consultation with their MP chair, will make a list of requirements for the mid-term and final review of their projects. The chair will review the design project to determine if:

- 1) the design concept (presented in MP 1) has been developed to show a clear understanding of architectural or urban space;
- 2) the design project reflects the student's understand of the current design solutions on the subject, and
- 3) the design project displays a rigor in the exploration of architectural or urban space, form, technologies, and materials.

After the final presentation, the chair and the committee will recommend whether the quality and content of the student work is sufficient to pass MP or if the student must do additional work to receive a passing grade. In the event that additional work is required the chair will determine the specific requirements for that work. If the chair determines that the additional work consists of minor points of clarification or small additions or revisions to the project the student may be asked to submit this work immediately. If the additional work submitted is acceptable, the student will be given a passing grade for the thesis project. If the chair determines that the project cannot be completed with minor additions or revisions, the student will be required to register for an additional semester to complete the thesis project.

Performance Targets

All students will demonstrate in their Master's Project, defensible conclusions from verifiable evidence and appropriate design responses as determined by the thesis chair and two committee members. Students will demonstrate the ability to graphically represent their thesis project in a manner that meets the qualitative standards set by the thesis chair and two committee members.

Assessment Results

Use of Assessment Results

Learning Outcome

The graduate student **will demonstrate the ability to orally communicate** his/her ideas in a clear and concise manner.

Method of Assessment

The instructor sets up both progress reviews and formal final reviews of assigned architectural design projects. The work is juried by an outside panel of practicing architects, architecture professors, urban designers and planners, and by experts in the specificities of the assigned project's program.

The instructor and panel of jury members will assess the quality of presentation based on the student's ability to:

- 1) provide an appropriate description of the context of their design project;
- 2) provide a clear knowledge of the program addressed by their design project; 3) explain the design concept for their project;
- 4) clearly articulate their design process, and
- 5) coherently elucidate their design.

Performance Targets

All students are required to meet this requirement.

Assessment Results

Use of Assessment Results
