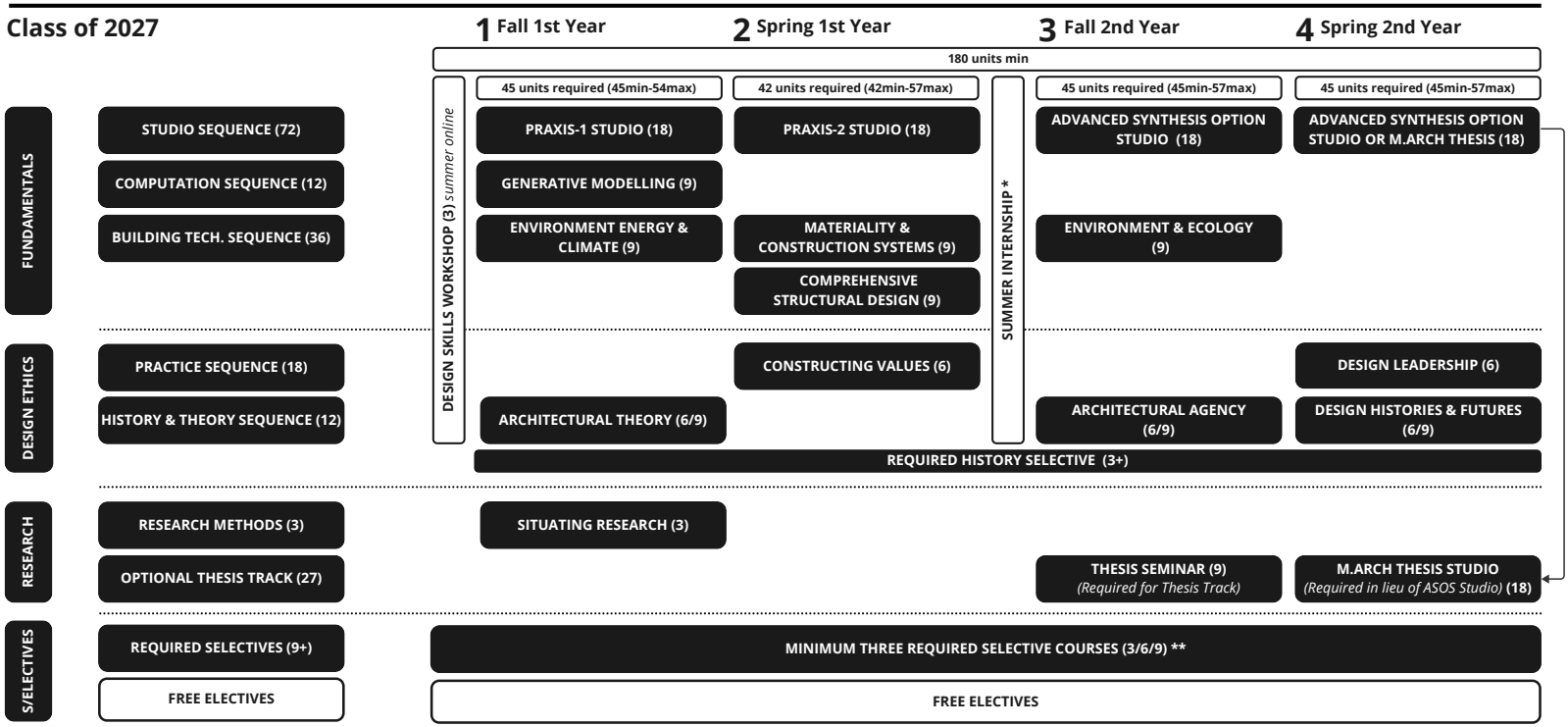
M.ARCH

Master of Architecture | Pre-professional Degree + 180 CMU units

Version: 8/4/2025



Program Description:

The Master of Architecture (M.Arch) is a studio-based, professional degree program, accredited by the National Architectural Accrediting Board (NAAB) to educate tomorrow's leaders in architecture and related careers. It engages with the very forefront of disciplinary and transdisciplinary questions that locate architectural thinking and design ethics at the intersection of the pressing issues of our time—Climate change and its impeding challenges of ecological thinking in the Anthropocene; Social justice and the need for an intersectional politics to frame questions of equity and inclusion; and finally, Technology and the role of architecture in considering a posthuman society. Our program's strategically small size allows students to shape their individual agendas as they interact directly with leading-edge faculty and projects in the school, community and around the world.

Program Requirements:

Carnegie Mellon's M.Arch is a two-year, first professional degree program designed for individuals who hold a pre-professional baccalaureate degree in architecture (B.A./ B.S. or equivalent), or a professional B.Arch architecture degree from an international university. The curriculum aligns closely with the Pedagogies conversations at CM-A to offer courses in three simultaneous tracks: Fundamentals, Design Ethics and Research. This curriculum outlines the minimum required courses students are required to take to achieve professional standards by graduation (including NAAB Program and Student Criteria).

All M.Arch students must enroll into the M.Arch Canvas Portal at the time of registration and stay enrolled for the duration of the program.

In addition to the standard requirements for all graduate students at CMU SoA, students in the M.Arch program must satisfy the following:

• Residency: A four semester full term residency requirement is mandated (full term entails a minimum 36 units per semester). Coursework taken during the summer at CMU or at other institutions, may be used to satisfy program requirements, but not reduce residency.

• Units: Students must complete a minimum of 180 units minimum to graduate.

• Course Selectives**: A total of four selectives are required, at least one at least one of which must be in History. While 3 unit courses might be considered, most selectives are offered for 6 or 9 units. Selectives are courses offered at CM-Architecture and are listed under course selections here. Free electives can be taken anywhere at CMU with the approval of your advisor.

• Summer Internship*: All students are encouraged to seek architecture-related internships, jobs, or research opportunities during the summer. International students must register for the 48-695 Internship Course to qualify for Curricular Practical Training (CPT). Further details per M.Arch Canvas Portal: Internship Career CPT.