

Architecture, Interior Architecture, and Historic Preservation

Primary Pathway

Students curious about study in Architecture, Interior Architecture, and Historic Preservation start with Introduction to Architecture.

AIA1001 Introduction to Architecture 3cr

Students who know they want to focus on Architecture, co-register in **Foundation Studio** and **Tools and Techniques** in either semester, and a second **Foundation Studio** in the following semester.

Two semesters of

AIA2001 Foundation Studio 6cr,

Students with 12 credits (two semesters) of **Foundation Studio**, may enroll in **Practice Studio** in either semester, for which they receive Professional Practice Spine credits.

Two semesters of

 **AIA3902 Professional Practice Studio** 6cr

Students with 12 credits (two semesters) of Practice Studio may enroll in Capstone Studio in either or both semesters, for which they receive Capstone Spine credit, and participate in the Studio Show.

 **AIA4902 Capstone Studio** 6cr
and Studio Show

Sophomore Seminars

AIA2030 Sophomore Seminar 3cr

AIA2031 Sophomore Seminar 3cr

Pre-Professional Electives

These courses have no prerequisites.

Students seeking advanced instruction in design software used in professional practice should take this course in either semester:

AIA2102 Tools and Techniques 3cr (Online)

AIA3102 Advanced Operations 3cr (Online)

Students interested in graduate study and professional practice should take this sequence of courses in fall and spring:

AIA3103 Design and Construction 3cr

AIA3104 Architectural Structures 3cr

Pre-Requisites Transfer Students & Advanced Standing

Only Practice Studio & Capstone Studio have pre-requisites. 

Transfer students with design studio experience or any students seeking advanced standing who wish to enroll in Practice Studio or Capstone Studio without the prerequisite may appeal for a waiver directly to the teacher

General Electives

These courses have no prerequisites.

Students with any level of experience are invited to consider any of the department electives on topics in Architecture, Interior Architecture, and Historic Preservation. The electives offered in a given year or semester are subject to change, so students are encouraged to check the course catalog carefully ahead of each registration period.

AIA2010 What's Worth Preserving 3cr

AIA3008 Color, Light, and Space 3cr

AIA3906 Visionary Drawing 3cr

AIA3920 Scenography 3cr

AIA4050 Interiority in Architecture 3cr

AIA4101 ReMaterials @ Homan Square*

AIA4221 Radical Acts of Preservation 3cr

AIA4919 Critical Artifacts 3cr

AIA4932 Critical Urbanisms 3cr

AIA4945 Sustainable Futures 3cr

AIA4950 Architectural Fabrication 3cr

*satisfies 3cr of off-campus requirement

Graduate Study in Architecture

Undergraduate students who take Pathway courses graduate with a Bachelor of Fine Arts. Licensure in architecture requires an accredited Bachelor or Master of Architecture degree, such as the Master of Architecture offered by SAIC.

Architecture, Interior Architecture, and Historic Preservation

The Undergraduate Pathway in Architecture, Interior Architecture, and Historic Preservation offers students in the Bachelor of Fine Arts (BFA) a sequence of courses designed to lead them through the rigorous and rewarding study of architecture as a studio practice. The Pathway offers excellent preparation for graduate study and for a range of career opportunities in design and the built environment.

The gateway to the pathway, and the class we recommend for any student interested in architecture, is 1001: Introduction to Architecture. This 3cr studio is a broad introduction to architectural studio practice and a great way to “dip a toe” into the field before committing to it.

The centerpiece of the pathway are Architecture Studios: Intensive, 6 credit (two day) studios offered every semester that teach skills and approaches to the design of the built environment. The Department offers three tiers of studio: Foundation, Professional Practice, and Capstone. Any student may register for Foundation Studio, and when they complete 12 credits (two semesters) may register for Professional Practice Studio. When students complete 12 credits (two semesters) of Professional Practice Studio, they may register for Capstone Studio and participate in the end of semester Studio Show.

Electives in the department offer opportunities to develop and hone skills with the tools of architectural design; to prepare for graduate study; or simply to explore topics including interiors, preservation, sustainability, urbanism, and more.

Department Community

The Department organizes three events every semester for students in the Architecture Studios. These events are designed to celebrate and share the work of students, create opportunities to communicate and network with working professionals, and exhibit graduation work. Participation in these events is part of your Studio coursework.

Portfolio Review

The Portfolio Review is both an exhibition and critique of student work in Foundation Studio at the end of each semester. Celebratory and supportive, it is also an important assignment and a gateway to proceeding into the department's Professional Practice Studios.

Public Critiques

The Public Critique celebrates the conclusion of Professional Practice Studio with a presentation of work to practicing professionals in the field.

Studio Show

The Studio Show is a celebratory concluding exhibition of Capstone Studio work for the department, school, and professional community in the city of Chicago. It is also a vital opportunity for professional and alumni networking.

Completion of curricular pathways is not a requirement for graduation; please refer to the current SAIC Catalog for a list of degree requirements.

BFA students who opt to follow curricular pathways still graduate with a BFA in Studio; there is no additional degree designation if you follow a curricular pathway.

For specific questions about curricular pathways, please contact the appropriate department.

