Build your architectural practice through critical inquiry and experimentation. Students gain a deep understanding of theory and history in a highly ranked, interdisciplinary context while mastering professional skills directed towards a future generation of significant thinkers and makers. We offer a National Architectural Accrediting Board (NAAB) accredited Master of Architecture (MArch) degree and a two-year accelerated MArch track.

saic.edu/aiado
Studio and Beyond

Through independent studios and joint ventures our students gain the ability to translate ideas into meaningful spatial environments and critical artifacts. Recent external partnerships include collaboration with communities and institutions in and around Chicago and participation in the Venice Architectural Biennale and the Chicago Architecture Biennial. Our Department appoints the annual Mitchell Visiting Professor and hosts the Mitchell Lecture Series that remains free and open to the Chicago community.

The Architecture of Interdisciplinarity

Coursework combines project-based design studios organized around a timely intellectual focus, technical courses in building structures, systems, professional practice, architectural technology, and electives in architectural history and theory. We encourage our students to develop their practice by taking courses in other departments across SAIC. In their final year, students complete a comprehensive studio and pursue a self-directed design thesis under the supervision of faculty in the department.

Master of Architecture (3 Years)

Our MArch degree program begins with a foundation of required skills and grounding in the histories and theories specific to architecture, engineering, and design. Applications are open to students who have earned a Bachelor’s degree. Academic and/or work experience in architecture, environmental or interior design, or related fields is recommended, but not required.

Master of Architecture, Option 2 (2 Years)

Students with undergraduate pre-professional Bachelor’s degrees in architectural studies, architectural technology, or interior design may be accepted into the two-year, 60-credit MArch, Option 2 program. Students must fulfill 45 credits of non-architectural college-level coursework as required for graduation from a NAAB-accredited Master of Architecture degree program. Students admitted into the Option 2 program may also be missing one or two specific topical architectural classes, and if so will be required to take those classes at SAIC.

Certification in Historic Preservation

Our students have an opportunity to pursue a Certificate in Historic Preservation through coursework in SAIC’s Historic Preservation Program. Working with Chicago’s rich history of historic structures, students gain expertise and experience with the practice, theory, and science of preservation. This certificate can be earned concurrently with the MArch Degree and is most suitable for our 3-year track graduate students.

STEM Field Recognition

Our professional, NAAB-accredited Master of Architecture and Master of Architecture with an emphasis in Interior Architecture degrees are STEM Designated by the National Science Foundation (NSF). As such, our international students qualify for the 24 month extension of Optional Practical Training (OPT) work opportunities.

For more information on requirements, please visit:

saic.edu/aiado
Students have access to a fully equipped Advanced Output Center including:

- 150w + 120w laser cutters
- 3D printers, including an Mcor that uses paper as building material, a Dimension that uses ABS filament, and an Objet that uses acrylic resin
- 3D scanners, including an Artec Eva, a Handyscan, a Point Cloud, and a NextEngine
- A flatbed scanner and a large format scanner
Graduate Admissions
36 South Wabash Avenue, suite 1201
Chicago, IL 60603
Phone 312.629.6100 / 800.232.7242
Fax 312.629.6101
gradmiss@saic.edu

Application Deadline: January 10
For application requirements, visit saic.edu/aiado