



Careers in Architecture

Architects design buildings and other structures, both inside and outside, that meet specific functional and aesthetic needs. They are responsible for creating the plans, drawings, and specifications that contractors use to construct buildings.

Architects may work on a wide range of projects, from designing homes and commercial buildings to creating public spaces such as parks and museums. They must consider factors such as safety, accessibility, environmental impact, and building codes and regulations when creating their designs.

Quick Facts

Sample Job Titles	Median Wages (2023-2024)*	Required Education
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Landscape Architects Urban and Regional Planners Architects and Civil Drafters Computer Network Architects 	In CA: \$80,220+ In Los Angeles Area: \$80,220+ <small>*For current wages, visit CareerOneStop.org/salary</small>	Bachelor's Degree: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bachelor of Architecture (B.Arch.)

The Path to Architecture



Earn a Bachelor's (**B.Arch.**) or Master's (**M.Arch.**) degree in Architecture from a program accredited by the National Architectural Accrediting Board (NAAB). Gain work experience through an internship or apprenticeship program. The California Architects Board requires a minimum of 5,600 hours of qualifying work experience, which typically takes about three years to complete. Pass the Architect Registration Examination (ARE), which is a series of six exams that assess knowledge and skills in various areas of architecture. Complete the California Supplemental Examination (CSE), which is a state-specific exam that tests knowledge of California building codes and regulations. Apply for a license from the California Architects Board, which includes submitting transcripts, proof of work experience, exam scores, and other documentation. Once licensed, architects in California must complete continuing education requirements to maintain their license

Accredited Schools in California with NAAB-Accredited Programs

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Academy of Art University Southern California Institute of Architecture California Baptist University University of California, Berkeley California College of the Arts University of California, Los Angeles | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo University of Southern California California State Polytechnic University, Pomona Woodbury University—Burbank NewSchool of Architecture and Design |
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How to Prepare for Architecture at Citrus College

As an undergraduate pursuing your bachelor's degree, there are several things you can do to prepare.

- The B.Arch** is a 5-year program at all schools across the nation, there is no such thing as a 4-year B.Arch program.
- Complete the **prerequisite coursework** for Architecture Programs. Prerequisites vary, so be sure to research schools and determine their requirements.
- Maintain a **high GPA**; grades are a major factor in the selection process. The closer to a 4.0 GPA the better.
- Submit a portfolio to showcase your skills for placement into the program. NOTE: Citrus College offers an A.S. Degree in Architecture and some of the courses in the program will help you develop work needed for your portfolio.
- An outstanding Portfolio may help students skip up to 2 years in the B.Arch program.

Sample of Common Prerequisite Courses

In general, all prerequisite courses should be taken for a letter grade. Some campuses may have policies regarding whether their requirements can be met through lower-division or upper-division coursework (Citrus College does not offer upper-division classes; these are courses that must be taken at a university).

Common Prerequisites	Citrus College Courses
Two English Classes	ENGL 101 & 103 or 104
One year of Math	MATH 175
Architecture Classes	ARCH 100, 102, 110, 111, 201, 202, 242, 250, 251,
One year of General Physics	PHYS 111 & 112
Additional Coursework	SPCH 101 (CSU's only) DRAFT 160, 161

IMPORTANT: This list is meant to be used as an informational guide. All students must refer to the individual campuses/programs for specific information on prerequisite requirements.

Architecture School Application Process

- Apply: Applicants typically submit an online application through the school's admissions portal, and paying an application fee.
- Submit additional application materials: Applicants may also be required to submit additional materials, such as a portfolio, letters of recommendation, and a resume.
- Complete a **personal statement** only if the institution requires it for the application process.
- Complete an interview: Some schools require applicants to complete an interview with a faculty member or admissions counselor.

Resources

Organizations

- American Society of Engineers and Architects (ASEA-LA.ORG)
- American Institute of Architecture (AIA.ORG)
- The National Organization of Minority Architects (SOCALNOMA.ORG)

Visit **CandidCareer** to learn more about this occupation from the perspective of current

tinyurl.com/zsp5herp

Related Occupations

Not sure if becoming an architect is the right fit for you? Here are some related careers with different educational requirements. For more information on these careers or others, visit ONetOnline.org.

Job Title	Median Wages	Required Education	Code
Civil Engineering	In CA: \$101,230	Bachelor's Degree or higher	RIC
Interior Designer	In CA: \$60,340	Associate's Degree or higher	AER