MASTER OF SCIENCE (MS) DEGREE IN THE FIELD OF ARCHITECTURE

Program Learning Outcomes for the MS Degree in the field of Architecture

Upon completing the MS degree in the field of Architecture, students will be able to:

1. Integrate architecture and advanced research to address the most pressing and complex issues of design, environment, and culture.
2. Develop research techniques and knowledge of advanced systems, techniques, and processes.
3. Innovate the knowledge and practice of architecture through advanced critical thinking and experimentation.

Requirements for the MS Degree in the field of Architecture

The MS degree can be either a thesis or a non-thesis master's degree depending on the option the student pursues. For general university requirements for thesis master's degrees, please see Thesis Master's Degrees (https://ga.rice.edu/graduate-students/academic-policies-procedures/regulations-procedures-thesis-masters-degrees/). For general university requirements for non-thesis master's degrees, please see Non-Thesis Master's Degrees (https://ga.rice.edu/graduate-students/academic-policies-procedures/regulations-procedures-non-thesis-masters-degrees/). For additional requirements, regulations, and procedures for all graduate programs, please see All Graduate Students (https://ga.rice.edu/graduate-students/academic-policies-procedures/regulations-procedures-all-degrees/).

The program's student population will include those with backgrounds in architecture as well as other fields: individuals with BA, BS equivalent, or more advanced degrees in architecture or other disciplines are invited to apply. Coursework will include offerings from the School of Architecture and other departments across Rice University.

The requirements listed in the General Announcements (GA) satisfy the minimum requirements for this degree program. In certain instances, courses (or requirements) not officially listed here may be substituted upon approval of the program's academic advisor or, where applicable, the department or program's Director of Graduate Studies. Course substitutions or any exceptions to the stated official curricular requirements must be approved by the Office of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies (https://graduate.rice.edu/). Students and their academic advisors should identify and clearly document the courses to be taken.

Summary

Code	Title	Credit Hours
Total Credit Hours Required for the MS Degree in the field of Architecture		39

Degree Requirements

Code	Title	Credit Hours
Core Requirements		
ARCH 602	ADVANCED OPTION STUDIO II- RESEARCH PLATFORMS	12
Elective Requirements		
Students must complete 7 additional courses from departmental (ARCH) course offerings [1]		*21*
ARCH 525 / HART 545	INTRODUCTION TO ARCHITECTURAL THINKING	3
ARCH 655	CONTEMPORARY PRACTICES IN ARCHITECTURE	3
Total Credit Hours		**39**

Footnotes and Additional Information

[1] With permission, thesis or a design studio may be taken as electives.

Required Plan-of-Study

The MS degree in the field of Architecture is a degree program structured around a three-semester-long exploration of a topic, led by a Rice School of Architecture faculty member.

Course	Title	Credit Hours
1st Semester		
ARCH 525 / HART 545	INTRODUCTION TO ARCHITECTURAL THINKING	3
Elective	Elective [1]	3
Elective	Elective [1]	3
Elective	Elective [1]	3
	Credit Hours	**12**
2nd Semester		
ARCH 602	ADVANCED OPTION STUDIO II- RESEARCH PLATFORMS	12
ARCH 655	CONTEMPORARY PRACTICES IN ARCHITECTURE	3
Elective	Elective [1]	3
	Credit Hours	**18**
3rd Semester		
Elective	Elective [1]	3
Elective	Elective [1]	3
Elective	Elective [1]	3
	Credit Hours	**9**
	Total Credit Hours	**39**

Footnotes and Additional Information

[1] With permission, thesis or a design studio may be taken as electives.

Policies for the MS Degree in the field of Architecture

School of Architecture Graduate Program Handbook

The General Announcements (GA) is the official Rice curriculum. As an additional resource for students, the School of Architecture publishes

a graduate program handbook, which can be found here: https://gradhandbooks.rice.edu/2026_27/Architecture_Graduate_Handbook.pdf.

Transfer Credit

For Rice University's policy regarding transfer credit, see Transfer Credit (https://ga.rice.edu/graduate-students/academic-policies-procedures/regulations-procedures-all-degrees/#transfer). Some departments and programs have additional restrictions on transfer credit. Requests for transfer credit must be approved for Rice equivalency by the appropriate academic department offering the Rice equivalent course (corresponding to the subject code of the course content) and by the Office of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies (GPS). Students are encouraged to meet with their academic program's advisor when considering transfer credit possibilities.

Additional Information

For additional information, please see the School of Architecture website: https://arch.rice.edu/.

Opportunities for the MS Degree in the field of Architecture

Additional Information

For additional information, please see the School of Architecture website: https://arch.rice.edu/.