Architects design and plan buildings like homes, office buildings, theaters, factories, and any other structures. Their plans take into consideration how the building looks, safety, structure, and the needs of the people using them.

The basic requirement for licensure is eight years of combined education and work experience with a maximum of five years of education credit. A bachelor’s degree in architecture is the minimum formal education needed. Many positions require graduate school. Most architects earn a 5-year Bachelor of Architect degree (BArch). Others earn a master’s degree (March) after completing a bachelor’s degree in another field or architectural studies. A master’s degree in architecture takes from one to 5 years depending on the previous education or training of the student.

All states require architects to be licensed before they can be recognized as an architect and receive contracts. Until licensure, individuals must work under the supervision of a licensed architect. Licensure involves a professional degree in architecture, internship hours working under an architect, and passing all parts of the Architect Registration Examination. There are nine parts to the exam.

## Lower Division Subjects Required by Most Schools

| **Required Subjects** | **Required Coursework** |
| --- | --- |
| One year of English | English 101 & English 102, 103, or Phil 5 |
| Math | Most programs require at least one semester of calculus (Math 261). Please refer to institution for specific requirements. |
| Physics | Most programs require at least one semester of Physics. Please refer to institution for specific requirements. |
| Architecture courses | Requirements vary by campus. Please refer to institution for specific requirements. |

Note: All courses should be taken for a letter grade, not Credit/No Credit. Major requirements vary, check with the individual campus for their specific requirements.

## Employment

According to the U.S. Department of Labor Bureau of Labor Statistics the majority of architects work in architectural and engineering companies and firms. A small number of individuals work for residential and nonresidential building construction firms for government agencies building housing, community planning, or construction of government buildings while others are architects are self-employed.

## Salary Information

The average annual wage of architects in 2021 was $98,825 ([labormarketinfo.edd.ca.gov/)](https://labormarketinfo.edd.ca.gov/data/oes-employment-and-wages.html)). The median is the point at which half of the workers earn more and half earn less.

## Recommended Websites

| **Website** | **Website address** |
| --- | --- |
| American Institute of Architects | [aia.org/](https://www.aia.org/) |
| American Institute of Architecture Students | [aias.org/](http://www.aias.org/) |
| California Architects Board | [cab.ca.gov/](https://www.cab.ca.gov/) |
| National Architectural Accrediting Board | [naab.org/](https://www.naab.org/) |
| National Council of Architectural Registration Boards | [ncarb.org/](https://www.ncarb.org/) |

## Select Architecture Programs

| **Program** | **Website address** |
| --- | --- |
| CSU San Luis Obispo | [caed.calpoly.edu/](http://www.caed.calpoly.edu/) |
| CSU Pomona | [architecture.calpoly.edu/](https://architecture.calpoly.edu/) |
| UC Berkeley | [ced.berkeley.edu/academics/architecture/](https://ced.berkeley.edu/academics/architecture/) |
| UC Davis (Landscape Architecture) | [humanecology.ucdavis.edu/landscape-architecture-environmental-design](https://humanecology.ucdavis.edu/landscape-architecture-environmental-design) |
| UC Los Angeles (B.A.) | [aud.ucla.edu/](http://www.aud.ucla.edu/) |
| California College of the Arts | [cca.edu/academics/architecture](https://www.cca.edu/academics/architecture) |
| Newschool of Architecture and Design | [newschoolarch.edu/](https://newschoolarch.edu/) |
| Otis College of Art and Design | [otis.edu/architecture-landscape-interiors](https://www.otis.edu/architecture-landscape-interiors) |
| Southern California Institute of Architecture | [sciarc.edu/](https://sciarc.edu/) |
| University of Southern California\* | [arch.usc.edu/](https://arch.usc.edu/) |
| Woodbury University (Burbank campus)\* | [woodbury.edu/program/school-of-architecture/](https://woodbury.edu/program/school-of-architecture/) |

\*There are 13 architecture programs that have been approved for students to receive licensure upon graduation. The only two in California are USC and Woodbury University

Note: Information is subject to change without notice. Check with the individual campus for the most up-to-date information. *Web site links are provided as a convenience and for informational purposes only; they do not constitute an endorsement or an approval by the Los Angeles Community College District (LACCD) and/or Los Angeles Pierce College (LAPC) of any of the products, services or opinions of the corporation or organization or individual. The Los Angeles Community College District and/or Los Angeles Pierce College bears no responsibility for the accuracy, legality or content of the external site or for that of subsequent links. Contact the external site for answers to questions regarding its content.*