MS in Architectural Studies

Master of Science

The MS may be a research-based study or a design and research-based professional review design project. The MS culminates in a thesis meeting University thesis requirements. The MS plan of study is in preparation for advanced professional practice or preparation for the doctoral degree.

Research is conducted in one of two emphasis areas: (1) environment and behavior or (2) design with digital media. Within each of these emphasis areas, specific course work is chosen on the basis of subject matter and the type of research method selected: quantitative, qualitative or a combination of both.

Also see the Department web site for additional information: Masters Programs (http://arch.missouri.edu/academics_masters.html), Emphasis Areas (http://arch.missouri.edu/graduate.html), Online Study (http://arch.missouri.edu/academics_online2.html), Architectural Studies Graduate Handbook (http://arch.missouri.edu/docs/academics/PhD/handbook.pdf), and Spotlight on Alumni (http://arch.missouri.edu/alumni.html).

Environment and Behavior Emphasis

The Environment and Behavior emphasis area focuses on the multifaceted relationships between people and their physical, social, and cultural environments. Environment-behavior research explores a variety of environments, linking them to a range of behavioral concerns. This program is suitable for persons who seek careers in research, consulting, and/or teaching in architecture, interior design, and related environmental design disciplines.

Current study areas in environment and behavior include:

- Sustainable Design
- Design Education
- Social and Cultural Bases of Design
- Place Attachment
- Environments for Learning
- History of the Designed Environment
- Analysis of Building Types
- Aesthetics of Design
- Inclusive Design/Accessibility
- Environment and Aging
- Housing, Neighborhood Design, and Cultural Landscapes
- Programming, Design and Post-Occupancy Evaluation

Contact Dr. Ruth Tofle (http://arch.missouri.edu/faculty_tofle.html) for more information.

Design with Digital Media Emphasis

The Design with Digital Media curriculum is structured to promote thought and work that crosses traditional lines between disciplines and challenges students to consider non-standard approaches to the computer as a creative and expressive medium. Study of technology, art and design is balanced with inquiry grounded in conceptual, critical, social, cultural and historical considerations.

Design with Digital Media, as an integral part of the design process, focuses on graphic ideation and the application of computer technology for architecture, interior design and related disciplines.

Current study areas in the digital media program include:

- Design computing and cognition
- Design process using digital media and creativity research
- Virtual reality (VR) and augmented reality (AR) technologies for design visualization
- Advanced visualization technologies for environment-behavior simulation
- Building Information Modeling (BIM)
- Building Simulation
- Human-computer interaction aspects of digital tools for design

The culmination of the degree is a written and/or visual project employing computer applications for design methods. Applicants interested in the Design with Digital Media option should contact the coordinator of Design with Digital Media Dr. Bimal Balakrishnan (http://arch.missouri.edu/faculty_balakrishnan.html) regarding course content and research proposals.

Design Research Concentration

The Design Research Concentration can be applied toward the program of study. The concentration is of interest to:

- Designers engaged in interior design, architecture, graphic or interaction design who require applied research skills from companies/organizations.
- Researchers with a background in social sciences, anthropology etc. who conduct research for creative product development in industry -- Healthcare IT companies, Engineering etc.
- Business and market professionals to advance understanding of design research for marketing.

For more information, see Design Research Concentration (http://arch.missouri.edu/academics_DesignResearch.html) on the department's web site.

Admission Contact

Dr. Ruth Tofle (http://arch.missouri.edu/faculty_tofle.html)
137 Stanley Hall; Columbia, MO 65211
(573) 882-7224

Admission Criteria

Fall deadline: January 15
Minimum GPA: 3.0
Minimum TOEFL scores:

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<th>Internet-based test (iBT)</th>
<th>Paper-based test (PBT)</th>
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<td>Effective July 1, 2015 must have score of 80</td>
<td>Effective July 1, 2015 must have score of 550</td>
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Required Application Materials

See Application and Admission (http://arch.missouri.edu/academics_gradadmit.html) for Department's graduate admission requirements.
Apply online to the Office of Graduate Studies (http://gradstudies.missouri.edu).