MS in Architectural Studies

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. The MS may be a research-based study or a design and research-based 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.

Also see the Department web site for additional information: Masters Programs (https://arch.missouri.edu/graduate/ma-ms-programs/), Emphasis Areas (https://arch.missouri.edu/graduate/), Online Study (https://arch.missouri.edu/graduate/online-study/), and Architectural Studies Graduate Handbook.

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 wish to acquire applied research skills for companies/organizations.

• Researchers with a background in social sciences, anthropology, etc. who conduct research for creative product development in industries such as Healthcare, IT companies, Engineering etc.

• Business and marketing professionals to advance understanding of design research for marketing.

For more information, see Design Research Concentration (https://arch.missouri.edu/graduate/design-research-concentration/) on the department’s web site. Concentrations do not appear on diplomas or transcripts.

Degree Requirements

The student’s program for MS degree must include a minimum of 30 hours of graduate credit beyond the bachelor’s degree (or its equivalent). Fifteen of the 30-hour minimum must be selected from courses numbered at 8000 or 9000 level; no more than 40% of the 30-hour credit requirement can be satisfied by Independent Study style courses such as Research, Readings, and Problems coursework.

Thesis Requirements

Research is conducted in one of two emphasis areas: environment and behavior studies (see https://arch.missouri.edu/graduate/environment-and-behavior-studies/) or design with digital media (see https://arch.missouri.edu/graduate/design-with-digital-media/). Within each of these emphasis areas, specific coursework is chosen based on subject matter and the type of research method selected: quantitative, qualitative, or a combination of both. The coursework lays the foundation for a research-based, written thesis investigating a theoretical or applied problem using appropriate research methods. The research-based MS study is often undertaken as preparation for the doctoral degree.

Admission Criteria

Applicants are required to meet two sets of minimum qualifications for admission: the requirements of the Architectural Studies Graduate Program (https://arch.missouri.edu/graduate/) and the minimum requirements of the graduate faculty, enforced by the Graduate School (https://gradschool.missouri.edu/admissions/eligibility-process/).

Because requirements vary, you must refer to a degree program’s graduate admission page to learn about specific admission criteria, application deadlines, eligibility and application process. Before official admission to the University of Missouri, your application materials will be reviewed by both the Graduate School and the degree program to which you’ve applied. Applicants are strongly encouraged to review the research interests of program faculty (https://arch.missouri.edu/people/) prior to applying.

Required Application Materials

See Application and Admission (https://arch.missouri.edu/graduate/application-admission/) for Department’s graduate admission requirements.

Apply online to the Graduate School (https://gradschool.missouri.edu/).

Admission Contact

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