General Information

Introduction
The study of architecture and landscape architecture allows students to generate physical solutions to complex environmental design problems that often have competing economic, social, and political parameters. The built environment professions attract those who have a wide range of interests and skills and wish to make a unique contribution to society.

Vision: Global Connections
The School of Architecture inspires transformative design at the global scale with preeminence in the Asia-Pacific region.

Mission Statement: Building for the 21st Century
The School of Architecture responds to our unique location in the Asia-Pacific region and recognizes the privilege and responsibility to address cultural, environmental, and social diversity. We commit to passionate and engaging community participation through teaching, learning, research, professional practice, and service.

DArch Accreditation Notice
In the U.S., most state registration boards require a degree from an accredited professional degree program as a prerequisite for licensure. The National Architectural Accrediting Board (NAAB), which is the sole agency authorized to accredit professional degree programs in architecture offered by institutions with U.S. regional accreditation, recognizes three types of degrees: the Bachelor of Architecture, the Master of Architecture, and the Doctor of Architecture. A program may be granted an eight-year, three-year, or two-year term of accreditation, depending on the extent of its conformance with established educational standards.

Doctor of Architecture and Master of Architecture degree programs may require a pre-professional undergraduate degree in architecture for admission. However, the pre-professional degree is not, by itself, recognized as an accredited degree.

The School of Architecture offers the following NAAB-accredited degree program:

Doctor of Architecture
- Track I: (preprofessional degree in architecture [126/120 credits] + 90 graduate credits)
- Track II: (non-professional degree [120 credits min.] + 108 graduate credits)

Next accreditation visit: 2026
Admissions Overview

Students seeking admission to the school must complete an online application by the stated deadlines. The school and UH Mānoa do not grant deferred admission. Applicants wishing to defer admission must reapply.

Undergraduate Application Procedures

All applicants for admission to the pre-professional undergraduate Bachelor of Environmental Design (BEnvD) program must complete a UH System Application at www.manoa.hawaii.edu/apply/.

Undergraduate Application Deadlines

Fall priority deadline is January 5 and final deadline is March 1. Spring priority deadline is September 1 and final deadline is October 15.

The Office of Admissions will complete an undergraduate transfer credit evaluation for prior completed post-secondary level course work or approved Advanced Placement (AP) high school course work. The School of Architecture will complete a transfer credit evaluation for prior completed post-secondary level course work taken in architecture design or related subjects after an applicant is accepted by UH Mānoa. BEnvD course requirements will be waived only for transfer credits that are deemed equivalent to courses offered by the school.

Students entering the pre-professional undergraduate program directly from high school may potentially complete the program in four years of full-time study. The time to complete the program by transfer students is based on a case-by-case evaluation of transfer credits.

Graduate Application Procedures

DArch Application Procedures

All applicants for admissions to the professional Doctor of Architecture (DArch) program must hold a baccalaureate degree or higher and must apply online with Graduate Division at www.manoa.hawaii.edu/graduate/content/prospective-students/. Applicants must also submit a School of Architecture Supplemental Information for Admission form, which can be found at www.arch.hawaii.edu/sites/default/files/Supplemental_Info.pdf, and required documents by the stated deadline. Supplemental documents submitted by applicants become the property of the School of Architecture.

DArch Graduate Application Deadline

Fall deadline is January 1. Spring deadline is September 1.

Students entering the program who hold a four-year pre-professional baccalaureate degree (e.g., BS architecture studies, BA architecture studies, BA environmental design) enter the 3-year, 90-credit professional DArch program. Fall semester start date is recommended.

Students entering the program who hold a baccalaureate degree in a field unrelated to architecture or environmental design (non-pre-professional degree) enter the 108-credit professional DArch program. Spring semester start date is recommended.

No graduate credit is transferable to the DArch degree if it has been counted for another graduate degree.

MLA Application Procedures

Admissions procedures for the Master of Landscape Architecture program (MLA) follow general Graduate Division policy (manoa.hawaii.edu/graduate/content/prospective-students). Applicants for admission to the MLA must hold or expect to hold prior to matriculation a bachelor’s degree from a regionally accredited U.S. college or university, or an equivalent degree from a recognized non-U.S. institution of higher education. To be eligible, a first-professional MLA I track applicant must hold a four-year bachelor’s degree with a major in any field of study. A first-professional MLA I AP track applicant must hold a professional degree in architecture (BArch, MArch, DArch) or a four-year pre-professional bachelor’s degree in landscape architecture, architecture, or environmental design. Additionally, a strong design portfolio is required for an MLA I AP applicant to be granted advanced standing of up to two semesters. A post-professional MLA II track applicant must hold an accredited professional degree in landscape architecture (BLA, BSLA). All applicants to the MLA program need to demonstrate a GPA of 3.0 or above for undergraduate course work and for any post-baccalaureate or graduate course work. Minimum TOEFL score for international MLA applicants: 61 (internet) or 500 (paper); or minimum IELTS score for international MLA applicants: 6.00 for the overall band test results.

Prospective MLA students seeking admission to the program will be required to submit a general Graduate Division application by the stated deadline. In addition, MLA applicants need to submit the following supplemental materials required by the School of Architecture: statement of interest, resume, portfolio, three letters of recommendation, MLA supplemental information form.

MLA Application Deadline

Admissions to the MLA program (all degree tracks) will be Fall only with a January 1 application deadline.

Advising

Informal academic advising may be requested by prospective students by contacting the school’s Student Services Office. Students who have been accepted to the school should contact the Student Services Office for information regarding orientation and required advising before registration.

Program Requirements

Students enrolled in the pre-professional Bachelor of Environmental Design (BEnvD) must meet UH Mānoa General Education Core Requirements and maintain UH Mānoa academic standards. Enrolled students wishing to enter the 90-credit professional DArch or the MLA programs must maintain a minimum 3.0 GPA at the graduate level.

Students in the 108-credit professional DArch program must attain a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.0 at the graduate level and make reasonable academic progress. All graduate students (DArch and MLA) whose cumulative GPA falls below 3.0 are placed on academic probation. Upon completion of the probationary semester if the cumulative GPA is not raised to 3.0, or if special conditions established by the dean are not met, the student may be dismissed or suspended from the program.

Undergraduate Program

Bachelor of Environmental Design (BEnvD)

A pre-professional 4-year undergraduate degree program, the Bachelor of Environmental Design (BEnvD) emphasizes the study of built and natural environments and provides a solid
of the local ancient, indigenous community. The practice converge so seamlessly with the philosophy and culture aspirations of twenty-first century landscape architectural and cultural history and manifold environmental and social challenges. There is no other place in the U.S. where the need to maintain and enhance a beautiful, resilient, healthy, and prosperous Hawai’i within its complex Asia-Pacific and global context. Its focus on contemporary, sustainable urban/landscape planning and design in tropical Asia-Pacific regions, where the majority of growth will occur in the upcoming decades, distinguishes this MLA from other North American landscape architecture programs. Hawai’i, with its rich natural and cultural history and manifold environmental and social challenges, provides a unique place of learning and opportunity for cutting-edge landscape architectural research, teaching, and practice. There is no other place in the U.S. where the aspirations of twenty-first century landscape architectural practice converge so seamlessly with the philosophy and culture of the local ancient, indigenous community.

**Graduate Programs**

**Doctor of Architecture (DArch)**

The School of Architecture offers the only NAAB-accredited Doctor of Architecture (DArch) degree in the country and Hawai’i’s only professional degree in architecture. The three-year DArch program, recognized for its Asia-Pacific, Hawai’i and urban ecological research focus, emphasizes architectural inquiry within social, cultural, and interdisciplinary studies. The program places emphasis on both theory and practice among its strategic priorities, which address the distinct requirements and challenges of tropical environments, regional issues, and Hawai’i’s rich cultural heritage as instructive models for complex global problems. The DArch program is strongly committed to design excellence, sustainability, applied research, and community.

**Doctor of Architecture (DArch) Global Track (China Focus)**

In partnership with Tongji University College of Architecture and Urban Planning (Shanghai, China), the UH Mānoa School of Architecture has implemented a Global Track (China Focus) of its Doctor of Architecture degree. Students who successfully complete this track will have the option to obtain Tongji University’s College of Architecture and Urban Planning NBAA accredited Masters of Architecture degree along with the UHM Mānoa School of Architecture NAAB accredited Doctor of Architecture degree. Nowhere else in the world can a student enroll in a single track and graduate with two accredited architecture degrees from the world’s two largest construction economies.

**Master of Landscape Architecture**

The field of landscape architecture comprises the analysis, planning, design, and management of natural and built environments. Landscape architectural practice presupposes a deep understanding of environmental systems and a commitment to the highest standards of design. A professional license is required to practice landscape architecture. An accredited degree in landscape architecture is needed for licensure. The MLA is a professional degree recognized by the Landscape Architectural Accreditation Board (LAAB).

Focused on ecological and social sustainability by design, the School of Architecture’s MLA program uniquely positions its graduates to make essential professional contributions needed to maintain and enhance a beautiful, resilient, healthy, and prosperous Hawai’i within its complex Asia-Pacific and global context. Its focus on contemporary, sustainable urban/landscape planning and design in tropical Asia-Pacific regions, where the majority of growth will occur in the upcoming decades, distinguishes this MLA from other North American landscape architecture programs. Hawai’i, with its rich natural and cultural history and manifold environmental and social challenges, provides a unique place of learning and opportunity for cutting-edge landscape architectural research, teaching, and practice. There is no other place in the U.S. where the aspirations of twenty-first century landscape architectural practice converge so seamlessly with the philosophy and culture of the local ancient, indigenous community.

**Additional Information**

For information about the school or degree programs, contact the Student Services Office at arch@hawaii.edu.

For information regarding student loans and scholarships, contact the UH Financial Aid Services Office.

**Professional Fee**

All school students are assessed a professional fee each semester at the time tuition is paid. The professional fee for the 2019-2020 academic year is $500 per semester.

**Other Requirements**

Waiver or substitution of any required course must be approved by the Director of Undergraduate Studies, or the Director of Graduate Studies.

**Design Futures Lab**

The Design Futures Lab has been established since August 2008. Students and faculty affiliated with the Hawai’i Research...
Center for Futures Studies, and students and faculty affiliated with the School of Architecture of UH Mānoa have been engaged in a project called “Campuses 2060.” The project explores the history, present situation, and alternative futures of institutions of higher education worldwide according to the overall “future” these institutions find themselves in, and the specific mission, participants, resources, pedagogy, and physical campus that they develop in response to each future. There have been three public presentations of their ongoing work so far. While the initial focus has been on UH Mānoa, it is the intention of the project, still ongoing, to become a global resource for ideas and information about the futures of higher education anywhere.

Environmental Research & Design Lab
The Environmental Research and Design Laboratory, an inter-disciplinary research laboratory located in the School of Architecture, was formed to advance sustainable design through research, education, and community outreach, with the aim of improving the dynamic interaction among the built, natural, and human environments. The laboratory not only directly supports the teaching mission of the school, but regularly provides exceptional research and design assistance to the university, the local community, the State of Hawai‘i, and the greater professional community. In their positions supported by the Lab, student researchers learn to use quantitative building performance simulation tools to estimate energy use, greenhouse gas emissions, and thermal comfort in buildings.

Student Organizations
The school houses a chapter of the American Institute of Architecture Students (AIAS) as well as a student chapter of the American Society of Landscape Architects. These organizations engage in a number of social and community service activities. AIAS and has won numerous national awards.

The Gamma Mu Chapter of the Tau Sigma Delta Honor Society is open to DArch students who maintain a 3.0 or higher GPA and are at the top twenty percent of their class at the end of year two.

University of Hawai‘i Community Design Center (UHCDC)
The University of Hawai‘i Community Design Center is a teaching practice and outreach initiative led by the School of Architecture that provides a new platform for students, staff, faculty, and partnered professionals to collaborate on interdisciplinary applied research, planning, and design projects that serve the public interest. The center provides proof-of-concept services for the university, state, city, and non-profit organizations, which address the critical issues facing our communities. These projects offer service learning, opportunities across departments for students through academic instruction, internship, and post-graduate employment.

Scholarships and Awards
King Student Medal for Excellence in Architectural + Environmental Research, Architectural Research Centers Consortium (ARCC)
Alpha Rho Chi Medal, National Professional Fraternity for Architecture and the Allied Arts
Henry Adams Medal and Certificate, American Institute of Architects Award
Allen R. Johnson-Roy C. Kelley Architectural Travel Award
Architects Pacific Inc. Endowed Scholarship
AIA Honolulu Scholarship
Barry John Baker Scholarship
Bergum Scholarship
Donald G. Deer Memorial Scholarship
Gilman Hu Honolulu Chapter CSI Endowed Scholarship
HONBLUE Student Support Fund
Leighton Liu Endowed Scholarship
PBR Hawai‘i Scholarship
R. Richard Morris Memorial Scholarship
UH Mānoa School of Architecture Practicum Fund
UHSAAA Scholarship Endowment