University Studies – Global Arts, Planning, Design, & Construction
What is University Studies - Architecture?

Global Arts, Planning, Design & Construction (USAR-GPD)?
Howdy! My name is Michael Clement

- I am one of the University Studies – Architecture (USAR) advisors

- I started out in the College of Architecture

- In the end, I received my Bachelors in Tourism Management

- I then went on to earn a Masters in Tourism Development
Introductions!

Howdy! My name is Michael White

-I am also one of the University Studies – Architecture (USAR) advisors

-I began my undergrad at Baylor University

-Transferred to Texas A&M, but then took some time off

-Worked four years at the Registrar’s Office

-Finally finished my degree in the Spring of 2017
Introductions!

Your turn!

Please stand and share your name and what you want to do professionally…
What is University Studies?

- University Studies Degree options at Texas A&M University are offered by each of the colleges, including the College of Architecture.
- The University Studies Degree format provides students flexibility to create individualized degree plans that aligns their educational objectives with their professional objectives.

The degree consists of:

Core Curriculum (42 Credit Hours)
- Concentration (25 Credit Hours)
- 2 Minors (~ 30-36 Credit Hours)
- Free Electives (~ 17-26 Credit Hours)
- Minors + Electives = 53 hours
How is this different?

• The other degree plans are very prescriptive and have a limited amount of flexibility and deviation.
• Accredited programs have specific requirements that preclude deviation
• Opens up avenues for students that have unique career interest to develop a customized educational experience
• The diploma is a Bachelor of Science in University Studies from the College of Architecture
USAR – GPD Curriculum

College of Architecture Concentration

In the Global Arts, Planning, Design & Construction Concentration, students learn about:
- architectural theory
- design
- construction
- landscape architecture
- urban and regional planning

Your Concentration courses provide you with a broad base understanding of the field with architecture.

Minors
The combination of minors you choose is up to you and your desired career path.
- The only restriction with minors is that at least one minor must be outside the College of Architecture (both can be outside of CARC).
Minors

Texas A&M University offers a wide variety of minors – some of the most popular are:

- Business
- Leadership in the Design and Construction Process
- Facility Management
- Art and Architectural History
- Art
- Creative Studies
- Computer Science
- Urban Planning

One of the minors must be outside the College of Architecture
Common Combinations with Minors

For those who wish to become a Graphic Designer:
- Art
- Business
- Communication

For those who wish to become an Architect*:
- Art
- Art & Architectural History
- Urban & Regional Planning
- Business
- Digital Fabrication and Design

*to become a licensed Architect, student must attend graduate school

For those who wish to become a Game Designer or an Animator:
- Art
- Computer Science
- Film Studies

For those who wish to become a Landscape Architect*:
- Urban & Regional Planning
- Business
- Horticulture
- Environmental Soil Science
- Forestry
- Rangeland Ecology and Management
- Park and Natural Resources

*to become a licensed Landscape Architect, student must attend graduate school

For those who wish to become a Construction Project Manager:
- Business
- Urban Planning
- Communication
- Leadership in Design and Construction
- Facility Management
Study Abroad Requirement

USAR-GPD students are **required** to participate in a faculty-led study abroad program.

Students are only required to go abroad for 1 summer session.

Locations have included:
- Barcelona, Spain
- Bonn, Germany
- London, UK
- Taiwan/China

Currently, 5 week study abroad programs cost from $9,000 to $12,000 depending on the program and the location. Start budgeting for the program early!
Graduates of USAR-GPD

Graduates can pursue careers in architecture, planning, design and construction related fields such as:

- Construction
- Urban Planning
- Graphic Design
- Surveying and Mapping
- Geography
- Environmental Science
- Land Development
- Real Estate

Graduates are also prepared to enter graduate school to obtain a professional degree in the fields of:

- Architecture
- Landscape Architecture
- Urban Planning
- Construction Management
- Land & Property Development
- Environmental Engineering
What is University Studies – Architecture?

- This degree is interdisciplinary in nature
- Instead of 60+ hours dedicated to a specific subject, those hours are divided between a diversified Architecture Concentration and two minors of the student’s choosing
- Minors should be selected based on YOUR professional goals
- The only rule is that one has to be a minor offered by a department outside the College of Architecture
What is University Studies – Architecture?

- 42 hours of Core Curriculum classes
  
  See [https://core.tamu.edu](https://core.tamu.edu) for acceptable options

  Specific Core Courses may be required depending on **YOUR** professional goals

- 25 Hours of Architecture Concentration classes

  These courses provide you with a broad foundation of coursework relating to the built and virtual environment
What is University Studies – Architecture?

- 53 hours of Elective Courses

- *This includes your two minors!*

- The required number of hours for each minor varies, which means the number of General Electives varies also. Minors *may* have additional prerequisites or requirements

- You **MUST** complete additional paperwork to officially declare minors
Why University Studies – Architecture?

Allows a student to focus on a specific career path
- If the degree a student wants is not offered, or if the student is interested in a very specific field of study, this can be a good alternative

Allows a student to customize their degree plan toward a specific graduate program
- Past students have gone on to graduate programs such as Construction Management, Career Change Masters of Architecture, Visualization, Urban Planning, Land & Property Development, Landscape Architecture, etc.
Academic Understanding

College of Architecture is a **NO PROBATION** college

- A student’s overall GPA **cannot** fall below a 2.0
- Students **cannot** have two consecutive semesters with a semester GPA below a 2.0

Per Student Rule 61.2.3, students are required to check their TAMU email address on a frequent basis

- It is recommended you check your email at least once per day

Keep your local and permanent address and phone number updated

You are **REQUIRED** to study abroad

**Sign and return to us before you leave this room**
Expectations

What do we do as your advisors?

- We help you develop a plan to reach **your** career goal
- We work with you to help you stay on track
- We work with you to ensure that you are able to make informed choices
- We do what we can to help you get where you want to go
Expectations

What should you do as a student?

- **GO TO CLASS!**
- Plan in advance. Failure to plan will put yourself at a disadvantage that we as advisors may not be able to mitigate
- If you need help, get help! The sooner, the better
- Keep track of your progress, your degree requirements, and your minor requirements
  • These tend to be different for every student

- **ASK QUESTIONS!**
Expectations

How do you communicate with us?

- Email
  - Include your name, UIN, and a detailed description of what you need or your situation
  - Read our entire response before replying
  - Remember to follow-up if needed

Appointment

- Appointments can be scheduled via https://swan.tamu.edu/USAR
  - Plan ahead!
  - **Show up!**
Helpful Tips

- Go to Class!
- Keep your grades up!
  - College of Architecture is a no probation college
  - If your cumulative GPA drops below a 2.0, you will be dismissed
- Check your email!
  - Yes, this means read your email
  - We have seen students not graduate because they couldn’t be bothered to check their email
- Don’t be that person!
Helpful Tips

Join the Interdisciplinary Design and Construction Organization!

- This fall will be the first semester for the student organization. This is the first organization specifically for University Studies Architecture students.

Plan!

- Write down important dates and deadlines
- Schedule to meet with your advisors BEFORE registration starts
- Start saving for your study abroad program
- Always have a Plan B and C. You know what, throw in a plan D… just in case.
Helpful Tips

These websites are your friends:

- howdy.tamu.edu
  - Your transcript, the course catalog, your schedule, financial aid, holds, important info, etc
- registrar.tamu.edu
  - Important information, important dates, important forms
- studyhub.tamu.edu
  - Need help with a course (at no additional cost to you)? Check here
- arch.tamu.edu
  - Important information, important dates, important forms- all specific to the College of Architecture
Mid-semester Seminar & Resource Fair

This is REQUIRED

- The seminar takes place on October 22\textsuperscript{nd} & 23\textsuperscript{rd}
- We will let you know the times at a later point
- Please notify your employers in advance
- The Resource Fair will take place on October 24\textsuperscript{th}

If you do not attend the seminar and resource fair, and/or do not turn in the mid-semester checklist you \textbf{will be} blocked from registration
Questions?

CONTACT US

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