Wentworth Institute of Technology
Master of Architecture Program
Admissions Information

Program Tracks

3-yr. track

The M.Arch program is best understood as a three-year long program, which is designed to allow students with no formal background in architecture to complete a professional degree in just seven semesters. This path is what we call our "3-yr track," and if you hold an undergraduate degree from a regionally accredited institution, you are qualified for this option. Some applicants who are admitted to the 3-yr. track have backgrounds in architecture-adjacent field such as urban studies or landscape architecture. More often, applicants come from less directly related fields such as business, fashion design, anthropology, engineering, biology, film studies, or painting.

Advanced standing

At Wentworth, we believe in recognizing- to the extent possible- the prior scholastic achievements of our applicants. Depending on one's undergraduate education, applicants could be eligible for advanced standing in the M.Arch program as follows:

2-yr. track

If you have already earned a pre-professional degree in architecture (or are on the cusp of completing one at the time of application), you will typically be granted advanced standing to bypass the first year of the curriculum. You will instead enter into the second year and have the opportunity to earn a professional degree in architecture in just two years. Most commonly, a pre-professional degree in architecture is a Bachelor of Science, but we often find eligibility in the transcripts of those who have earned a Bachelor of Arts, a Bachelor of Design, a Bachelor of Fine Arts, or a Bachelor of Environmental Design. In all cases, a major in architecture is required (e.g., a BA in Architecture, a BFA in Architecture, a BDes in Architecture, etc.).

1-yr. track

If you hold a Bachelor of Science in Architecture (BSArch) from Wentworth, you are uniquely eligible for advanced standing to bypass the first two years of the curriculum, entering into the third and final year. In addition, BSArch students who have earned a cumulative GPA of 3.0 or higher by the beginning of their senior year receive automatic admission to the M.Arch program. Please note that automatic admission does not mean that you do not need to apply- it just means that once you do apply, admission is guaranteed. Notice of auto-admit status is broadcast to students during the fall semester of their senior year, in advance of the priority application deadline for the graduate program.

Total credits for degree: 34-36 (1-yr. track), 70-72 (2-yr. track), or 106-108 (3-yr. track)

Admissions process

Wentworth's holistic admissions process takes a comprehensive approach to applicant evaluation, going beyond mere academic achievements or standardized test scores. As just one example of this commitment, we no longer require GRE scores of applicants. The M.Arch admissions committee considers multiple factors to get a better picture of applicants as individuals who could bring to the program- and to our academic community- a range of different, and important, experiences. Such factors include one's academic background, professional experience, letters of recommendation, personal statements, and specific skills relevant to the program. One example of how we invite applicants to share their unique stories is through the use of optional video interviews for external applicants. Ultimately, our holistic admissions process aims to create a balanced and diverse student body by considering a broad range of qualifications and attributes beyond just academic metrics. This approach seeks to identify candidates who will thrive academically, contribute positively to the program, and make a significant impact in the field after graduation.

Course credit and course remediation

The transcripts of all external applicants who generally qualify for advanced standing (i.e., those who hold a pre-professional degree in architecture) are reviewed carefully for either course credit or course remediation. Wentworth's residency requirements allow for a maximum of 8 credits to be transferred into the M.Arch program, and course credit is most commonly granted for prior coursework in structures and/or building systems. Applicants who appear to have already completed such coursework during their undergraduate studies are invited to provide course syllabi to the admissions committee for equivalency consideration. Conversely, the same applicant pool may be asked to take remedial coursework as a precondition for advanced placement.

For those external applicants who do not qualify for advanced standing (i.e., those without a pre-professional degree in architecture), the same idea applies. Most often, course credit is given for those who may have already taken coursework equivalent to our first-year architectural history and theory sequence. However, there is rarely a need for course remediation among this applicant pool.

Admitted students who are on the verge of completing their undergraduate degrees at the time of application (e.g., in the spring or summer preceding the M.Arch program), or who require remedial coursework prior to matriculation at Wentworth are technically considered 'provisional admits,' pending satisfaction of such requirements.

Undergraduate coursework

As a precondition for advanced standing in the 2nd year of the program, applicants must have completed the following coursework (with a grade of C or better) during their undergraduate education:

- A minimum of four sequential architecture design studio courses

- A minimum of one course in materials and methods or building construction. For reference, here is the description for the Wentworth course for which we seek equivalency:

ARCH7300: Building Matters

This lecture-and workshop-based course surveys common construction materials and their properties, as well as their use in simple and hybrid systems of assembly. Particular attention is devoted to wood, steel, and masonry systems. This course also introduces students to structural principles guiding vernacular construction, principles of building siting and orientation, and passive environmental building strategies.

- A minimum of one course in environmental systems. For reference, here is the description for the Wentworth course for which we seek equivalency:

ARCH 7600: Energy & Resources in Architecture
This lecture and workshop-based course focuses on architectural methods for achieving visual, thermal and acoustical comfort in buildings using primarily non-mechanical means: climate, form, orientation, materials, and structure. Students will learn to analyze energy phenomena and understand energetic implications of a range of design strategies. Principles of sustainable resource management will be introduced.

- A minimum of two course in the history and theory of architecture. For reference, here are the descriptions for the Wentworth courses for which we seek equivalency:

ARCH 7250: Graduate History/Theory Lecture
This lecture course surveys world architecture, urbanism and landscapes from the ancient world through roughly 1700 CE. Lectures shall discuss architecture as a form of cultural expression and in relation to the artistic, political, religious, scientific, technological, and social developments.

ARCH 7550: Graduate History/Theory Seminar
This lecture course surveys world architecture, urbanism and landscapes from 1700 CE to the 1960's. Lectures discuss architecture as a form of cultural expression and in relation to artistic, political, religious, scientific, technological and social developments.

- In addition to the above, it is highly recommended- although not required- that applicants who will likely qualify for advanced standing in the 2-yr. track have completed an algebra-based college physics course with mechanics.

Application requirements

1. Online application

Required of all applicants. The online form can be found [here](#).

2. Statement of objectives

Required of all applicants. Please answer the first question below, and any ONE of the remaining three questions (your choice). Upload your responses together in a single letter sized .pdf file via the online application portal.

1. Describe why you are interested to pursue a graduate degree in architecture. For example, how will earning a M.Arch further your personal and professional goals and interests? (300 words +/-).

2. Describe a building you've visited in person that you felt was 'well-designed.' What criteria did you consider? Why are those criteria important to an analysis of architecture? (200 words +/-).

3. Name a building that you have never visited in person but would like to (and why?). (200 words +/-).

4. Speculate on the role that architecture does (or could) play in contemporary society. How might it make a positive impact? (200 words +/-).

3. Resume or CV

Required of all applicants.

4. Official transcripts

Required of all applicants. The Office of Graduate Admissions will automatically pull official transcripts for applicants from Wentworth.

5. Portfolio

Required of all applicants, except Wentworth BSArch students who have earned automatic admission.

Portfolios are required for applicants to all three M.Arch program tracks. Portfolios should include work that demonstrates your proficiency in architecture and/or other visual media; they should reflect the full range of your creative, research, and technical skills. The portfolio should be submitted electronically as a link to a webpage or uploaded PDF file within the online application.

Format

Applicants should submit an electronic copy of their portfolio. A link to an online portfolio is preferred, but portfolios may be uploaded to the application as a PDF. Portfolios should be designed for viewing one page at a time (not as a two-page spread) using landscape orientation and standard aspect ratios such as 4:3 and 16:9.

Content

Please show a range of your original design work, including design drawings, sketches, model images, photography, sculpture, writing samples – any work that conveys your artistic sensibilities. Emphasize four to five of your best projects. Non-academic creative and professional work may be included if it demonstrates your abilities to perform successfully as a graduate student.

Organization

Portfolios should be well organized with a brief introductory text for each project. Each project should be clearly labeled. Indicate whether the project was completed as part of a course by including the name of the professor, studio, and semester. In the case of team projects, you must identify your role on the team and specify authorship of drawings, images, and artifacts seen in the portfolio.

Quality

The goal of the portfolio is to legibly display the quality of your design and creative work. Focus your efforts on making the clearest presentation with simple layouts of imagery and brief, informative texts using straightforward typefaces scaled for ease of reading on a laptop. Make an effort to document your work carefully so that all images of your work are of high resolution and large enough to understand in detail; the committee expects a professional presentation.

6. Letters of recommendation

Two letters are required of all applicants except current Wentworth BSArch students, who only need to provide the names of two fulltime faculty members in architecture who are willing to serve as a reference.

7. Application fee

A non-refundable $50 fee is required of all applicants, except Wentworth BSArch students who have earned automatic admission.

Other requirements

Proof of English Proficiency (for non-native English speakers). Please see Wentworth's English proficiency requirements here.

International applicants are required to submit proof of financial support.

Please note that applicants do not apply for advanced standing in the M.Arch program. Rather, placement is determined during the admissions process by the selection committee.

Reapplications

Applicants who are unsuccessful in their application to the program are invited to reapply in the future, after gaining additional relevant skills and experience. Repeat candidates receive full consideration alongside first-time applicants.

Deferrals

As of Fall 2024, deferrals are no longer allowed. Successful applicants must enroll in the fall semester of the year that they were admitted to the M.Arch program or reapply later. Applicants who have earned a BSArch from Wentworth, but who did not enroll in the subsequent academic year are invited to reapply; however, they must submit the same materials as an external applicant.