

## HWS | ARCH

### Frequently Asked Questions on HWS architectural studies major



final model from ARCH DESIGN II Studio by Addie Duplissie-Johnson

#### **1. IS HWS'S PROGRAM A 'NAAB ACCREDITED' DEGREE PROGRAM?**

No. HWS's Architectural Studies major is a pre-professional liberal arts degree. You will receive a B.A. in Architecture when you graduate.

#### **2. WILL I BE A LICENSED ARCHITECT AFTER I GRADUATE FROM HWS?**

No. In order to become a licensed architect, you need to study architecture in an accredited professional program, either at the undergraduate (Bachelor of Architecture degree) or graduate level (Masters of Architecture degree). HWS's program is a 4-year pre-professional non-accredited liberal arts college major in architecture studies. You can work in an architecture office; you just can't become licensed until you go to graduate school. In order to become a licensed architect after completing HWS's degree, you will need to go to a 3 year M. Arch. program at a major university.

#### **3. HOW MANY OF HWS ARCHITECTURE MAJORS GET INTO GRADUATE SCHOOL?**

About 50% of our majors apply to graduate M. Arch. programs. The other 50% choose to work in real estate, construction management, historic preservation, interior design, planning, or landscape architecture. We have an excellent record getting students into graduate schools.

#### **4. WHAT GRADUATE SCHOOLS HAVE ACCEPTED HWS ARCHITECTURE MAJORS?**

Our students have gone to all the major national architecture schools, including Harvard University, Columbia University, University of Pennsylvania (Penn), University of Virginia, Cornell, Rhode Island School of Design (RISD), Southern California Institute of Architecture (SCI-Arch), Virginia Tech, Georgia Tech, Illinois Institute of Technology, University of Buffalo, Syracuse University, University of Washington, University of Oregon, University of Arizona, and many others.

#### **5. WHY SHOULD I STUDY ARCHITECTURE IN A 4-YEAR PRE-PROFESSIONAL NONACCREDITED LIBERAL ARTS COLLEGE AS OPPOSED TO A 5-YEAR PROFESSIONAL ACCREDITED PROGRAM IN A UNIVERSITY?**

Because you will have more options when you graduate and you will have gotten the kind of well-rounded education that is valued by the profession.

AND

Because the architecture profession rewards architects who have done their professional training at the graduate level in an M. Arch. program. You will be better paid and have more career opportunities. The 5 year B.Arch. degree is less valuable and has far less career advancement possibilities than the M. Arch. B.Arch. graduates tend to be hired in lower-level drafting positions, while M. Arch. graduates tend to be hired for upper-level design and management positions. If you only want to work for an architect, get the B.Arch. If you really want to be an architect, you'll need the M. Arch. degree.

AND

Every architect who wants to be a leader in the profession needs to have a Masters degree, so if you get a 5 year B.Arch, you will still have to go to graduate school to be highly competitive in the working world. A 5 year B.Arch. degree might appear to be a faster track to becoming an architect than a 4

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year B. A. degree at HWS followed by 3 years in an graduate M. Arch. program. However, since many B.Arch graduates find their career advancement limited, they are forced to go back to school for an additional 2 year graduate M. Arch. degree. Thus, the apparent time advantage vanishes!

AND

Your classes will be small. You will receive personal guidance from real architects in making decisions about your career and schooling.

AND

You will have more time for extracurricular activities. In a 5-year professional program, you will do nothing but study architecture and spend all your time with architecture students, living a very vocational and narrow college experience.

The bottom line: Do you want to be 22 years old and only be able to be an architect or do you want to be 22 years old and have career options that include architecture, landscape architecture, city planning, interior design, industrial design, historic preservation and many other fields?

#### **6. WHAT CAN I DO WITH A DEGREE IN ARCHITECTURE FROM HWS?**

You can work in an architecture or landscape architecture firm under the guidance of a licensed architect. You can work on a historic preservation project. You can work with an interior designer. You can work in architectural journalism. You will be qualified to work in almost any field that has something to do with the built environment.

#### **7. DOES HWS REQUIRE A PORTFOLIO FOR ADMISSIONS?**

No, we do not require a design portfolio for admission.

#### **8. THERE ARE A LOT OF LIBERAL ARTS COLLEGES THAT HAVE ARCHITECTURE MAJORS. WHAT MAKES THE HWS ARCHITECTURE PROGRAM UNIQUE?**

We are the only liberal arts college in the country that has an architecture program staffed by three professionally-trained designers (two architects and one landscape architect), employed as full-time faculty. We have well-equipped in-house design studios. All other programs are typically staffed by studio art faculty, or a part-time architect who stops in a few times a week, or send their students to a nearby university to take a design studio.

#### **9. I'VE HEARD THE ARCHITECTURE MAJOR COURSEWORK IS TOUGH AND TIMECONSUMING. AM I GOING TO HAVE TIME FOR EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES LIKE SPORTS AND CLUBS?**

Yes. While architecture coursework is challenging and time-consuming, students who wish to play sports or participate in extracurricular clubs find the time to do so.

#### **10. IS THERE AN ARCHITECTURE CLUB AT HWS?**

Yes. The HWS architecture students have a club that is a vibrant community of students interested in design and architecture. They have funding that they use for projects and social gatherings. Projects in the past include: a special lecture by a furniture designer, film series, attaining a theme house for art and architecture students, a BBQ for first year students interested in design, and a fashion show in collaboration with the Arts Collective, another club at HWS.

#### **11. ARE THERE ANY STUDY-ABROAD PROGRAMS AT HWS?**

Yes. Many of our students spend a semester (usually during their Junior year) studying design and art/architectural history in Copenhagen, Denmark; Rome, Italy; Norwich, England; Bath, England; Aix-en-Provence, France; and Berlin, Germany.

#### **12. AM I GOING TO STUDY GREEN DESIGN AT HWS?**

Yes. Our program prides itself on teaching students to take an ethical stance when it comes to architecture, whether that is through community outreach or sustainable design. Our belief is that Architects must be stewards of the environment. Discussion and design of green architecture is integrated throughout the HWS architecture studies curriculum.