WHAT CAN I DO WITH A MAJOR IN ... ARCHITECTURE

OCCUPATIONAL OVERVIEW:
Architects are responsible for designing spaces where people live, work, learn, and play. These spaces range from the size of a small meeting room to an entire industrial complex. The Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) (2012) explains that architects are responsible for many facets of the design process, ranging from discussing design objectives with clients, utilizing computer-aided design (CAD) and building information modeling (BIM) methods to develop final construction plans, and visiting building sites to ensure that construction contractors are following the design. BLS notes that architects must adhere to building codes, zoning laws, fire regulations, and other ordinances, such as the Americans with Disabilities Act throughout this process. Furthermore, BLS highlights that architects collaborate with many other professionals such as civil engineers, urban and regional planners, interior designers, and landscape architects.

EMPLOYMENT REQUIREMENTS:
BLS notes that there are three main steps in becoming a licensed architect: completing a professional degree in architecture, gaining work experience through an internship, and passing the Architect Registration Exam. It’s also important to note that most states require some form of continuing education to maintain a license. See BLS for more details on the National Council of Architectural Registration Boards (NCARB) which can make it easier to become licensed across multiple states. Consult O*Net for more information on the specific KSAs (Knowledge, Skill, Ability) that are needed for a career in architecture.

THE UNIVERSITY OF NEW MEXICO:
The University of New Mexico School of Architecture and Planning (SAAP) offers a pre-professional Bachelor of Arts in Architecture (BAA), two different tracks to obtain the first professional degree, Master of Architecture (M.Arch), as well as a post-professional program leading to a Master of Science in Architecture degree. Further information can be found on the UNM School of Architecture and Planning (SAAP) website.

INDUSTRIES & TARGET EMPLOYERS:
A variety of employers specifically recruit UNM students and alumni. Consult UNM’s Lobo Career Connection for a complete list of employers and current job postings. Speak with a Career Development Facilitator at the UNM Office of Career Services for help with identifying employers or additional resources for your occupation of choice.

Residential
Architecture firms, real estate, construction, self-employment, single family housing, multiple family housing, consulting

Commercial
Architecture firms, universities/colleges, federal government, local/state government, corporations, self-employment, design firms, manufacturers

Education
University or college teaching, research

SUGGESTED STRATEGIES
• Gain related professional experience through involvement in internships, student employment, Co-ops, and/or volunteer opportunities.
• Shadow professionals in the field to gain a better understanding of the occupation and to build relationships with professional mentors.
• Build your network and get involved on campus through student organizations and campus events. Find organizations and events at the Student Activities Center website.
• Attend career related campus events such as career fairs, company information sessions, and or career workshops.
• Students who are interested in graduate school should maintain a high undergraduate GPA and develop relationships with faculty and community leaders.
• Speak with mentors and faculty about career opportunities.
• Job leads can be found on your department’s website, list-serv, newsletters, and social media sites.
STATE AND NATIONAL WAGES:
Adapted from CareerOneStop (2013)

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INFORMATIONAL WEBSITES:

- The American Institute of Architects: www.aia.org
- National Council of Architectural Registration Boards: www.ncarb.org
- American Planning Association: www.planning.org/
- E-Architect: www.e-architect.com
- American Institute of Architecture Students: www.aias.org
- Internet Community for Architects and Designers: www.akropolis.net
- Society of Architectural Historians: www.sah.org
- 3D Café: www.3dcafe.com
- American Institute of Building Design: www.aibd.org/
- National Organization of Minority Architects: www.noma.net
- Society of Architectural Historians: www.sah.org/
- American Institute of Architects – New Mexico: www.aianewmexico.org/
- American Institute of Architects – Albuquerque: www.aiaabq.org/
- Archinect: http://archinect.com/jobs/
- Arkitectum: http://www.arkitectum.com/

http://onetonline.org  www.bls.gov/oco/

REFERENCES

