

3. The D.Arch.: Doctor of Architecture

"The NAAB accredits the following professional degree programs: the Bachelor of Architecture (B.Arch.), the Master of Architecture (M.Arch.), and the Doctor of Architecture (D.Arch.). The curricular requirements for awarding these degrees must include professional studies, general studies, and electives. Schools offering the degrees B.Arch., M.Arch., and/or D.Arch. are strongly encouraged to use these degree titles exclusively with NAAB-accredited professional degree programs."

The D.Arch is a new addition that was formally approved following the 2003 Validation Conference. ArchVoices has written previously about the D.Arch in general, and specifically about the Arch.D. (Architectural Doctorate) program at the University of Hawaii that sparked much of the current discussion. NAAB does not have different substantive requirements or distinctions between the three degrees. NAAB exists simply to determine a single minimum standard for education pursuant to professional licensure, and each university has to make a decision about whether the degree merits a B, an M or a D, given their own graduate school requirements and the requirements of their regional accrediting agency. NAAB has, however, created specific credit hour requirements for each degree:

B.Arch.: 150 semester credit hours

M.Arch.: 168 semester credit hours, including 30 at the graduate level

D.Arch.: 210 semester credit hours, including 90 at the graduate level

Additionally, for each degree, at least 45 semester credit hours must be outside of architectural studies, either as general studies or as elective courses with "other than architectural content."