Portfolio Reviews & Assessments of Prior Learning

In order to graduate with a Bachelor of Architecture at Drexel, all students are required to fulfill the complete curriculum as stated in the respective course requirements for their incoming year and track (evening or 2+4 respectively). A hard copy of this information is given to every student when he or she enters the program and can be viewed as a contract between the student and the university. An online version of the required classes can be found at http://www.drexel.edu/westphal/academics/undergraduate/architecture/curriculum/.

Please note that all transfer students will be considered on probation during their first full academic year. At the end of the first four quarters at Drexel, a comprehensive review of the student's performance and a portfolio review may be conducted. If necessary, the students may be required to take additional classes as remediation if lacking skills or weak performance have become obvious. This is meant to ensure that all of our students are able to complete the curriculum with sufficient knowledge, skills and success.

If a student enters the Architecture Program at Drexel University as a transfer student, the Architecture Program (in most cases the Program Director or the Associate Program Director and the Student Advisor) conduct an assessment of all prior transcripts, experiences and skills at that time and might give credit for some required and elective courses. Credit for courses is only given at that time. All other classes have to be taken and passed according to their minimum grade requirements.

An Assessment of Prior Learning is only done when a student enters the program. It is not an option to request an Assessment of Prior Learning to lighten the individual's course load or to receive credit for experiences or skills gained after admission.

In some cases credits for classes taken outside of Drexel may be transferred if the students can provide a valid transcript of another accredited institution and has received a minimum grade of C or better. In rare cases courses taken outside of Drexel may be counted towards the required curriculum only if a prior evaluation of the course through the Architecture Program has taken place. An evaluation of the respective syllabus and assignments as well as the course results will be required to assess the transferability of any credit. It is the student's sole responsibility to clarify with the department if the course may be transferable and to obtain necessary written approvals by the Student Advisor and the Program Director or Associate Program Director prior to enrolling or taking any class outside of our curriculum.

Transfer Placement
Drexel has Articulation Agreements with a number of local and regional Community Colleges to facilitate your transition into our program. However please note that this does not ensure that you will receive automatic credit for all classes you have taken at your previous university or college. To receive transfer credit for any architectural course, please make sure to provide us with the course syllabus and—if applicable—the individual assignment sheets of projects. For placements of transferring students into the appropriate studio or to receive an assessment of prior learning, the following additional material has to be provided in hard copy form during a face-to-face interview. The work shown should be from the student's prior classes, design studios etc. and should clearly identify the student seeking to enter the program as the sole author of the work. Please provide the following information, data or artifacts in a clear and organized form during your portfolio review:

Architecture Studio (any level):
Please provide an organized portfolio of all student projects and work done in prior design studios in hard copy. The projects should be clearly labeled with the student's name and the name of the project/assignment. Please also include the year when the work was executed, what studio level the course was, the institution and instructor's name. If available, please include a short description of the assignment and scope of the work.
Studio projects should show the appropriate graphic and design skills the student has at the specific level and will help us to determine the appropriate level within our program for each student.

ARCH 151 Architectural Drawing I and/or ARCH 155 Basic Architectural Drawing:
Please provide a portfolio with hand sketches, graphic exercises, diagrams, drawn case studies as well as drafted architectural/orthographic drawings. The focus here will be on basic skills of architectural representation, including drafted and freehand techniques in a variety of media including freehand sketching, the correct execution of line drawings drafted by hand in plan, section, elevation, perspectives, axonometric drawings, graphic layout and the general mastery of architectural drawing conventions.

ARCH 152 Architectural Drawing II and/or ARCH 156 Graphic Communication I:
Please provide a portfolio similar to the one for ARCH 152/156 including a variety of hand sketches, hand and computer drawings, diagrams and anything that will illustrate your advanced graphic skills in addition to your studio work. The work should focus on architectural representation through highly developed drawing techniques including sketching, perspective drawing, rendering, shade and shadow techniques and the use of color as well as page composition.

ARCH 150 Intro to CADD I:
Please provide a portfolio with studio projects that show that you master AutoCad (focus on 2D and some 3D), SketchUp and Adobe Photoshop, Illustrator and InDesign. We have been including other software like Rhino, so please be aware that the program requirements might change with our curriculum. The focus will be on the use of 2D line drawings in plan, section, elevations, graphic layout and architectural drawing conventions drafted on the computer. Broad knowledge of representation techniques through the use of computer software has to become visible. Additionally, some samples of professional work may be included but it must be clearly discernable which part of the drawing the student created.

ARCH 153 Intro to CADD II:
Please bring in studio work that shows your proficiency in 2D and 3D applications for modeling and rendering. This course is designed to further investigate the fundamentals of computer aided drawing and documentation in the generation and representation of architectural design. The exploration of the spatial perception through the use of current 3D modeling and visualization techniques throughout the design process has to become visible. The class currently teaches the use of Revit, Rhino and 3D StudioMax. Firm knowledge and mastery of these or equivalent programs will be required in order to test out of this course. Additionally, some samples of professional work may be included but it must be clearly discernable which part of the drawing the student created.

Please not that the use of SketchUp–and may it be very proficient–will NOT qualify to test out of Intro to CADD II.

Remediation
Pending review of prior work, students may be required to attend remedial design and or visualization summer sessions taught by Drexel Faculty.