Drexel University
Department of Architecture

Visiting Team Report

Bachelor of Architecture
(221 undergraduate quarter hours; 147.33 semester credit hours)

The National Architectural Accrediting Board
October 2009

*The National Architectural Accrediting Board (NAAB), established in 1940, is the sole agency authorized to accredit U.S. professional degree programs in architecture. Because most state registration boards in the United States require any applicant for licensure to have graduated from an NAAB-accredited program, obtaining such a degree is an essential aspect of preparing for the professional practice of architecture.*
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I. Summary of Team Findings

1. Team Comments

The team, through conversations and correspondence with the Program, addressed the issue identified for a focused evaluation by the NAAB. The team found that Professional Degrees and Curriculum Criteria was Met as of the date of the focused evaluation.
II. Compliance with the Conditions for Accreditation

Program Response to the NAAB Focused Criteria

Schools must respond to the interests of the collateral organizations that make up the NAAB as set forth by this edition of the NAAB Conditions for Accreditation. Each school is expected to address these interests consistent with its scholastic identity and mission.

12. Professional Degrees and Curriculum

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.

   Met  Not Met
   [ X ]  [ ]

Per the 2006 VTR there were two issues embedded in the failure to meet this Condition. The first was the number of credits in the curriculum assigned to General Studies and the second was the total credits in the degree program. The curriculum has been changed to add twenty-one general studies credits to the architecture program by replacing nine credits of required professional courses and adding twelve new general studies credits. Because of this change the total credits for the curriculum as increased by twelve credits to 221. While on paper the general studies requirements have been fulfilled, the Team cautions the program to adhere to the general education requirements for the yet-to-be numbered Ethics for Architects course. For this class to be considered a general education course it should fulfill three conditions: be taught outside of the department; be a subject matter primarily non-architectural; and be taught to more than just architecture students.

In addition the program intends to fulfill the additional four credits needed to reach 225 by adding two two-credit professional practice courses to the required curriculum that will cover a variety of student performance criteria that were not met during the 2006 accreditation visit. The program expects these courses to be in-place by the Fall of 2010.

This Condition has now been met through the reorganization and expansion of the general education credits (69) by the curriculum revision.
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Appendices

Appendix A: The Visiting Team

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Appendix B: The Visit Agenda

The focused evaluation team in consultation with the Department of Architecture determined that a site visit to the school was not required to successfully complete the focused evaluation. The focused evaluation findings are based upon materials and information provided by the Department of Architecture, Drexel University to the NAAB and the Team members.
IV. Report Signatures

Respectfully submitted,

Wendy Ornelas, FAIA Representing the Academy

Lance J. Brown, FAIA Representing the Practice
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