

3.11 Administrative Structure

The accredited degree program must be, or be part of, an institution accredited by one of the following regional institutional accrediting agencies for higher education: the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS); the Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools (MSACS); the New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC); the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools (NCACS); the Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities (NWCCU); and the Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC). The accredited degree program must have a measure of autonomy that is both comparable to that afforded other professional degree programs in the institution and sufficient to ensure conformance with the conditions for accreditation.

The *APR* must include the following information:

- A statement verifying the institution's accreditation from the regional institutional accrediting agency for higher education
- A description of the school's administrative structure and a comparison of this structure with those of the other professional programs in the institution
- A list of other degree programs, if any, offered in the same administrative unit as the accredited architecture degree program.

3.12 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.

The number of credit hours for each degree is specified in the following paragraphs:

- **Doctor of Architecture.** Accredited degree programs awarding the D. Arch. degree must require either an undergraduate baccalaureate degree or a minimum of 120 undergraduate semester credit hours, or the undergraduate-level quarter-hour equivalent, and a minimum of 90 graduate-level semester credit hours, or the graduate-level quarter-hour equivalent, in academic coursework in professional studies and electives.
- **Master of Architecture.** Accredited degree programs awarding the M. Arch. degree must require a minimum of 168 semester credit hours, or the quarter-hour

equivalent, of which 30 semester credit hours, or the quarter-hour equivalent, must be at the graduate level, in academic coursework in professional studies and electives.

- **Bachelor of Architecture.** Accredited degree programs awarding the B. Arch. degree must require a minimum of 150 semester credit hours, or the quarter-hour equivalent, in academic coursework in professional studies and electives.

Every existing accredited program must conform to the above minimum credit hour requirements by 1 January 2015.

Curricular requirements are defined as follows:

- **General Studies.** A professional degree program must include general studies in the arts, humanities, and sciences, either as an admission requirement or as part of the curriculum. It must ensure that students have the prerequisite general studies to undertake professional studies. The curriculum leading to the architecture degree must include at least 45 credit hours, or the quarter-hour equivalent, that must be outside architectural studies either as general studies or as electives with other than architectural content. For the M. Arch. and D. Arch., this calculation may include coursework taken at the undergraduate level.
- **Professional Studies.** The core of a professional degree program consists of the required courses that satisfy the NAAB Student Performance Criteria. The accredited degree program has the liberty to require additional courses including electives to address its mission or institutional context.
- **Electives.** A professional degree program must allow students to pursue their special interests. The curriculum must be flexible enough to allow students to complete minors or develop areas of concentration, inside or outside the program.

Table 3-1, Minimum Credit Distribution, presents a summary of the preceding three paragraphs.

Table 3-1
Minimum Credit Distribution

General (nonarchitecture) Studies 45 Semester-Credit-Hour Minimum*	Professional Studies
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Required courses with other than architectural content 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Courses with architectural content required of all students
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Elective courses with other than architectural content 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Elective courses with architectural content

*Or the quarter-hour equivalent