

ARCHITECTURAL DESIGN, AAS

Program Code: Architectural Design-AAS

Program Description

The Associate of Applied Science in Architectural Design prepares students for entry-level roles in architecture, engineering, and construction, with a focus on the high desert and alpine regions of the American West. Students learn architectural design thinking, 3D modeling, baseline architectural drafting, and environmental/sustainable design while exploring the cultural and geographical factors shaping these landscapes. Emphasis is placed on design skills with hands-on projects in challenging conditions such as high-altitude climates, water scarcity, and wildfire risk. Graduates are ready for non-regulated, entry level positions in firms such as design technicians or to progress into the 5-year Bachelor of Architecture (In Candidacy) Program which is required to become a registered Architect in the State of Nevada.

Recommended Course Schedule

1st semester		Units
AAD 100	Introduction to Architectural Design	3
AAE 180	Introduction to Design Principles	6
ENG 101	Composition I ¹	3
	or ENG 100 or Composition Enhanced	
	or Composition I for International and Multilingual Students	
	or ENG 113	
MATH 124	College Algebra	3
Semester Total		15
2nd semester		Units
AAE 280	Design Foundations II	6
AAD 201	History of the Built Environment	3
AAD 223	Graphic Software for Arch, Const, Dsgnr, Planners	3
US & Nevada Constitutions		3
Semester Total		15
3rd semester		Units
AAE 282	Design Foundations III	6
AAD 268	3-D Presentation Graphics	3
ENG 102	Composition II	3
	or ENG 114 or Composition II For International and Multilingual Students	
PHYS 100	Introductory Physics	3
Semester Total		15
4th semester		Units
AAE 283	Design Foundation IV	6
AAD 232	Bioclimatic Design	3
AAD 203	History, Theory, and Culture - Architecture of the 20th and 21st Century	3
Fine Arts ¹		3
Semester Total		15
Total Units		60

¹ Please see advisor if you placed in to ENG 102 or ENG 114.

Program Requirements

AAS degrees are generally non-transfer degrees designed for students to enter the workforce.

To earn an AAS degree, students must:

1. Maintain a minimum cumulative GPA of 2.0 (see requirements for graduation.)
2. Complete a minimum of 15 units within the college.
3. Satisfy General Education requirements for the AAS (<https://catalog.tmcc.edu/degrees-certificates/general-education/aas/>).
4. Have no financial or library obligation to the college.

Code	Title	Units
General Education Requirements		
<i>English/Communications</i>		6
Required:		
ENG 101	Composition I ¹	
or ENG 100	Composition Enhanced	
or ENG 113	Composition I for International and Multilingual Students	
Required:		
ENG 102	Composition II	
or ENG 114	Composition II For International and Multilingual Students	
<i>Fine Arts/Humanities/Social Science</i>		3
Recommended:		
Course that meets Fine Arts		
<i>Human Relations:</i>		[3]
AAE 180	Introduction to Design Principles	
<i>Mathematics</i>		3
Required:		
MATH 124	College Algebra (Or higher)	
<i>Science</i>		3
Required:		
PHYS 100	Introductory Physics	
Additional College Requirements		
<i>Diversity</i>		[3]
AAD 201	History of the Built Environment	
<i>U.S. and Nevada Constitutions</i>		3
Degree Requirements		
AAD 100	Introduction to Architectural Design	3
AAD 201	History of the Built Environment ²	3
AAD 203	History, Theory, and Culture - Architecture of the 20th and 21st Century	3
AAD 223	Graphic Software for Arch, Const, Dsgnr, Planners	3
AAD 232	Bioclimatic Design	3
AAD 268	3-D Presentation Graphics	3
AAE 180	Introduction to Design Principles	6
AAE 280	Design Foundations II	6

AAE 282	Design Foundations III	6
AAE 283	Design Foundation IV	6
Total Units		60

¹ Please see advisor if you placed in to ENG 102 or ENG 114.

Program Outcomes

Students completing the degree will:

- PSLO1: Apply foundational architectural design thinking, drafting, and 3D modeling skills to produce accurate and visually effective design imagery and models.
- PSLO2: Analyze cultural, geographical, and environmental factors of high desert and alpine regions to inform contextually responsive design solutions.
- PSLO3: Employ iterative design thinking processes—research, ideation, prototyping, and refinement—to generate creative solutions for region-specific architectural challenges.
- PSLO4: Evaluate architectural precedents to inform design decisions and support the development of innovative, context-appropriate solutions.