

**Board of Regents Informational Briefing
Retroactive Master of Architecture Degree
Montana State University-Bozeman**

Montana State University-Bozeman will grant Master of Architecture degrees to all graduates of the School of Architecture who have met the requirements for the Master of Architecture degree through the award of the Bachelor of Architecture degree prior to 2002.

History

In June 1997, the Board of Regents authorized the School of Architecture to offer a four year Bachelor of Arts in Environmental Design and a one-year Master of Architecture (M.Arch) degree in place of its five-year Bachelor of Architecture (B.Arch) degree. The transition from the B.Arch degree program to the M.Arch degree program was completed December 2001. No curricular changes were made in the transition from the Bachelor of Architecture to the Master of Architecture degree program. The only change was in the degree nomenclature—from a B.Arch to an M.Arch.

In July 1997, the National Architectural Accrediting Board (NAAB) granted accreditation for the Master of Architecture degree based upon the curricular materials and student work presented during the Spring 1997 NAAB site visit. All of the student work and curricular materials shown were based upon the five-year Bachelor of Architecture program.

Because no curricular changes were made during the change from a B.Arch to an M.Arch degree, students that graduated in Fall Semester 1997 received a Bachelor of Architecture degree while those students graduating in Spring Semester 1998 received a Master of Architecture degree for the same program of study and credit requirement.

Internal and NAAB Review

The School of Architecture Administration and faculty voted unanimously in support of awarding the retroactive Master of Architecture degree to its Bachelor of Architecture graduates. In addition it has the endorsement of the Dean of the College of Arts and Architecture and the President and Provost have also endorsed this proposal.

Both the Master of Architecture and the Bachelor of Architecture degrees are first professional degrees in the architectural profession and are seen as equivalent when graduates undertake the Architectural Registration Examination administered by the National Council for Architectural Registration Board (NCARB).

The National Architectural Accreditation Board has been consulted on this process and informed us that the award of degrees is determined by the granting institution and system. Many other Schools of Architecture have undertaken the granting of retroactive Master of Architecture degrees including but not limited to Tulane University,

Norwich Academy, Yale University, Harvard University, Columbia University and Princeton University.

Process

Bachelor of Architecture graduates wishing to receive the retro-active Master of Architecture degree would be required to successfully complete a one-credit graduate elective during the semester in which the M.Arch degree would be granted. This one-credit course would be offered each semester beginning Summer 2008.

This Master of Architecture degree would not replace any previous degrees. As such, graduates with a Bachelor of Architecture degree would receive the Master of Architecture degree as well.

The granting of a retro-active Master of Architecture degree will not alter the professional registration status or eligibility of any past B.Arch graduates of the MSU School of Architecture.