

Student Handbook 2026–2027

Rice School of Architecture

Letter from the Dean

Dear Students,

To navigate an architectural space requires an understanding of its coordinates—not as restrictive boundaries but as generative structures that allow for movement, spontaneous collaboration, and creative freedom. This student handbook is designed to serve as precisely that kind of enabling framework for your time at the Rice School of Architecture. It outlines the foundational policies, expectations, and resources that organize our daily academic life, grounding your individual trajectories within the school's larger collective mission: to advance architectural discourse, to build community through architecture, and to foster planetary engagement.

As we enter the 2026–2027 academic year, our school community moves forward with profound institutional momentum and clarity. The recent validation of our Bachelor of Architecture and Master of Architecture Programs with full eight-year terms of continuing accreditation from the National Architectural Accrediting Board stands as a powerful testament to the rigor and integrity of our curriculum. This excellence is deeply mirrored in our physical environment. The seamless integration of MD Anderson Hall and William T. Cannady Hall functions as a vibrant “campus within a campus.” These interconnected spaces are explicitly designed to amplify your capacity for experimentation, design inquiry, and intellectual dialogue.

Within these studios and seminar rooms, you are never merely passive recipients of an architectural education; you are active citizens and coauthors of our pedagogical project. The guidelines within these pages—from our mandatory “Pencils Down” deadlines to our shared protocols of studio stewardship—are established to protect your well-being, ensure an equitable playing field, and preserve the deep integrity of our review culture. From the intensive discussions at our studio desks to the public conversations sparked by our curatorial platform, Exhibitions at Rice, your ideas, questions, and evolving sense of global responsibility are what animate our community. We aim to use the lens of architecture to see the world differently, focusing closely on the imaginative new worlds that are yet to come.

Like the built environment itself, this handbook is a living document that evolves alongside the community it serves. I invite you to treat these pages both as a functional reference tool and as an open invitation: to engage critically, to extend mutual care and generosity to your peers, and to help us collectively shape the future of architectural education. Welcome to the new academic year.

Warmly,

Igor Marjanović, Ph.D.

William Ward Watkin Dean and Professor

Vision/Mission Statement

The Rice School of Architecture is an international center of design research, experimentation, and debate that engages and reconstructs our world in the most imaginative and holistic ways. We educate the next generation of architects to be at the forefront of our discipline and to embody the dual role of public intellectual and agile practitioner as they design for a world in flux.

www.arch.rice.edu

@RiceArch

[linkedin.com/company/rice-school-of-architecture](https://www.linkedin.com/company/rice-school-of-architecture)

Academic Calendar

Fall 2026

August

16–22 Orientation week for new students

24 First day of classes; All-School Meeting, 1 p.m.; Research Platforms Presentation and Lottery & Watkin Sequence in ANH 147, 2:30 p.m.

September

4 Last day for late registration, adding courses, “audit” designation, withdrawal with 100% refund

7 Labor Day Holiday—No scheduled classes

18 Flex Friday (no studio instruction) / ARCH101/501 Material Foundations Fabrication Workshop

October

2 Flex Friday (no studio instruction) / ARCH201/503 Scaled Assemblies Fabrication Workshop

9 Last day to drop courses

12–13 Midterm Recess—No scheduled classes

30 Last day to designate a course as pass/fail; last day to file an application for a May degree conferral with the Office of the Registrar (undergrads only)

November

6 Flex Friday (no studio instruction) / ARCH301/401/601 Fabrication Workshop Lottery

16 Spring registration open for all currently enrolled students

20 Last day to register for the spring semester without a late registration fee

23–30 Charrette Week

25–27 Thanksgiving Holiday—No scheduled classes

30 Pencils Down / Plotting Up, 5 p.m.

December

1–4 Review Week

4 Last day of classes / End-of-Reviews Happy Hour

13 Studio clean-out deadline

15 End of fall semester

Spring 2027

January

11 First day of classes; All-School Meeting, 1 p.m.

18 MLK Jr. Day—No scheduled classes

22 Last day for late registration, adding courses, “audit” designation, withdrawal with 100% refund

29 Flex Friday (no studio instruction)

February

11–12 Spring Recess—No scheduled classes

26 Last day to drop courses; last day to file an application for a May degree conferral with the Office of the Registrar; file thesis master's candidacy petitions or certification of nonthesis master's with the Office of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies for December degree conferral (M.Arch. only)

March

5 Flex Friday (no studio instruction) / Career Fair

13–21 Spring Break—No scheduled classes

26 Last day to designate a course as pass/fail

April

2 Flex Friday (no studio instruction)

12 Fall registration open for all currently enrolled students

12–19 Charrette Week

16 Last day to register for the fall semester without a late registration fee

19 Pencils Down / Plotting Up, 5 p.m.

20–23 Review Week

23 Last day of classes / End-of-Reviews Happy Hour

28 Awards Ceremony

May

2 Studio clean-out deadline

4 End of spring semester

8 Commencement

Undergraduate Students

Programs of Study

Bachelor of Arts in Architecture & Bachelor of Architecture

Students admitted to the University as architecture majors may apply for admittance to the B.Arch. Program in the eighth semester (typically early spring of the senior year) of the B.A. Program (architecture major). If admitted (and pending successful completion of the semester), they are assigned a Preceptorship with an architectural firm for a one-year period after which they return to Rice to complete the final year of the B.Arch. Program (two additional semesters).

B.A. in Architecture Course Requirements

Please refer to the University's official General Announcements for complete degree requirements: ga.rice.edu.

Degree Requirements for a B.A. in Architecture

Course Credits

DESIGN STUDIOS

48 credit hours

ARCH 101 Principles of Architecture I **6**

ARCH 102 Principles of Architecture II **6**

ARCH 201 Principles of Architecture III **6**

ARCH 202 Principles of Architecture IV **6**

ARCH 301 Comprehension I **6**

ARCH 302 Comprehension II **6**

ARCH 401 Advanced Topics I **6**

ARCH 402 Advanced Topics II **6**

HISTORY & THEORY

15 credit hours

ARCH 225 Introduction to Architectural Thinking **3**

ARCH 345 Foundations in the History and Theory of Architecture I (1450–1850) **3**

ARCH 346 Foundations in the History and Theory of Architecture II (1850–1950) **3**

ARCH 352 Foundations in the History and Theory of Architecture III (1950–2000) **3**

ARCH 403 Degree Project Seminar **3**

TECHNOLOGY

12 credit hours

ARCH 207 Technology I **3**

ARCH 309 Technology II **3**

ARCH 314 Technology III **3**

ARCH 316 Technology IV **3**

Total Major Required Credit Hours 75

An additional 55 general University credits are required for the B.A. in Architecture degree +55

Total credits for degree 130

B.Arch. Course Requirements

Please refer to the University's official General Announcements for the complete degree requirements:

ga.rice.edu

Degree Requirements for a B.Arch.

In addition to completing the degree requirements for the B.A. in architecture, students must complete the following courses to earn the B.Arch. degree.

Courses Credits

DESIGN STUDIOS*

20 credit hours

ARCH 601 Advanced Option Studio—Research Platforms **10**

ARCH 602 Advanced Option Studio II—Research Platforms **10**

PRACTICE

33 credit hours

ARCH 623 Professionalism and Management in Architectural Practice** **3**

ARCH 500 Preceptorship—Fall **15**

ARCH 500 Preceptorship—Spring **15**

ARCH ELECTIVES***

9 credit hours minimum

Elective **3**

Elective **3**

Elective **3**

Total credit hours from B.Arch. degree 62

Credit hours from B.A. in architecture degree 130

Total credits for degree 192

* If students are attending Rice School of Architecture Paris, they must enroll in ARCH 620 Architectural Problems as their studio course instead of ARCH 601 or ARCH 602.

** Students will substitute a course at the 300 level or above from departmental (ARCH) offerings if they completed ARCH 423 during their first four years of study.

*** If students are attending Rice School of Architecture Paris, they must enroll in ARCH 610 in place of two of their electives during the semester they are abroad.

Grades

Incomplete Grades in a Required Architecture Course

A grade of incomplete can be given in accordance with the regulations of the University General Announcements and typically can be granted when a student fails to complete a course because of verified illness or other circumstances beyond the student's control. The instructor will specify in writing the work to be completed and a deadline for the completion. The student must acknowledge in writing their acceptance of these requirements. These notes should be copied to the Director of Undergraduate Studies.

For an incomplete received in a required architecture course in any semester, all remaining work must be completed per the instructions regarding incomplete grades and completion deadlines found on the Office of the Registrar site: ga.rice.edu/undergraduate-students/academic-policies-procedures/grades/#text.

Probationary Status

As per the General Announcements, students are placed on academic probation at the end of any semester through the end of the following semester if (a) their grade point average for that semester is less than 1.67; or (b) their cumulative grade point average is less than 1.67 (this requirement is waived if the grade point average for that semester is at least 2.00). Within the architecture major, any grade of C+ or lower in a required course places a student on probationary status. Students are expected to address the issues leading to such a grade; otherwise, continued study within architecture may not be allowed. Students on probation (for academic or other disciplinary matters) may not be candidates for, or hold, any elected or appointed office, nor are they allowed to enroll in more than seventeen semester hours.

Student Guidelines

New Students

Incoming students will be assigned advising appointments during orientation week. They will be permitted to register several days before classes begin but may wait until the first week of classes to finalize their schedule.

Orientation

An introductory meeting and discussion for incoming undergraduate students will be held during orientation week, followed by the All-School Meeting on the first day of class.

All students must attend the All-School Meeting on the first day of class.

Advising

The Director of Undergraduate Studies, who also serves as a divisional and departmental advisor, advises students regarding their major requirements and progress in the program. Studio faculty and the Undergraduate

Administrators are also available to give academic and professional advice throughout the course of studies. The Office of Academic Advising (oaa.rice.edu) offers many valuable resources and services to all students.

Each student's academic progress is documented and tracked by the Director of Undergraduate Studies and the Undergraduate Administrator. New students will meet with them for advising during O-Week. All continuing students will attend group advising with the Director of Undergraduate Studies and the Undergraduate Administrator during the first week of classes each academic year. During this meeting you will be able to review your program requirements, ensure that adequate progress has been made toward the degree, and discuss course registration for the upcoming academic year. The annual advising meeting provides an opportunity for every student to review their academic progress at least once per year, but all students are welcome to set up an appointment to review degree requirements at any time.

Approval to Continue the B.A. in Architecture Program

Each student, upon completion of the spring of the second year of architectural study, will be assessed by a faculty committee to determine whether their academic performance merits continued enrollment in the B.A. in Architecture Program. The committee's recommendations are forwarded to the Dean and subsequently submitted to the Office of the Registrar. Students are informed of the decision by a letter sent via email. Students may appeal decisions to the Dean of the school.

In early March of their second year, students will receive an email explaining how to complete the Declaration of Major and the date by which it must be submitted to the Undergraduate Administrator. Students will submit a portfolio of their studio work (including ARCH 101, 102, 201, and 202) by midnight the final day of exams. Students are notified if they have been approved within six weeks following the deadline for submission of spring semester grades. Students approved for the major continue in the B.A. sequence and complete any remaining University graduation requirements. Any students who are not approved should meet with the Director of Undergraduate Studies and the Office of Academic Advising to develop alternative academic plans.

Approval for the major is based on an examination of each student's academic performance, demonstrated aptitude, and assessment of whether the student is on track for advanced study at the B.Arch. level. While grades are not the exclusive criteria for the decision, the school expects a minimum 3.0 GPA within the required courses for the major, no more than one studio course grade in the C range, and no more than three grades in the C range in all courses required for the major. More than three grades in the C range in required courses will automatically make a student ineligible for further pursuit of the major. These minimum criteria for consideration of approval are neither exclusive of additional factors nor sufficient in themselves for approval. Examples of additional criteria include (but are not limited to): behavioral and judicial concerns, repeated written warnings and/or concerns from instructors, and progress and performance in degree requirements outside the major.

In exceptional circumstances the committee may recommend the approval for the major be deferred to the end of the fifth semester of architectural study. In these cases, a letter will be emailed to the student delineating the expectations and conditions of deferment, and the committee will meet again at the end of the semester to decide on whether to approve the major.

Application to the B.Arch. Program

The B.Arch. degree requires the successful completion of the B.A. in architecture degree at our school, completion of the two-semester Preceptorship, completion of two advanced option studios, a professional practice seminar, and three approved elective lecture or seminar courses. Preliminary admittance is offered early in the spring semester of the senior year, contingent upon satisfactory completion of remaining course work. Admission is dependent upon satisfactory academic performance, demonstrated aptitude, and preparation for the Preceptorship and the advanced course work of the final year. Grades are not the exclusive criteria for admission; however, the school expects a minimum 3.0 GPA within the required courses for the major, no grades in the C range during the last two years of studio courses, and no more than two grades total in the C range in other required courses. Additional considerations may include (but are not limited to): responsibilities and expectations regarding Preceptorship work, behavioral and judicial concerns, repeated written warnings and/or concerns from instructors, and progress and performance in degree requirements outside the major.

Students in their fourth year of architecture study who wish to pursue the B.Arch. and Preceptorship must apply by submitting the required application forms and a comprehensive portfolio by noon on the spring semester's first day of classes. In addition, students must follow all rules and procedures regarding Preceptorship assignments, including attending meetings in the fall and spring. Each applicant will be notified by email of their provisional status of admission by midterm of the spring semester, with final admittance upon satisfactory completion of course work, remaining graduation requirements, and Preceptorship assignment. In some circumstances, additional stipulations may be noted at the time of provisional admission. Any students who are not admitted into the B.Arch. Program may graduate with a B.A. in architecture upon successful completion of all major and University requirements. Such students should meet with the Director of Undergraduate Studies for advising.

Application to Rice School of Architecture Paris

The option of spending a semester, fall or spring, in Paris, is open to returning fifth-year students and advanced graduate students. Applications for either semester of the following academic year are due by February 15. Decisions are made by a faculty committee chaired by the Director of Rice School of Architecture Paris and are announced by the last day of March. Information sessions on the program are held each semester. For more information, contact the Director of Rice School of Architecture Paris.

Leave of Absence During B.A. (first four years of program)

Leaves of absence from the B.A. in Architecture Program will be granted only in special circumstances, typically for health-related or other issues beyond a student's control. Requests for a leave must be made in writing to the

school's Director of Undergraduate Studies as soon as the need arises. The decision to grant a leave from the program will be made by the Director of Undergraduate Studies in consultation with the Dean and other relevant parties, such as the University's Dean of Undergraduates. Students who do not follow these procedures or who take a leave without permission will be considered to have resigned from the program and must reapply to return.

If the student also requests leave from the University, they should follow all policies and procedures as listed in the General Announcements and contact the Office of the Dean of Undergraduates. International students should also contact the University Office of International Studies and Students (OISS). Note that permission for a leave from the B.A. in Architecture Program and from the University in general are distinct determinations. Therefore, students applying for a leave from the University must additionally apply to our school for a leave from the program. In all cases, students are responsible for ensuring that they complete and turn in required materials by the specified deadline.

Leave of Absence During B.Arch./Preceptorship (last two years of program)

In accepting a Preceptorship assignment, each student commits to return the semester immediately following the Preceptorship year. Therefore, requests for a leave of absence between the end of the fourth year and the start of the assigned Preceptorship or between the Preceptorship and the final year of coursework will be granted only under the most extraordinary of circumstances. Such requests need to detail a condition or situation beyond a student's control or ability to foresee that makes it impossible to satisfactorily complete the program in the prescribed time frame. Additional work experience, of any nature, is not acceptable grounds for requesting a leave of absence. If a student anticipates any reason that they may not be able to complete the two-year sequence as stipulated, they must notify the Director of External Programs and the Director of Undergraduate Studies in writing prior to the assignment of the Preceptorship. B.Arch. students requesting a leave from the B.Arch. Program must additionally request a leave from the University. Permission for a leave from our school and from the University are distinct determinations. Therefore, students applying for a leave from the B.Arch. Program must separately apply to the Director of Undergraduate Studies for a leave from the University.

A detailed letter describing the grounds for requesting such a leave should be sent to the Director of Undergraduate Studies and the Associate Dean for Research and Academic Affairs. Additional information such as a medical report from the student's attending physician may be required by the school. The determination to grant or deny the leave request is made by the Director of Undergraduate Studies, the Director of External Programs, and the Dean. Students who do not follow these procedures or who take a leave without permission of the school will be considered to have resigned from the B.Arch. Program.

Registration

Detailed information and links can be found at registrar.rice.edu/students/registration.

- Check the schedule to see when you can begin registering for classes.
- Select your courses from the online catalog.

- Reaffirm your commitment to the Honor Code.
- Verify that there are no holds on your account.
- Register within the first week of registration to avoid a late fee.
- Take note of add and drop deadlines and make any adjustments before then.

Registration for an architecture elective does not guarantee a spot on the final roster of the course. The first week of classes is a “shopping” period for courses, during which you can attend classes that are of interest to you and decide which courses you wish to take. If the number of interested students exceeds the enrollment cap, the instructor will determine the final roster.

Transcripts

Official transcripts can be obtained from the Office of the Registrar: registrar.rice.edu/students/transcripts.

Unofficial transcripts can be printed via esther.rice.edu.

Academic Suspension and Judicial Discipline

All undergraduates are governed at all times by the University’s Student Code of Conduct, by the regulations outlined in the Student Handbook, and by the disciplinary processes detailed by the Dean of Undergraduates Office and available at dou.rice.edu/student-resources. Regulations on academic or behavioral suspension are also listed in the General Announcements at ga.rice.edu.

Graduation Procedures

Detailed information and links can be found at registrar.rice.edu/students/grad_prep.

Students who have met all requirements for their degree program must do the following before October 30 of the fall before their intended graduation:

- Check in with the Undergraduate Administrator and file a degree audit.
- Review your Degree Works audit through the Office of the Registrar or the link above.

Graduate Students

Programs of Study

Students have two program options at the master’s degree level.

Option 1: Seven-Semester M.Arch. Program

Offered to individuals who hold a four-year undergraduate degree with a major in a field other than architecture or a major in architecture with fewer than eight semesters of architectural design studio. To graduate, students in this program must complete, in addition to six semesters of design studios, a curriculum of forty-four credit hours,

plus twenty-seven credit hours of free electives, including a design thesis (or, in select cases, an additional design studio and elective) for a total of 131 credits.

Option 2: Five-Semester M.Arch. Program

Offered to individuals who hold a four-year undergraduate degree with a major in architecture. To graduate, students in this program must complete, in addition to four semesters of design studios, a curriculum of forty-one credit hours, plus twelve credit hours of free electives, including a design thesis (or, in select cases, an additional design studio and elective) for a total of ninety-three credits.

Option 1 Course Requirements

Please refer to the University's official General Announcements for the complete degree requirements:

ga.rice.edu.

Degree Requirements for M.Arch., Option 1

Course Credits

DESIGN STUDIOS

60 credit hours

ARCH 501 Core Studio I **10**

ARCH 502 Core Studio II **10**

ARCH 503 Comprehension I **10**

ARCH 504 Comprehension II **10**

ARCH 601 Advanced Option Studio **10**

ARCH 602 Advanced Option Studio **10**

HISTORY & THEORY

ARCH 525 Introduction to Architectural Thinking **3**

ARCH 645 Foundations in the History and Theory of Architecture I (1450–1850) **3**

ARCH 646 Foundations in the History and Theory of Architecture II (1850–1950) **3**

ARCH 652 Foundations in the History and Theory of Architecture III (1950–2000) **3**

ARCH 655 Contemporary Practices in Architecture **3**

TECHNOLOGY

ARCH 507 Technology I **3**

ARCH 509 Technology II **3**

ARCH 514 Technology III **3**

ARCH 516 Technology IV **3**

PRACTICE

ARCH 623 Professionalism and Management in Architectural Practice **3**

THESIS

ARCH 701 Thesis Proposal **1**

ARCH 703 Design Thesis Studio **10**

ARCH 729 Thesis Written Document **3**

ELECTIVES

27 hours of free electives **27**

Total Major Required Credit Hours 131

Option 2 Course Requirements

Please refer to the University's official General Announcements for the complete degree requirements:

ga.rice.edu.

Degree Requirements for M.Arch., Option 2

Courses Credits

DESIGN STUDIOS

ARCH 503 Comprehension I—Assembly **10**

ARCH 504 Comprehension II—Urban Complex **10**

ARCH 601 Advanced Option Studio—Research Platforms **10**

ARCH 602 Advanced Option Studio II—Research Platforms **10**

HISTORY & THEORY*

ARCH 525 Introduction to Architectural Thinking **3**

ARCH 655 Contemporary Practices in Architecture **3**

Two out of three of the following: 6

ARCH 645 Foundations in the History and Theory of Architecture I (1450–1850) **(3)**

ARCH 646 Foundations in the History and Theory of Architecture II (1850–1950) **(3)**

ARCH 652 Foundations in the History and Theory of Architecture III (1950–2000) **(3)**

** Students who have previously taken courses equivalent to ARCH 525, 625, 645, 646, or 652 at another institution may waive comparable requirements with written permission from the Director of Graduate Studies.*

TECHNOLOGY*

ARCH 507 Technology I **3**
ARCH 509 Technology II **3**
ARCH 514 Technology III **3**
ARCH 516 Technology IV **3**

** Students who have previously taken courses equivalent to ARCH 507, 509, 514, or 516 at another institution may instead take electives with a waiver from the instructor and permission from the Director of Graduate Studies.*

PRACTICE

ARCH 623 Professionalism and Management in Architectural Practice **3**

THESIS

ARCH 701 Thesis Proposal **1**
ARCH 703 Design Thesis Studio **10**
ARCH 729 Thesis Written Document **3**

ELECTIVES

12 hours of free electives **12**

Total credit hours 93

M.Arch. Thesis Requirements

In their penultimate semester, all master of architecture students take a prethesis seminar in which they articulate an ambition and envision its architectural specificity. While some students choose to do an additional studio in their final semester, the students accepted to undertake an independent thesis hone their proposals and evolve their design projects under the guidance of an individual faculty director. In early January, the thesis projects are assessed and discussed by a panel of eminent reviewers in a public forum that engages the entire school—thus, our new year starts with a collection of new visions.

Grades

To remain in good standing with the University, a graduate student must maintain an overall GPA of 2.67 (B-). At our school, a student must maintain a 3.33 (B+) average to retain financial aid. Internally, students must maintain a minimum GPA of 3.0 in architecture-required coursework, with no course grades below a B- (2.67). If a student's GPA falls below 2.33 for any one term or if the student's overall GPA falls below 2.67, the student will be placed on probation for the following fall or spring semester. If, at the end of the probationary semester, the student's GPA is still below the minimum threshold, the student will be asked to withdraw from the school and the University. This minimum standard applies to individual required courses as well. A required course cannot be counted toward graduation if the grade falls below B- (2.67).

Our faculty regularly monitor each student's progress throughout the semester and are required to notify the student and the Director of Graduate Studies in writing if the student's performance falls below a course's minimum requirements. The Director of Graduate Studies will meet with students who fail to achieve satisfactory progress in the program to determine a plan for improvement.

Incomplete Grades in a Required Architecture Course

A grade of incomplete can be given only in accordance with the regulations of the University General Announcements and typically can be granted only when a student fails to complete a course because of verified illness or other circumstances beyond the student's control. The professor should specify in writing the work to be completed and determine a deadline for the completion of all work. The student must acknowledge in writing their understanding of these requirements. These notes should be copied to the Director of Graduate Studies. For an incomplete received in a required architecture course in the fall semester, all remaining work must be completed by 5 p.m. on the Friday before the first week of the spring semester. For an incomplete received for a required architecture course in the spring semester, all remaining work must be completed by 5 p.m. on the Friday five weeks following the final week of classes. Earlier due dates can be specified at the discretion of the instructor.

Student Guidelines

New Students

New students are required to arrive the week before classes begin for orientations, advising, and course selection. Registration starts several days before classes begin, but students should wait until the first week of classes to finalize their schedule. Students are encouraged to attend all elective courses of interest during the first week of classes. Given the limited size of certain courses, instructor approval may be required for final registration. Please refer to the Office of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies' website for important information regarding mandatory University orientation and a new-student checklist:

graduate.rice.edu/admissions/after-admission.

All students must attend the All-School Meeting on the first day of class.

Advising

Each graduate student's academic progress is documented and tracked by the Graduate Administrator and by the Director of Graduate Studies. New graduate students must meet with the Director of Graduate Studies for advising during the week before classes begin. The Graduate Administrator will contact you regarding a meeting time. All continuing graduate students are responsible for scheduling an annual advising appointment with the Graduate Administrator and Director of Graduate Studies during the first week of classes each academic year. During this meeting you will be able to review your program requirements, ensure that adequate progress has been made toward the degree, and discuss course registration for the upcoming academic year. The annual

advising meeting provides an opportunity for every student to review their academic progress at least once per year, but all students are welcome to set up an appointment to review degree requirements at any time.

Registration

Detailed information and links can be found at registrar.rice.edu/students/registration. If you are eligible to register for research platforms, please attend the studio presentations after the All-School Meeting on the first day of classes. Students will submit their preferences, and studio assignments will be posted shortly thereafter. The selection process will take into consideration each student's previous studio assignments. Other student assignments are posted shortly before classes start. For all other courses, register through Esther (esther.rice.edu).

Registration for architecture electives does not guarantee a spot on the final roster of the course. The first week of classes is a "shopping" period for courses, during which you can attend classes that are of interest to you and decide which courses you wish to take. If the number of interested students exceeds the enrollment cap, the instructor will determine the final roster.

Course Waivers

Occasionally, at the discretion of the Director of Graduate Studies, certain required courses can be waived if a similar course has been successfully completed at another institution. A maximum of two courses and six credits may be applied to the M.Arch. degree. Design studios and many other architecture classes do not fall into this category and must be completed within our school to be applied toward your degree. Students wishing to waive a course should complete a waiver form and submit it to the Director of Graduate Studies and Graduate Administrator for approval at least two weeks prior to the first day of classes. The waiver must be accompanied by an official transcript and a course syllabus. If approved, students will be informed in writing one week prior to the first day of classes.

Independent Study

With advanced approval, students can register for an independent study of up to three credit hours. A proposal must be developed, and a faculty member must agree to act as an advisor/instructor prior to registration, as indicated below.

Credit Guidelines

- Three credit hours: Course workload should be equivalent to a three-hour seminar. Faculty/student contact should be a minimum of ten hour-long meetings during the semester. The student must be reasonably prepared for each meeting, and the student must produce a final project.
- Two credit hours: Course workload should be equivalent to a two-hour seminar. The student must have at least eight hour-long meetings plus produce a final project.

- One credit hour: Course workload should be equivalent to a one-hour seminar. The student must have at least five hour-long meetings plus produce a final project.
- The final project can be a paper, a design project, or an exam. Final projects for two credits or one credit will be of the same type as that for three credits, only of a reduced scope.

An independent study information form and course proposal must be completed, approved, and signed by the faculty member involved, approved by the Director of Graduate Studies, and turned in to the Graduate Administrator before a student can register. *This form must be submitted no later than 5 p.m. on the first day of classes.* Graduate students are advised to plan ahead and solicit feedback and approval at least two weeks prior to the beginning of classes. Contact the Graduate Administrator for the independent study form.

Application to Rice School of Architecture Paris

The option of spending a semester, fall or spring, in Paris, is open to returning fifth-year students and graduate students in their final year before thesis, including those opting out of thesis to take studio. Applications for either semester of the following academic year are due by February 15. Decisions are made by a faculty committee chaired by the Director of External Programs and are announced by the last day of March. Information sessions on the program are held each semester. For more information, contact the Director of Rice School of Architecture Paris.

Financial Aid

Some admitted students are awarded tuition waivers and/or stipends. Continuing financial aid is dependent on satisfactory academic performance as defined by the school. A cumulative GPA of less than 3.33 (B+) can result in the reduction or loss of financial aid.

Leave of Absence, Medical Leave, and Voluntary Withdrawal

Graduate students observe the holiday schedule posted by the University. Active participation in academic activities is required. Absences other than medical and family emergencies must be approved by the student's faculty in advance. Notification of medical or family emergencies must be received in as timely a manner as possible, depending upon the specific situation. Unapproved absences from required academic activities for two consecutive weeks could result in termination of financial support and enrollment in the program.

Students in good standing may request a leave of absence from the University for one year. That leave is granted by the University Office of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies and must be approved by our school's Director of Graduate Studies. This form of leave is typically granted to students for personal reasons or to pursue extraordinary educational opportunities and not for the sole purpose of working in an architectural office or to students who are underperforming academically.

Short-term medical and parental leave may be granted if a graduate student cannot fulfill the duties of their appointment due to a medical emergency or the adoption or birth of a child. This form of leave is usually limited to a maximum of six weeks. In practice, because of the nature of the school's design studios, architecture students would be granted a one-semester leave. Complete guidelines for obtaining this form of leave are available at graduate.rice.edu/leaves.

Students needing to leave the University for longer periods of time or students who decide to take time off to address academic problems must voluntarily withdraw from the University. Any student who has withdrawn must reapply for admission to the University and be approved by the Director of Graduate Studies and the University Office of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies. Because the student has terminated their relationship with the University, original offers of advanced standing and financial aid are no longer in force.

Master's degree students are required to complete their program, including thesis, within five years of their initial enrollment. Students have a limit of six additional months from the date of their defense to submit their thesis to the Office of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies. These University-enforced enrollment time limits are inclusive of any period in which the student was not enrolled or enrolled part-time, including any time taken as an approved leave of absence.

Transcripts

Official transcripts can be obtained from the Office of the Registrar: registrar.rice.edu/students/transcripts.

Unofficial transcripts can be printed via esther.rice.edu.

Petitions, Appeals, Grievances

The two most common grounds for dismissal of a graduate student are inadequate academic progress and a disciplinary violation resulting in a University sanction. Guidelines have been adopted to assure fairness in problem resolution for graduate students at the University. The first goal is to comply with University policies while striving to uphold standards and raise the quality of graduate programs. The second goal is to provide graduate students with an environment that has high standards, clear assessments of their achievements, and fair and transparent procedures for handling cases of inadequate academic progress. The guidelines are available at graduate.rice.edu/discipline.

International Student Visas, CPT, and OPT

International students must maintain an F1 visa in good standing to study at Rice University. Practical guidance for international students is available through the University Office of International Studies and Students (OISS, oiss.rice.edu). International students are encouraged to contact this office for questions regarding student visas and related matters. Visa laws and procedures are strictly enforced by the U.S. Department of Homeland

Security, and the University must operate within those guidelines. International students are granted F1 visas to study in the United States. The F1 visa is good for the official length of time of the program of study, as long as the student is attending full time. Students are expected to complete their studies by the expiration date shown on their I20 form.

Our graduate programs (Option 1 & Option 2) last seven and five semesters respectively. Normally these programs finish after the fall semester. Typically, international students then have approximately sixty days before their visas expire.

Students with F1 visas are eligible to apply for two work-related programs: Curricular Practical Training (CPT) and Optional Practical Training (OPT). CPT allows students to gain employment training and to work in paid internship positions as part of an off-campus component of their academic program. Students cannot work full time while attending school, so CPT and OPT commonly take place during the summer break. To qualify for the program, students must provide employer verification of a position (e.g., a letter); enroll in ARCH 711 (Special Projects) for the employment period (e.g., summer break); and submit the course instructor verification memo to OISS.

Students can also apply to work through the OPT Program for up to three years after completion of their academic program. Students can apply for this program before they have a specific job offer. Tutorials on the application for both CPT and OPT, as well as online forms, are available at the OISS website: oiss.rice.edu.

Students who are finishing their year of OPT or have graduated can continue to work indefinitely with an H1B work visa. The employer must petition for the H1B visa. The petition can be made only during the month of April, and the number of visas granted each year is capped. Any individual can apply for permanent residency (i.e., a green card) at any time; however, the requirements are much more stringent and involve much more processing time and additional fees.

Research and Teaching Assistantships

Graduate students who receive financial aid and tuition support from our school are required to participate in school service through a graduate assistant (GA) assignment. Each semester, students work directly with an assigned faculty member to support a range of research and teaching endeavors. In an effort to make equitable and productive assignments, the Director of Graduate Studies solicits feedback from students and faculty each academic year regarding their respective interests, preferences, and requirements. GA service terms begin one week prior to the beginning of classes each semester and end two weeks after the last day of classes, or the last day of the semester (whichever comes first). Service obligations are not required during scheduled University breaks within or between semesters. Students are advised to keep track of their individually assigned hours and to make arrangements ahead of time with faculty or staff if their academic coursework conflicts with service obligations.

A limited number of teaching assistant service positions are available each semester to support faculty with the core history/theory and technology courses. Graduate students who have completed the core course sequence are eligible to apply for these positions. Final selections will be decided by the teaching faculty and the Director of Graduate Studies based on the student's past performance in these courses. Graduate students who are selected will have the option to declare the teaching support as their GA assignment, to receive financial compensation, or to receive three course credit hours.

Students in their final (thesis or nonthesis) semester are not required to participate in school service.

Master's Degree & Graduation Procedures

Candidacy and Thesis Submittal

The guidelines for thesis submission are available online: graduate.rice.edu/thesis. Students should refer to these guidelines carefully and frequently. The Graduate Administrator will distribute the Certification for Approval of Candidacy form, which is to be submitted to the Office of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies on or before noon of October 3.

After your thesis oral defense your master's degree candidacy approval form must be signed by the committee and then submitted to the Graduate Administrator, who will send a copy to the Office of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies, indicating that requirements have been met and the thesis has successfully been defended. If the thesis is submitted on or before April 19, the Registrar's and Cashier's Offices are notified, and the student's status is duly updated to note they have met the requirements to graduate in May.

The deadline for submission of the thesis to the Office of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies is April 24 for architecture students.

Candidacy for Nonthesis Master's Degree Students

Students may petition to opt out of the design thesis studio and instead enroll in one option studio and one additional course. The thesis path requires ARCH 703 Design Thesis Studio (ten credits) and ARCH 729 Thesis Written Document (three credits). Students pursuing the nonthesis M.Arch. take ARCH 601 (ten credits) in lieu of ARCH 703 and three credits of alternative coursework in lieu of ARCH 729. All M.Arch. students must complete ARCH 701 Thesis Proposal with a grade of "Satisfactory," including students pursuing the nonthesis degree option.

Failure to successfully pass Thesis Proposal means that the student must take an additional one-hour course to fulfill degree requirements.

Commencement

The Office of the President sends the graduation schedule and information to each student in mid-March of their final year.

Policies

Introduction

Our school promotes an environment of optimism, respect, sharing, engagement, and innovation through adherence to the following policies. In addition to complying with the policies included in this student handbook, students must also comply with the University's General Announcements (ga.rice.edu) and Code of Conduct (students.rice.edu/students/Conduct.asp). When in doubt, students should seek help first at the school level (administrators, program directors, advisor, and/or Dean) and subsequently at the central administration level (Office of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies).

School Philosophy on Studio Culture

Design activity is the central concern of our students and faculty. We believe that the design studio is the principle learning environment for architecture, as it represents a unique educational context in which students can synthesize the practical, aesthetic, cultural, and theoretical concerns integral to architectural design. Studio culture comprises two primary relationships (faculty-student and peer-to-peer) and two key educational activities (studio assignments and evaluation procedures). We believe that it is paramount for the studio to be characterized by a positive culture of learning and hopes to encourage this positive culture by providing guidelines for behavior in the key relationships and activities of the studio. As an additional support to students, each studio section has a Society appointed studio representative who can assist students with questions or concerns and help direct you to the appropriate resources.

Staying Connected

Students must take responsibility for keeping themselves informed about the requirements and opportunities at our school. All students are responsible for checking their Rice email account for important information from faculty, staff, and peers.

Rice email is our school's primary means of communication.

All incoming students are signed up for the following listservs upon acceptance to the school. If you do not have access, please contact the Undergraduate or Graduate Administrator.

archmail@mailman.rice.edu (emails all school faculty, staff, and students);

archi-mail@mailman.rice.edu (emails all architecture students).

Learning Together

Faculty-Student Relationships

The faculty-student relationship holds particular importance in studio-based education. Faculty members are relied upon to act as resourceful mentors who help students to cultivate crucial architectural skills, including the ability to think critically, solve problems, and use broader design knowledge in developing individual projects. A productive student-faculty relationship will be characterized by the following.

Mutual Respect

Faculty and students should treat one another with professional courtesy. Constructive criticism and disagreements are a desirable part of the architectural education, as it is often through critique and dissent that students begin to develop their positions as designers. However, maintaining civility in such interactions is crucial to their positive impact and purpose.

Attentiveness and Responsiveness

Both students and faculty members are expected to be in studio for the full duration of designated course times, unless otherwise specified. Faculty members are expected to meet with students consistently throughout the semester in desk critiques, one-on-one meetings, informal pin-ups, and formal reviews that include outside jury members. Open communication and careful listening are key to productive studio relationships and should be practiced by both parties. Faculty members should remain fully engaged and invested in the development of each student's project throughout the semester, and students should reciprocate this engagement in the development of their own work.

Encouragement

Students should feel supported by faculty members in the studio. Criticism is a welcome and crucial component of the educational process, but it must take a constructive form, helping students to better meet their design goals rather than diminish self-confidence.

Evaluation Procedures

Throughout a given semester, desk critiques, pin-ups, and reviews present crucial junctures for students to assess and reformulate their goals in the design process. The productivity and success of these reviews is to be encouraged through the following practices.

Constructive Criticism and Professional Courtesy

Reviews and pin-ups should be characterized by respect and professional courtesy. This extends to the comments and behavior of outside jurors as well as faculty members and students. Criticism should be constructive and respectful.

Attendance and Participation

Students are expected to attend and participate in all required pin-ups and reviews and, barring exceptional circumstances, to remain present for the full duration of the review. In rare cases, professors may find a student's progress insufficient to merit participation in a review. If a student feels they have been unfairly excluded from a review or pin-up they should contact the director of their program, who will assess the situation fairly.

Studio Assignments

We believe that the studio workload assigned by faculty should be in keeping with reasonable expectations for the amount and quality of student work to be produced by the particular group of students, given their skill level, competence, and available time in light of University course requirements. Student work should in turn meet these reasonable expectations for quality and productivity.

Studio Travel

Students should check their syllabus at the beginning of each semester to determine whether their class will be traveling during spring or fall recess and plan personal commitments accordingly.

While the school has endowments that support student travel expenses, each student is expected to contribute a set amount to defray the costs of the travel. This contribution is \$110 for regional travel (within 250 miles), \$220 for North American travel, and \$330 for international travel. The school makes travel arrangements and covers the cost of flights, lodging, transportation, and excursions. Students are responsible for their own meals and personal expenses.

Students are responsible for making sure that their passports are up to date. If the country to be visited requires you to have a visa, your instructor must be informed as soon as possible. Students who cannot travel for whatever reason must notify their instructor immediately. If airfare and lodging have already been purchased and are not refundable, the student will still be responsible for paying their portion of the trip's cost.

Peer-to-Peer Relationships

Collaborative learning and the exchange of ideas among students are crucial components to innovation and engagement in studio work. Moreover, students' current peers will become future colleagues and collaborators, as an academic partnership established in school can grow into a lifelong professional or intellectual alliance. Mutual respect is foundational to the success of student relationships in the studio. Additionally, collaborative work and membership in student organizations are encouraged as a way to support peer-to-peer learning and engagement.

Collaborative Work

We encourage collaborative learning in the studio through design partnerships and collective research, as implemented at the discretion of studio professors. We welcome and encourage studio projects undertaken by teams of students rather than individuals when appropriate, as well as a studio's efforts to collectively amass a

database of research at the beginning of the semester to be used freely by individual students. The process of collaboration is crucial both to forming an open, optimistic, and engaging studio ethos and to preparing students for the rewards and challenges of teamwork in their future architectural practices.

Student Organizations

Society

Student Society (aka Society) is our school's umbrella student organization. Its mission is to foster a vigorous dialogue among graduate students, undergraduate students, faculty, and the general campus. By facilitating communication among these groups and organizing activities, Society acts as the glue that helps to maintain the various constituents of the school in a productive balance. It organizes a broad range of events spanning from the educational to the social. The student-taught workshop series, which includes sessions as varied as curriculum vitae (CV) writing and 3D printing, allows students with specific knowledge bases to share their expertise with peers. Regular open studios allow students to engage one another's work outside their more formal reviews, present research material, share travel stories, and discuss projects. Society also hosts two annual parties for the entire University student body: Architectonica in the fall and ArchiArts in the spring. In addition to these events, Society produces a student directory, curates student work, organizes conversations with the Dean, and holds student-led charrette competitions.

President: Alba Galarza

Undergraduate Vice Presidents: Norah Cichowski, Emma Liu

Secretary: Seiji Ishiguro

Treasurer: Verda Wu

Cruise Directors: Leyla Bozoklar, Henry Dahl, Charlie Fang, Iolo Illiopoulou

Curators: Jumana Alabed, Asholey Calito-Cucul, Samvida Girish

Mentorship Coordinators: Sydney Chang, Ethan Huang, Nicole Lee, Justin Zhang

Recess Coordinators: Andria Lin, Tonia Plesnecute

Competitions and Civic Design Coordinators: Sydney Chang, Angela Hu, Ayden Lalani

Archi Social Head: Griffin Schulz

Archi Market Coordinators: Edward Choi, Sahasra Kuravarapu, Zanli Morris, Brandon Nguyen

Wellbeing Directors: Julian Daniels, Ayden Lalani, Julian Schulz

Architecture Graduate Student Organization (AGSA)

President: Deniz Kantar

Vice President: Evan Glenzinski

National Organization of Minority Architecture Students (NOMAS) Rice University Chapter

Email: nomas@rice.edu

Copresidents: Asholey Calito-Cucul, Samvida Girish

Treasurer: TBD

Secretaries: TBD

Social Media Chairs: TBD

Outreach Chairs: TBD

Social Events Chairs: TBD

Professional Development Chairs: TBD

Graduate Liaisons: TBD

Pencils Down + Archiving

Pencils Down / Plotting Up

The Monday of final Review Week is designated as “Pencils Down.” At 5 p.m. on that Monday, all students must cease all studio work until after reviews, scheduled throughout the week. This means that no additional work on any drawings or models is allowed. This policy falls under the University Honor Code to ensure equity for all students. It allows students to be well rested for final reviews, improving their ability to participate in conversations about their own project and those of their peers. All printed material must be exported to a PDF and uploaded to the studio’s Box folder by the 5 p.m. deadline. The PDF must reflect the exact contents the student will present at the final review. Plotting is scheduled by studio. After 5 p.m. on Pencils Down, each studio is allowed to plot boards only during their designated time slot. Students will be reminded of this procedure shortly before Pencils Down every semester. See the plotting guidelines under “Resources” at the end of this handbook for best practices and tips.

Archiving

We are obligated to archive all studio projects for NAAB, for University publications, and for our website. Students must submit studio documentation to complete their coursework and receive a grade. The guidelines are emailed and posted outside each studio prior to the Pencils Down deadline.

NCARB, IDP, and NAAB Accreditation

In the United States, most registration boards require a degree from an accredited professional degree program as a prerequisite for licensure. The National Architectural Accrediting Board (NAAB), which is the sole agency authorized to accredit professional degree programs in architecture offered by institutions with U.S. regional accreditation, recognizes three types of degrees: the bachelor of architecture, the master of architecture, and the doctor of architecture. A program may be granted an eight-year, three-year, or two-year term of accreditation, depending on the extent of its conformance with established educational standards. Doctor of architecture and master of architecture degree programs may require a preprofessional undergraduate degree in architecture for admission. However, the preprofessional degree is not, by itself, recognized as an accredited degree. We offer NAAB-accredited professional degree programs leading to the bachelor of architecture and master of architecture. The B.Arch. degree requires sixty-two credit hours beyond the B.A. in architecture pathway; the

M.Arch. degree requires either 93 or 131 credit hours, depending on the option pursued. The next accreditation visit for all programs is in spring 2033.

Architect Licensing Advisor

While each registration board sets specific rules and requirements for obtaining licensure, the National Council of Architectural Registration Boards (NCARB), an association of the architectural registration boards of the fifty states, the District of Columbia, and three U.S. territories (Guam, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands), designs the tools and procedures for jurisdictions to apply to their regulation of the path to licensure. NCARB provides and oversees internship guidelines, the Architect Registration Examination, and certification for reciprocal licensing, in addition to maintaining records for the jurisdictions.

All fifty-four U.S. jurisdictions have an experience requirement that must be documented and completed before a license may be granted. NCARB's Intern Development Program (IDP) guides aspiring architects through this process and is the standard accepted means of completing the experience requirement in almost all U.S. jurisdictions.

The school's licensing advisor is Brett Zamore (zamore@rice.edu), and he can assist in following ways:

- Advise students of their eligibility to establish an NCARB record and assist them with the application by completing the process for documenting an IDP eligibility date.
- Serve as the information resource on the required components of licensure (education, experience, and examination) for students and faculty.
- Provide students with the information they need to transition to internship and licensure within the context of state regulatory requirements, reciprocity, and NCARB certification.

We encourage all students to work toward licensure, a significant component of which is the documentation of hours worked at qualifying offices practicing architecture. The following are the qualifying conditions for beginning an IDP record:

- Enrollment in a NAAB/CACB-accredited degree program (B.Arch., M.Arch.).
- Enrollment in a preprofessional architecture degree program at a school that offers a NAAB/CACB-accredited degree program (B.A. in architectural studies).

Please visit the NCARB website at ncarb.org and follow the link "Resources for Interns" for more information.

MD Anderson Hall & Cannady Hall

Some of our school's most distinct qualities are its small size and the open communal spaces of MD Anderson Hall and Cannady Hall. However, these conditions mean that self-awareness is key to maintaining the necessary balance of productivity and presentability.

Shared Spaces

In general, every public space in MD Anderson Hall and Cannady Hall—even corridors—serves many purposes, so abiding by the following house rules is crucial:

- Keep noise in hallways and on the bridges to a minimum. Be aware that the sounds you make are likely audible in gallery spaces and may be interrupting a lecture or review.
- Bicycles are not to be stored in the buildings, nor should they be locked to handrails. Bike racks are available outside the buildings.
- Respect the University smoking policy: Smoking is permitted only in designated areas. See the full University Smoking Policy section later in this handbook.
- Seminar and lecture rooms should not be used as overflow space for studio work.
- You may keep your studio door propped open during school hours but be sure to close it when you are in your studio after dark or if you are alone in your studio.
- Spray-painting and spray-gluing are not allowed anywhere except for the spray booth in the shop.

Studio Clean-Up

All studios are deep cleaned and “reset” after each semester. Each term has specific clean-up requirements.

Fall/Winter Clean-Up

1. Students may keep items in studios as long as they are boxed, labeled, and placed on top of desks. Models need not be boxed but must be labeled.
2. Anything left on the floor will be removed.
3. Appliances may be left in studios but must be cleaned. All electrical devices are to be unplugged.
4. All trash is to be placed in studio trash cans, the rolling gray bins placed throughout the buildings, or the dumpster in the courtyard. Please recycle whenever possible.

The fall/winter clean-up requirements do not apply to thesis studios.

Spring Clean-Up

1. All items must be entirely removed from studios to allow the studios to be completely cleaned and configured for the following year. This includes flat file and rolling pedestal contents.
2. All trash is to be placed in studio trash cans, the rolling gray bins placed throughout the buildings, or the dumpster in the courtyard.
3. All items left in studios will be removed unless special permission has been given in writing.

Fabrication at Rice

Brochstein Fabrication Shop Hours *

M–Th, 10 a.m.–9:30 p.m.

F, 10 a.m.–6 p.m.

Sa, 12 p.m.–4 p.m.

Su, 2 p.m.–10 p.m.

** Hours subject to change; should they change, an update will be posted.*

Gensler Digital Lab Hours

24/7 Access

To ensure availability, students should reserve machine time.

McGregor Lab Hours / Zünd Access

Machine access is granted only following a Zünd-specific training session.

Shop Guidelines

- No one may use the shop alone or unmonitored.
- Eye protection is required at all times.
- Long hair must be tied back.
- No loose clothing may be worn around machines.
- No open-toed shoes may be worn into the shop.
- No noise canceling headphones are allowed. You must be able to hear verbal instructions.
- No one who is tired, under the influence of drugs or alcohol, or grouchy will be allowed to use the shop.
- Do not attempt to operate machinery you do not know how to use.
- Do not prop doors open unless you are moving items in and out of the spaces. Make sure the doors are closed before beginning to work.
- Return all tools, remove waste and unused materials, sweep up sawdust.
- Be aware of those around you when operating machinery.
- Turn off exhaust fans when you are done using them.
- Materials and models may be stored in the shop only with special permission.

Shop Orientation Requirement

All new students are required to complete a fabrication safety and basic information orientation session with shop management. Students must learn the proper setup and usage of the stationary tools. The orientation also includes instruction on how to operate the laser cutters and 3D printers. Shop orientation sessions will be coordinated studio by studio. As the final step of this orientation, every student **must** sign the fabrication liability waiver. No one who has not completed the full orientation will be allowed to use the shop.

Advanced machinery, including large-format 3D printers, CNC routers, and Zünd cutters, will require additional training. Please contact fabrication staff to arrange training and/or access.

Digital Resource Assistants (DRAs)

The school hires select students each year who have extensive training and experience in the woodshop and fabrication lab to work evening and weekend shifts. During set hours, they monitor and assist with the technologies found in the fabrication lab and woodshop (digital/analog, hardware/software).

Purchasing Materials

Students may purchase some materials from the shop. For custom dimensions or materials, speak to fabrication staff or a DRA before completing the material purchase form. Charges will be applied to your University account in the Cashier's Office. Taking materials without signing for them is a violation of the University Honor Code.

Smoking & Alcohol

Smoking Policy

To provide a healthy and safe environment and to comply with the City of Houston smoking ordinance and the rules of the Cancer Prevention and Research Institute of Texas, all uses of tobacco products are prohibited within or on University property unless such use occurs in one of a limited number of designated areas or under another exception listed below. In addition, the advertisement, sale, or free sampling of tobacco products on University property is prohibited. Littering the campus with the remains of tobacco products or any other related waste product is also prohibited.

For the full University smoking policy, as well as a list of designated smoking areas, visit policy.rice.edu/839.

Alcohol Policy

Each student is provided a copy of this policy each academic year (which may be done electronically) and is required to acknowledge that they understand the policy and agree to comply with it. Any questions should be directed to Student Judicial Programs. Please see the complete policy at: alcoholpolicy.rice.edu

Title IX

The University encourages any student who has experienced an incident of sexual, relationship, or other interpersonal violence, harassment, or gender discrimination to seek support. Many options are available both on and off campus for all students, regardless of whether the perpetrator is a fellow student, a staff or faculty member, or someone not affiliated with the University.

Students should be aware when seeking support on campus that most University employees are required by Title IX to disclose all incidents of nonconsensual interpersonal behavior to Title IX professionals on campus who can act to support that student and meet their needs. The therapists at the Rice Wellbeing and Counseling Center and the doctors at Student Health Services are confidential, meaning that the University will not be informed about an

incident if a student discloses it to one of these staff members. The University prioritizes student privacy and safety, and shares disclosed information only on a need-to-know basis.

If you need assistance or simply would like to talk to someone, please call the Rice Wellbeing and Counseling Center, which includes Title IX support, at (713) 348-3311. Policies, including the Sexual Misconduct Policy and Student Code of Conduct, as well as more information regarding Title IX, can be found at safe.rice.edu.

After Hours Shuttle

The University's comfortable, air-conditioned, lift-equipped buses circle the campus's inner loop and connect the Graduate Apartments, Rice Village Apartments, Texas Medical Center/BRC, Media Center, Rice Stadium, and the Annex Building (which houses the Police Department, Post Office, Delivery Services, the Transportation Department, and Naval OTC) to the rest of the campus. For added safety, a Night Escort service is provided Sunday to Thursday during the school year by the Transportation Department. The service runs from 10 p.m. to 6 a.m. On Friday and Saturday nights the Rice University Police Department (RUPD) provides the service on request. The service serves the following locations only: Graduate Apartments, Rice Village Apartments, BRC, Colleges, and buildings on campus. Call (713) 348-6000 or (713) 348-3333 for Night Escort service. You can also download the TransLoc app to track shuttles on their routes or to request the Night Escort service.

Emergency Information

In case of an emergency, dial 6000 from any on-campus phone, (713) 348-6000 from any cellular phone, or pick up any blue-light emergency phone. If you are off campus and need emergency assistance, dial 911 to contact the local fire/EMS department.

When You Call x6000

Dialing 6000 will connect you to the RUPD dispatch desk. The dispatcher will answer the phone.

State the exact location of the emergency.

EMS can respond to your emergency much faster when they have your exact location. Please be as precise as possible. For example, saying you are in Fondren Library will get them to the front door, but they will need to search floor by floor to find you. Telling the dispatcher that you are, for example, on the fourth floor of Fondren Library near call number DA89 is preferred, as it tells them which floor you are on and where you are on that floor. If possible, also have someone waiting outside your building to help direct Rice EMS to the scene.

Give a brief but adequate description of the emergency.

This is extremely important. If you call the police to say that your friend's hand is bleeding but fail to mention that your friend is bleeding from a gunshot wound, EMS will not be prepared for your emergency when they arrive on scene. Give EMS information in the order of its priority. Be sure to give some indication of the severity of the

problem. Saying someone is “bleeding” is not enough, as you could be describing a paper cut or an amputation. If the emergency is medical (nausea, chest pain, dizziness) rather than trauma (car accident, twisted ankle), then giving the age of the patient may be important.

The most important thing to remember is that you hang up last. Never hang up before the dispatcher does. The dispatch officer may need to ask you other questions, depending on the nature of the emergency. Please remember that EMS will best serve you if you give them accurate information and stay calm. The more you help EMS, the faster they can help you.

What to do before Rice EMS arrives

- Give first aid. If you or someone else on scene has first aid training, try to help the patient. However, you should never attempt to do anything that you have not been trained to do or that you feel uncomfortable doing.
- Send someone to meet the EMTs if you are inside a building or somewhere that is not easily visible from a roadway. If you are the only person on scene, do not leave the patient unless the dispatcher tells you to do so or you are in danger.
- Leave the scene if it is unsafe.
- Remain calm.

Building Emergencies

For building-related emergencies on weekends or after hours (leaks, broken glass, power outages, broken doors and locks, etc.) call Rice Facilities at (713) 348-4095.

For all building concerns during regular office hours (M–F, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.), notify building manager Bryan Miller (713-348-3546 | bm71@rice.edu).

I know someone in need of support. What do I do?

Do they need immediate medical or psychiatric attention, or do you feel threatened or believe that anyone may be in danger?

Yes

Trust your gut. Call for help.

RUPD/Rice EMS (713) 348-6000 (24/7)

Wellbeing and Counseling Center (713) 348-3311 (24/7) | Call if the situation is urgent but not life threatening. Also contact the student’s college manager if the student is an undergraduate.

No, but they need help

Resources include:

Wellbeing and Counseling Center (713) 348-3311 (24/7) | Call for support through personal or academic issues, including sexual misconduct or other traumas.

Student Health Services (713) 348-4966 | Call for physical health concerns. Also contact the student's college magister if the student is an undergraduate.

No, but they'd like to talk

The following resources are available:

Office of Academic Advising (713) 348-4060 | For general academic concerns

Wellbeing and Counseling Center (713) 348-3311 (24/7) | For support through personal or academic issues, including sexual misconduct or other traumas

Student Judicial Programs (713) 348-4786 | For reporting potential Code of Conduct violations

Student Health Services (713) 348-4966 | For physical health concerns

Disability Support Services (713) 348-5841 | For accommodations for a disability

College Magister or Dean of Undergraduates (713) 348-4996 | General support for undergraduates

Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies (713) 348-4002 | General support for graduate students

For more information, please visit the Wellbeing and Counseling Center located in Gibbs Wellness Center.

Walk-ins welcome, M–F, 9 a.m.–5 p.m. | <http://wellbeing.rice.edu>

Plotting

The Pencils Down/Plotting Up system allows everyone to print their final materials in an orderly fashion. Pay close attention to the schedule and practices outlined below. Normal hours during the semester for plotting pickup are: M–F, 9 a.m.–5 p.m.; and Sa–Su, 12–4 p.m.

Monday of Review Week: Pencils Down

As per school policy, you must create PDFs of your boards and submit them to your studio Box folder by 5 p.m. on the Monday of Review Week, after which point plotting is allowed only during assigned studio times. You should begin creating your PDFs well before Pencils Down in case you have any problems with your files. Instructions on how to create your PDFs will be emailed before Pencils Down.

Monday–Thursday: Plotting Up

Times are assigned by studio. MUDD Lab has three plotters. Two plot on regular paper (plotter1–2), and one plots on glossy (gplotter). Before choosing your plotter, check the queue—either by looking at the monitor in RAVL, or (Windows only) by double-clicking on the plotter as it appears in “Printers and Devices.” To prevent color variation, send all of your boards to the same plotter. Send your files to print from a lab computer (i.e., RAVL or MUDD) to avoid problems with printer drivers or connections. If a plot comes out wrong even though you followed these steps, you can get a refund by submitting a completed ticket or form, along with your bad plot, to

the Help Desk. The forms are available at the Operations Center. IT will refund charges for bad plots only if the plot is sent from a lab computer.

A/V Equipment

Projector in Farish

1. Plug your laptop into the HDMI/USB-C outlet on the north wall in the corner nearest the window.
2. Touch-screen panel is located on the wall just inside the north Farish alcove entrance.
3. Press to begin presentation (choose HDMI or USB-C depending on connection used).
4. Projector screen will automatically deploy, and the projector will power on.
5. Your laptop screen will appear on the projector screen, and audio will connect to in-room speakers.
6. Ask the nearest staff member for help if you are having difficulties.

Projector in Room 117

- Touch the control panel anywhere to begin.
- If you are using your laptop, connect it to the HDMI or VGA cord.
- Choose whether you want to use the projector.
- Choose the source: "Laptop" if you are using your own computer or "PC Computer" if you are using the desktop.

Floating Screens

- Make sure the rolling screen is plugged in and turned on.
- Connect to your laptop with the attached HDMI cable (using attached USB-C adapter if necessary).
- Using remote, make sure the selected input (HDMI 1,2,3,4) matches the physical input connection.

If you have any problems with A/V equipment, contact the Help Desk at (713) 348-HELP (4357) or helpdesk@rice.edu.

Cameras and Photography Equipment

School staff do not lend out departmental photography equipment or photograph student work. Students are responsible for handling and documenting their own coursework and projects.

High-quality photography and video equipment can be borrowed directly from the Digital Media Center (DMC) located in Fondren Library. Available gear includes still DSLR/mirrorless cameras, lenses, video cameras, lighting kits, gimbals, and tripods.

To borrow DMC equipment:

- Log into your Rice Library Account online.
- Use Advanced Search and select the "DMC Equipment" category to reserve gear.

- Reservations can be made up to thirty days in advance and are held for twenty-four hours.
- Pick up your equipment at the DMC service desk. First-time borrowers must fill out a Borrower's Agreement Form.
- Equipment is checked out for a seven-day period. Loans cannot be renewed, but gear can be checked out again if available.
- Return all equipment directly to a staff member at the DMC service desk. Do not drop equipment into library book return boxes.

If you have questions about borrowing library gear, contact the DMC at (713) 348-3635 or dmc-info@rice.edu.

Academic & Professional Support

Career Specialist and Mentorship

Mentorship exists to empower students at our school to take control of their future careers and translate their studies into a lifetime of achievement. Mentorship links school alumni with the current student body, building professional relationships and providing students with a closer look at possibilities after graduation.

Program in Writing and Communication (PWC)

The PWC can provide University undergraduate and graduate students with feedback on written texts and oral/visual presentations. To sign up for an appointment, visit them on the second-floor mezzanine of Fondren Library or at their website, <https://pwc.rice.edu/>.

English as a Second Language (ESL)

The University's ESL Communication Skills Program meets for two evenings a week and is designed for students at an intermediate or advanced level of proficiency. The Office of International Students and Scholars also offers English classes in a more informal setting at no cost to the student. More information can be found on the ESL and OISS websites: esl.rice.edu and oiss.rice.edu.

Academic Advising

The University Office of Academic Advising (OAA) leads and engages a community of academic advising that strives for an unparalleled environment in which students can explore opportunities, identify goals, and implement plans to reach those goals. Visit the OAA in Ley Student Center, Room 132, or at oaa.rice.edu.

Center for Career Development (CCD)

The CCD offers programs, services, and resources to guide students in pursuing their career goals. They equip Rice students with the skills and confidence needed to discover their interests and navigate their career journey from college to graduation, and throughout their life. The office provides career counseling, resume workshops, funding opportunities, interview tips, and more. For more information visit ccd.rice.edu.

For further information on University policies, visit ga.rice.edu. If discrepancies arise between this handbook and the General Announcements website, information on the website should be considered the most accurate and up-to-date source.

Who Does What?

Academic Roles and Responsibilities

Dean

Igor Marjanović | MD Anderson Hall 100 | im@rice.edu

Associate Dean for Research and Academic Affairs

Reto Geiser | MD Anderson Hall 226 | rg28@rice.edu

Faculty support, mentorship, promotion and tenure; research: publications, exhibitions, grants, etc.; academic affairs: curriculum development, research platforms, research degrees, final reviews, Preceptorship; special projects

Director of Undergraduate Studies

Andrew Colopy | MD Anderson Hall 207 | ac85@rice.edu

Undergraduate student advising, recruitment, and admissions; undergraduate studio coordination, accreditation, and assessment; grading coordination and inquiries; student issues and concerns; Watkin Sequence coordination

Director of Graduate Studies

Mónica Rivera | MD Anderson Hall 222 | mr167@rice.edu

Graduate student advising, recruitment, and admissions; graduate studio coordination, accreditation, and assessment; grading coordination and inquiries; student issues and concerns; graduate thesis coordination

Director of Rice School of Architecture Paris

John Casbarian | MD Anderson Hall 204 | jic@rice.edu

Academic and administrative operations in Paris

Director of Rice Building Workshop

Georgina Baronian | MD Anderson Hall 228 | georgina@rice.edu

Design-build programs and initiatives

NCARB Licensing Advisor

Brett Zamore | MD Anderson Hall 314 | brett.zamore@rice.edu

NCARB liaison, mentorship for architectural licensure, the Architectural Experience Program, and the Architect Registration Examination

Community Liaison

Amna Ansari | MD Anderson Hall 302 | aa186@rice.edu

Community engagement and coordination, Civic Forum, Rice Design Chats

Staff Roles and Responsibilities

Finance, Facilities, and Fabrication Staff

Director of Finance and Operations

Dan O'Connor | MD Anderson Hall 103 | do30@rice.edu

Finance and budget, operations (building, equipment, logistics, etc.), endowments and gifts

Accounting Assistant

Jeremy Cross | Welcome Center, MD Anderson Hall 134 | jmc22@rice.edu

iO financial management, procurement, computers, school accounting, faculty expense reports, office and kitchen supplies

Fabrication

Brochstein Fabrication Lab, Cannady Hall

Shop equipment and software maintenance, procurement, and material sales; fabrication orientation and training; supervision of DRAs; exhibition installation support; design-build and special projects

Facilities and Exhibition Manager

Bryan Miller | Welcome Center 131—MD Anderson Hall | bm71@rice.edu

Space management and usage requests; project manager for noncapital projects; facilities requests and emergencies; exhibition support

Academic Administration Staff

Director of Administration

Greg Haines | MD Anderson Hall 100D | ghaines@rice.edu

Academic administration and accreditation, human resources, events and communication

Associate Director, Student Support and Graduate Administrator

Kristina Kennedy | Welcome Center 132—MD Anderson Hall | knk2@rice.edu

Course registry, scheduling, and space usage; graduate administration, admissions, tours, and recruitment; liaison to the Office of Admissions and the Office of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies; student issues; student space usage requests; administrative support for Director of Graduate Studies

Undergraduate Administrator and Career Specialist

Tami Lynn Giordano | Welcome Center 133—MD Anderson Hall | tamilynn@rice.edu

Undergraduate administration, admissions, tours, and recruitment; student issues; liaison to the Office of Admissions and Office of Financial Aid; student space usage requests; career advising, mentorship, and events; administrative support for Director of Undergraduate Studies

Administrative Assistant

Estefania Garcia | Welcome Center Reception—MD Anderson Hall | eg102@rice.edu

Front-desk, reception, and Welcome Center operations; school mail, email, and phone communication; course travel for faculty and students; supplies and catering; administrative support to faculty and associate dean

Executive Assistant

Jacque McGregor | MD Anderson Hall 100 | jm370@rice.edu

Administrative support for Dean and Director of Development, Dean's calendar management and expense reconciliation, Dean's events and meetings, Dean's Office reception and coordination, visitor travel

Communications Staff

Director of Communications

Nathan Friedman | MD Anderson Hall 150 | nf18@rice.edu

Strategic communication; visual and textual content development; marketing and communications across platforms; public affairs liaison

Events and Engagement Specialist

MD Anderson Hall 148

Event planning, production and execution, including logistics, AV, and tech support; event promotion and internal messaging.

Web and Graphics Specialist

Cassia Tang | MD Anderson Hall 148 | cassia.tang@rice.edu

Graphic design; website content development and management; social media content development, management, and analytics; marketing materials across platforms: web, mail, email, social, etc.

Development and Alumni Relations Staff

Director of Development

Yulia Bocharova | MD Anderson Hall 100C | yb53@rice.edu

Gifts, donors, and fundraising; Watkin Council liaison; alumni engagement

Custodial Staff

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Yamila Perez

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Rice School of Architecture Paris

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Visiting Critic

Nicola Carnevali
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Lieven De Boeck
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apicon@gsd.harvard.edu

Gaelle Rey
French Language Instructor

Professors Emeritus

William T. Cannady
Gordon Wittenberg

Useful University Contacts

Cashier cashier@rice.edu (713) 348-4946

Dean of Graduate Students Professor Seiichi Matsuda graduate@rice.edu (713) 348-4002

Dean of Undergraduates Dr. Bridget Gorman ugdean@rice.edu (713) 348-4996

Digital Media Commons dmc-info@rice.edu (713) 348-3635

Facilities Emergency After-Hours line (713) 348-2485

Fondren Library Circulation Desk: circ@rice.edu (713) 348-4021

Fondren Library Reference Desk reference@rice.edu (713) 348-5698

Gibbs Recreation and Wellness Center ricerec@rice.edu (713) 348-4058

Information Technology helpdesk@rice.edu (713) 348-4357

Kanopy (free streaming to anyone with a Rice email) <https://rice.kanopy.com>

Operations Desk (713) 348-4989

Office of Academic Advising aadv@rice.edu (713) 348-4060

Office of Financial Aid fina@rice.edu (713) 348-4958

Office of Graduate and Postdoctoral Study graduate@rice.edu (713) 348-4002

Office of International Students and Scholars oiiss@rice.edu 713-348-6095

Parking Registration Office parking@rice.edu (713) 348-7275

Plotting Edwin Martinez edwin.martinez@rice.edu

Registrar registrar@rice.edu (713) 348-4999

Rice Graduate Apartments: (713) 348-GRAD (4723)

Rice Graduate Housing campushousing.rice.edu/graduate-housing

Rice University Police Department (713) 348-6000

Rice Village Apartments: (713) 348-4050

Student Health Insurance: studentinsurance@rice.edu 713-348-5544

Student Health Services (713) 348-4966

Wellbeing and Counseling Center wellbeing@rice.edu (713) 348-3311

University Resources

Center for Career Development <https://ccd.rice.edu/>

Disability Resource Center <https://drc.rice.edu/>

Multicultural Center <https://mcc.rice.edu/>

Multicultural Student Organizations <http://www.ruf.rice.edu/~clack/multiorgs.html>

Office of Access and Institutional Excellence <https://aie.rice.edu/>

Office of International Students and Scholars <https://oiiss.rice.edu/>

Veterans Support <https://military.rice.edu/>

Professional Resources

AIA Houston <https://architecturehouston.org/>

American Institute of Architects (AIA) <http://www.aia.org/>

American Indian Council of Architects and Engineers <https://aicaecouncil.org/>

Arquitectos, Society of Hispanic Professional Architects <https://arquitectosinc.org/>

Asian American Architects/Engineers Association <https://aaaesc.org/>

National Organization of Minority Architects (NOMA) <https://www.noma.net>

National Organization of Minority Architects, Houston Chapter (HNOMA) <https://houstonnoma.org/>

National Organization of Minority Architecture Students (NOMAS) Student Chapters

<https://www.noma.net/nomas-chapters/>

Supplies

A&C Plastics, Inc. 6135 Northdale St. (888) 702-6028 Mon–Fri 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

APG, LP 11122 Beltline Rd. (800) 888-5223 Mon–Fri 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

G&G Model Shop 2029 Southwest Freeway (713) 529-7752 Mon–Fri 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Sat 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sun 12 to 5 p.m.

Home Depot 5445 West Loop (713) 662-3950 Mon–Sat 6 a.m. to 10 p.m. Sun 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Houston Foam Plastics, Inc. 2019 Brooks St. (713) 224-3484 Mon–Fri 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Jerry's Artarama 2201 Taylor St. (832) 516-6857 Mon–Sat 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. Sun 12 p.m. to 6 p.m.

Lowe's Home Improvement 4645 Beechnut St. (713) 661-6119 Mon–Sat 6 a.m. to 10 p.m. Sun 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Michael's 3904 Bissonnet St. (713) 662-0913 Mon–Sat 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. Sun 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Regal Plastics 9999 W Sam Houston Pkwy (713) 957-8541 Mon–Fri 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Southland Hardware Store 1822 Westheimer Rd. (713) 529-4743 Mon–Sat 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. Sun 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Texas Art Supply 2001 Montrose Blvd. (713) 526-5221 Mon–Fri 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. Sat 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Sun 12 a.m. to 6 p.m.