doctor of philosophy in architecture
The doctor of philosophy (Ph.D.) in architecture is the highest degree offered in architectural research and scholarship. This 40-credit-hour degree is structured to enable students to take coursework and conduct original research, advised by faculty. The degree is conferred at the completion of the research and writing of a highly specialized and original dissertation project. The Ph.D. is awarded by Rackham Graduate School.

The Ph.D. in architecture at Taubman College was one of only four such programs in the United States when it was established in 1969. Since then, the program has continued to evolve in response to the changing nature of the discipline and the profession. Over 200 architecture doctoral degrees have been granted, the most of any institution in the country.

The program’s strength lies in the specialized knowledge and accomplishments of its permanent and affiliated faculty, including their interdisciplinary interests. A distinct advantage of this program is that it can capitalize on the University’s commitment to cross-departmental studies, both in terms of the breadth and quality of degree programs, and in specific initiatives shared by these programs. Students, who are typically graduates from professional architecture programs but may also come from fields outside of architecture, study within a particular field of specialization with a faculty major advisor. They tailor their studies to reflect specific interests by working with other University departments, from which they select a minor advisor.

In the course of the doctoral program, students learn, evaluate, and contribute to knowledge not only within the discipline itself, but also in relationship to its shifting boundaries and increasingly global outlook. As a critical component of their doctoral work, students learn to conduct rigorous and significant research and scholarship, preparing them to make important contributions to the understanding and development of architecture through a variety of professional roles. Doctoral students are competitive with their peers within U-M and other institutions, winning prestigious fellowships from U-M including those offered by Rackham Graduate School and the Institute for the Humanities, as well as from outside agencies including the Fulbright Program, the American Academy in Rome, the Social Science Research Council, the Getty Foundation, and others. Graduates are prepared to occupy a broad array of professional roles. Although most of our graduates take teaching positions in four-year colleges and universities, a number return to professional design practice, occupy positions in research institutions, or complete post-doctoral training.

Map Collection [left] and Library Reference Room [right] at the Hatcher Graduate Library
Ph.D. required courses

4 core courses (13 credits)
4 major specialization courses (12 credits)
3 minor specialization courses (9 credits)
2 elective courses (6 credits)

Please visit www.taubmancollege.umich.edu/architecturephd for detailed information about the Ph.D. requirements, application instructions, scheduling a visit, sample schedules, and course descriptions.

Questions? Please contact Taubman College Student Services at taubmancollegestudentservices@umich.edu or 734-763-1275.

For more information, please visit:
taubmancollege.umich.edu/architecturephd