There are three paths that will lead to a career in architecture:

Path I:  
HWS Liberal Arts major in Architecture Studies*  
[4 + 3 years]  
Hobart and William Smith’s B.A in Architecture Studies (4 years) + Professional M.Arch. at your choice of graduate schools (3 years)

Path II:  
Pre-Professional major in Architecture Studies at a large University  
[4 + 2 years]  
University’s Pre-Professional B.S./B.A. in Architecture Studies (4 years) + Professional M.Arch at the same University’s graduate school (2 years)

Path III:  
Professional B.Arch. at a large University  
[5 years]  
Undergraduate education is professional training and student does not attend graduate school (5 years)

Following all three paths, you would work under a licensed architect for 3 years and then take the Architects Registration Exam to become licensed.

If you choose Path I and come to Hobart and William Smith Colleges for your studies in architecture, you will get the broadest education of the three options. A full 2/3 of your coursework will be in disciplines outside architecture. HWS’s major provides the most options for graduates. Our graduates go into a variety of fields related to design and the built environment, from landscape architecture to historic preservation to real estate development, the Architecture Studies major at HWS provides the skills and knowledge to pursue a variety of careers in design. Plus, you’ll meet more people, be able to participate in study abroad, internship, and service-learning opportunities because you have more freedom over your education. You’ll also have a social life outside of architecture and be able to participate in co-curricular activities that engage your other interests.

If you choose Path II, a “4 + 2” program at a large university, you will get a much narrower education, giving you fewer options when you graduate. Only 1/3 of your coursework will be in courses outside of architecture. That means that 2/3 of your time, you’ll be studying architecture. Plus, when you graduate after four years, your options for graduate school will be either to stay at the same university with the same faculty and same facilities for two years or apply to M.Arch. programs at other schools, programs where you would most likely have to study for 3 years because most graduate programs will not accept transfer credits from your undergraduate education.

If you choose Path III, you will get the narrowest undergraduate education. A 5-year B.Arch. program, you will study little else outside of architecture. Less than ¼ of your courses will be outside of your architecture major coursework.

* for Path I [4+3 years] students may major in any field; you do not need to major in architecture at HWS to get in to an M.Arch. graduate professional program in architecture.

student work, Design Studio: Spatial Concepts and Precepts studio
“The profession of architecture will not remain vital unless future architects can frame the design problems they encounter in terms that go well beyond the confines of their own field.”


Why HWS?

Reason One:
It used to be that the only way you could become an architect was by earning a B.Arch, so a lot of the older generation of architects have that degree, even the most famous ones. Since the 1980s, the M.Arch. has become the standard degree. The top young architects primarily have M.Archs and received a liberal arts education as undergraduates. Hobart and William Smith Colleges offers young people a fantastic track to becoming a very successful architect. This is another way of saying that the profession values architects with broad educations, something that Hobart and Williams Smith’s liberal arts program in Architecture Studies can offer in ways University programs in architecture, which are either pre-professional or professional, cannot.

Reason Two:
Hobart and Williams Smith’s major in Architecture Studies will give you more career options when you graduate. HWS graduates become professionals in: architecture, architectural history and theory scholarship, landscape architecture, interior design, urban design, industrial or product design, graphic design, urban and regional planning, green building materials development, historic preservation, architectural journalism, construction and facilities management, real estate development.

Reason Three
You will have a well-rounded college experience. Over 75% of Architecture Studies majors at HWS study abroad, intern with various organizations and agencies, and participate in community service learning. You will also have more opportunities to meet people that are not architecture majors and enjoy taking part in campus organizations and sports teams.

Why HWS rather than another liberal arts college that offers architecture studies?

Unlike many other liberal arts college majors in architecture that are small entities within Art or Art History departments, Hobart and William Smith College’s students who study architecture are in a defined Program in Architecture Studies with two full-time faculty members trained as architects.

Our curriculum is rigorous in both architectural history and theory and design studios. Our faculty are in regular contact with leaders in design education and the design and planning professions. Sustainability’s future in architecture and planning is recognized by our faculty and is integrated fully into the architecture curriculum.

We offer design studios in-house by full-time faculty, unlike most other liberal arts colleges with majors in architecture, who rely on part-time instructors or require their students to take design studios on nearby university campuses.

Our three faculty in architectural studies (two professional trained architects and one professional trained landscape architect) are also have experience in environmental design, urban design, landscape planning, architectural and urban history, furniture design, historic preservation, and architectural journalism. At HWS, architecture majors are closely mentored both in design and in pursuing their careers, whatever direction they take.

For more information, contact:
Stan Matthews, Architecture Program Director
Art Department
Hobart and William Smith Colleges
Geneva, NY 14456
T. 315.781.3476
mathews@hws.edu