

NAAB ANNUAL REPORT SUBMISSION - PART II (November 2011)

Name of Institution: University of Notre Dame
Name of Academic Unit: School of Architecture
Name of Program Administrator
As in Section A **John W. Stamper, Professor & Associate Dean**
Date of last accreditation visit: April 2010

8. Physical Resources

B. Arch. Met Not Met
M. Arch Met Not Met

The physical resources in South Bend are in excellent condition and well maintained. Student work areas in Bond Hall are adequate and student response indicates a high level of satisfaction with the facilities.

The freshman facilities, Bronson Hall, are in a separate building which is not an ideal situation due to lack of interaction between class levels. The facilities are overcrowded with extremely small desks provided for students. The facilities are not accessible due to stairs in the entry path. However, the school is investigating the expansion of Bond Hall to accommodate the addition of freshman students, expansion of the graduate program, and resolution of ADA issues. Full time faculty have adequate private offices.

Computer resources are adequate as are printers, scanners, and media presentation equipment. The Bond Hall facilities are in compliance with the ADA with the exception of the sinks in the individual classrooms.

The Rome facilities are overcrowded and space is at a premium. Areas of the Rome facilities are not completely accessible. Toilet facilities are not accessible. It appears from information provided during the team chair's visit that a new building is about to be purchased. Accessibility in this new building should be a priority.

Response:

The University Architect's Office and University administration have decided move the School's Woodshop, now located in the basement of Bond Hall, to a new building nearby and move the first-year studio from Bronson Hall to Bond Hall. The Bronson Hall space will no longer be used by the School of Architecture. The new building to house the Woodshop has been designed and a cost estimate secured obtained. Funding is currently being secured, with construction planned for the spring of 2012.

The issue of ADA requirements for the sinks in the studios has been addressed by the University Architect.

In Rome, the University has purchased a new building on Via Ostilia, near the Roman Colosseum, which has an area of at least three times the amount of square feet as the current facility on Via Monterone. The University Architect is working with the Deans of Architecture and the College of Arts and Letters and with an architectural firm in Rome to produce construction documents and estimates for renovation which will meet the needs of the Architecture School, the College of Arts and Letters, and which will be in compliance with European Union building codes and accessibility standards.

12. Professional Degrees and Curriculum

B. Arch. Met Not Met X

M. Arch Met X Not Met

The Notre Dame program awards two NAAB accredited degrees, the BArch and the MArch. They also award a post-professional Masters degree in Urban Design, the M. ADU. These three degrees comply with the NAAB perspectives as the non-professional degree has a separate degree title.

The BArch program has 15 required courses outside the architecture curriculum and therefore conforms with the NAAB conditions general studies requirements. However it appears from reviewing files and discussing the students that the electives of these “outside” courses are used to meet architecture concentration requirements. Students mentioned in the undergraduate meeting that the four general studies electives are used to meet concentration requirements. Some concentrations require architecture coursework so the 45 credits in non-professional architecture course work required by the NAAB is not met.

Response:

The Undergraduate Studies Committee has voted to add the following paragraph to the curriculum requirements for those students planning to meet the requirements for a concentration. This resolution of the Undergraduate Studies Committee is to be voted on at the December 1, 2010 meeting of the faculty.

“The 163 credit hours required for the Bachelor of Architecture degree includes 42 credit hours with non-architectural content, and twelve credit hours of open electives. The NAAB criteria require 45 credit hours without architectural content. Students using the required 12 open elective credits for one of the concentrations within the School (Furniture, Preservation, or Building Arts, but not Practice and Enterprise) or students taking all of the required open electives in architecture courses, must also earn an additional three credit hours in a non-architecture elective in order to satisfy the NAAB requirement of 45 credit hours outside of architecture. Such students will graduate with a minimum of 166 credit hours.”

5. Causes of Concern

A. Coursework in common. *There is the same coursework requirement for undergraduate and graduate level students in several classes. While some courses had additional products for each level that was not consistent through all classes. The NAAB requires credits at specific levels for the BArch and MArch by 2015.*

Response:

The Undergraduate Studies Committee has been meeting with the faculty responsible for HVAC/Acoustics & Illumination, Structures, History, and Building Tech classes to discuss ways of distinguishing between the requirements for undergraduate and graduate students. History and HVAC/Acoustics & Illumination courses, for instance, require a longer term paper or project for the graduate students. The Committee will continue to work with the faculty until it is certain that clear distinctions are made in the course syllabi.

B. General Education and Electives. *The general education electives are being used for architecture concentration requirements. This does not allow the required 45 credits of non-architecture coursework as required by NAAB.*

Response

See Response for Conditions Not Met - 12

C. Sustainability *needs further exploration to realize the full potential of traditional building design.*

Response:

The School has a Sustainability Committee which is responsible for analyzing the way issues of sustainability are treated in all classes, and it is in the process of formulating a mission statement for the School.

D. Uneven Course Content in Studio. *There is unevenness in the course content horizontally in the studios. Some studios expose the students exceptionally well to certain desired Student Performance Criteria while others minimally met the Criteria. Consistency in course content at each studio level is needed.*

Response:

The School acknowledges this concern, although it notes that part of the problem during the Team Visit was that some of the studio sections were better documented than others, thus part of the reason for the seeming inconsistencies. That said, the Undergraduate Studies Committee is meeting with design studio faculty to discuss the need for more consistency in the different studio sections and the need for more consistent reporting of studio content and results.

E. Retention and Diversity of Faculty. *There is a missing generation in the faculty community. Attention needs to be given to retention and diversity. There is not consensus between the University and the faculty on the value of architectural research within professional practice and consequent academic tenure.*

Response

The School's CAP and the University's Provost's office are aware of the problem of retention and diversity of the faculty. There is a converging consensus between the School and the Provost's Advisory Committee about the nature of architectural research within the profession and the academy. The School's position has been strengthened by the recent addition of a second school representative to the Provost's Advisory Committee.