

DELTA COLLEGE  
COUNSELING/ADVISING & CAREER SERVICES  
**ARCHITECTS**

Salary Range: \$40,770- \$96,310

Personal Interests: Numbers, research work, intellectual stimulation, and creative imagination.

Work Environment: Comfortable environment, mostly in offices

**Description**

Architects design buildings and other surface structures. Other than the appearance, the buildings must also be functional, safe, and economical, and must suit the needs of the people who use them. Architects take all these things into consideration when they design buildings and other structures.

Architects provide a wide variety of professional services to individuals and organizations planning a construction project. They may be involved in all phases of development, from the initial discussion of general ideas with the client through the entire life of the facility. Their duties require a number of skills- design, engineering, managerial, communication, and supervisory to name a few.

Architect's design a wide variety of buildings, including schools, churches, factories, hospitals, houses, and airport terminals. They also design multibuilding complexes such as urban centers, college campuses, industrial parks, and entire communities. In addition to designing buildings, they may advise on the selection of building sites, prepare cost analysis and land-use studies, inspection of construction, and do long-range planning for land development.

Architects sometimes specialize in one phase of work. Some specialize in the design of one type building-for example, hospitals, schools, or housing. Others focus on planning and predesign services

of construction management, and do little design work. They often work with engineers, urban planners, interior designers, landscape architects, and others.

**Working Conditions**

Architects generally work in a comfortable environment. Most of their time is spent in offices advising clients, developing reports and drawings, and working with other architects and engineers. However, they often visit construction sites to review the progress of projects or for inspection.

Salaried Architects working for the government or an architectural firm usually work 40 hours per week. Those who are self-employed often work long hours especially during the final stages of a project. Architects in private firms may also work overtime during busy periods as do those who work directly with clients.

**Training, Other Qualifications**

All States and the District of Columbia require individuals to be licensed (registered) before they may call themselves architects or contract to provide architectural services. Many architecture school graduates work in the field even though they are not licensed. However, a licensed architect is required to take legal responsibility for all work. Licensure requirements include a professional degree in architecture, a period of practical training or internship,

and passage of all sections of the Architect Registration Examination. Graduates of Delta's Architectural Technology program may assist licensed architects, construction engineers, urban planners and other design personnel in most phases of the development of a building or site project. This program has an emphasis on job entry skill development for employment in occupations such as: draftsman for installation and shop drawings; building appraiser for financial institutions or real estate firms; estimator or supervisor for contractors; and inspector for government agencies.

### **Job Outlook**

Since the employment of architects depends on the state of the economy, the number of openings may vary from year to year. Nearly three-fourths of architects' business comes from designing commercial buildings and public and institutional facilities. Employment of architects in Michigan is expected to increase much faster than average for all occupations through the year 2014. An average of 81 annual openings is expected.

Even in times of overall good job opportunities, however, there may be areas of the country with poor opportunities. Architects who are licensed to practice in one state must meet the licensing requirements of other states before practicing elsewhere. These requirements are becoming more standardized, however, facilitating movement to other states.

### **Earnings**

Salaries vary widely by the firm and the area. Architects having their own well-established private practices generally

earn more than highly paid salaried employees in architectural firms, but their incomes may fluctuate due to changing business conditions. Young Architects starting their own practices may have a period when expenses are greater than incomes.

Nationally, median annual earnings of Architects were \$69,760 in May 2006. The annual average in Michigan is nearly the same.

Area	Annual Average	Annual Range
National	\$69,760	\$39,420 - \$104,970
Michigan	\$67,290	\$40,770 - \$96,310

### **Related Occupations**

Landscape Architects, Building Contractors, Civil Engineers, Urban Planners, and Industrial Designers.

ArchitectProfile.doc SC 8/2005 Updated 9/07  
Sources: Occupational Outlook Handbook, MI Occupational Information System, Delta College Catalog, and Michigan Career Outlook 2005.

Career Center  
D 132  
Bay City/Saginaw: (989) 686-9072  
Midland/Auburn: (989) 495-4000, Ext. 9072  
Frankenmuth, Birch Run, Reese & Vassar: (989) 758-3400, Ext. 9072  
<http://www.delta.edu/careercenter>

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