students to engage in life-long learning, allowing them to use their skills in professional structural engineering practice.

The department’s learn-by-doing philosophy is part of a pedagogy which emphasizes design-centered laboratories, integrating theory and design, culminating in a senior project capstone design experience.

The Architectural Engineering Program is accredited by the Engineering Accreditation Commission of ABET (http://www.abet.org).

Undergraduate Programs
BS Architectural Engineering

Cal Poly’s Department of Architectural Engineering’s (ARCE) curriculum focuses on the structural engineering of buildings. By focusing on building design students are able to take many more structural engineering courses than is possible in a traditional civil engineering program. Beyond structural engineering courses, students take several architecture and construction management courses and studios, giving them an appreciation for these disciplines.

Architectural Engineering Minor

The minor is designed for students wishing to pursue a more in-depth education in structures. The coursework exposes students to analytical, design, and construction issues relevant to the structural design process. Students select a sequence of courses that focus on either structural design or structural analysis. The program is tailored for students majoring in architecture and construction management. Enrollment is limited and acceptance into the program is dependent upon the student’s performance in structures-related courses. Contact the department for additional information.

Graduate Program

MS Architectural Engineering

New program, effective Fall 2017

The Master of Science in Architectural Engineering (MS Architectural Engineering) program is designed for students holding an accredited degree in architectural, civil or structural engineering. For students within the Cal Poly Architectural Engineering undergraduate program, a blended BS + MS option is available. The program is designed to prepare graduates to meet the demands for practice in the structural engineering profession. Core curriculum courses expose students to emerging topics in structures, advanced methodology to predict and analyze structural behavior, and cutting edge design procedures. Additionally, related topics in architecture and building constructability are integrated into the curriculum to create a unique interdisciplinary masters level education. Elective courses also allow individuals to advance their knowledge in technical areas offered from graduate degree programs across the campus. Candidates should refer to the “General Policies Governing Graduate Studies (http://catalog.calpoly.edu/graduateeducation/ #generalpoliciesgoverninggraduatetudiestext)” section for supplemental University requirements.

Blended BS Architectural Engineering + MS Architectural Engineering

For motivated students a blended BMS program, also referred to as a 4+1 program, is available. The blended program allows students to simultaneously complete both a bachelor’s degree in Architectural
Eligibility for the Blended Program

Architectural Engineering (ARCE) students wishing to pursue a Master of Science in Architectural Engineering degree may apply after completing all 300-level Architectural Engineering courses and 180 units. The ARCE Graduate Committee reviews all applications and selects individuals with records that demonstrate success at the undergraduate level as well as potential to succeed at the graduate level. Candidates shall meet the University requirements, as a minimum, stated in “Blended BS+MS Programs (http://catalog.calpoly.edu/graduateeducation/#generalpoliciesgoverninggraduatestudiestext)” in the Graduate Programs section. Contact the Architectural Engineering Department for additional information.

ARCE Courses

ARCE 106. Introduction to Building Systems. 2 units
Term Typically Offered: F
Introduction to building systems and materials. Use and application of structural, foundation, envelope, mechanical and electrical systems in the field of Architectural Engineering. 1 lecture, 1 activity.

ARCE 211. Structures I. 3 units
Term Typically Offered: F,W,SP,SU
Prerequisite: For ARCE majors: PHYS 141, MATH 142; for ARCH and CM majors: PHYS 121 or PHYS 141, MATH 142 or MATH 182.

Introduction to the role of structures in the making of buildings. Introduction to statics and creation of simple three-dimensional structures. Development of skills to analyze structures composed of axial force (truss) members. 2 lectures, 1 activity.

ARCE 212. Structures II. 3 units
Term Typically Offered: F,W,SP,SU
Prerequisite: ARCE 211 (C- or better required for ARCE Majors).

Introduction to the role of structures in the making of buildings. Introduction to shear and moment diagrams using the principles of statics and the application of the diagrams to simple three-dimensional structures. Development of skills, particularly free body diagrams, to analyze structures composed of bending (beams) members. 3 lectures.

ARCE 223. Mechanics of Structural Members. 3 units
Term Typically Offered: F, SP
Prerequisite: ARCE 212 (C- or better required for ARCE Majors).
Concurrent for ARCE majors: ARCE 224.


ARCE 224. Mechanics of Structural Members Laboratory. 1 unit
Term Typically Offered: F, SP
Concurrent: ARCE 223.

Experimental investigations of material properties. Experimental studies of stresses and deflections in beams, including plastic bending, and unsymmetrical bending. Stress transformations via strain gages for combined loading cases. Culminating lab experience: A student run, self-designed experiment. 1 laboratory.

ARCE 226. Introduction to Structural Systems. 3 units
Term Typically Offered: F,W,SP,SU
Prerequisite: ARCE 212.

Description, behavior and comparison of structural building systems. Concepts of structural stability, load flow, framing schemes and building configuration related to vertical and lateral loads. Not open to Architectural Engineering majors. 3 lectures.

ARCE 227. Structures III. 2 units
Term Typically Offered: F, SP
Prerequisite: ARCE 212 (C- or better required for ARCE Majors).

Continuation of selected concepts covered in ARCE 211 and ARCE 212. Advanced topics in two-dimensional and three-dimensional equilibrium of structural building systems. 2 lectures.

ARCE 257. Structural CAD for Building Design. 2 units
Term Typically Offered: W, SP
Prerequisite: ARCH 133, CM 115.

Emphasis on the use of computer graphics software to represent a building's structural system and its individual elements. 1 lecture, 1 laboratory.

ARCE 260. History of Structures. 4 units
GE Area C3
Term Typically Offered: TBD
Social, symbolic, and technical importance of landmark structures. Analysis of breakthrough ideas that led to major advances in building design. Contextualization of these advances. Tools by which to assess and critique structural art as a separate and distinct art form. 4 lectures. Fulfills GE C3.

ARCE 270. Selected Topics. 1-4 units
Term Typically Offered: TBD
Prerequisite: Open to undergraduate students and consent of instructor.

Directed group study of selected topics. The Schedule of Classes will list title selected. Total credit limited to 8 units. 1 to 4 lectures.

ARCE 302. Structural Analysis. 3 units
Term Typically Offered: F, W
Prerequisite: ARCE 223 and ARCE 227 (C- or better required for ARCE Majors). Concurrent for ARCE majors: ARCE 352.

Analysis of statically indeterminate structures using virtual work, slope deflection, the force method and moment distribution. Analysis of structural systems using approximate methods and influence lines. 3 lectures.

ARCE 303. Steel Design I. 3 units
Term Typically Offered: W, SP
Prerequisite: ARCE 223 (C- or better required for ARCE Majors).

Analysis and design of steel structural members subjected to bending, shear and axial forces. 3 lectures.
ARCE 304. Timber Design. 3 units
Term Typically Offered: W, SP
Prerequisite: ARCE 371 for ARCE majors (with C- or better); ARCE 223 and ARCE 226 for ARCE minors.

Analysis and design of timber structural members subjected to bending, shear, and axial forces. Wood diaphragms, shear walls and their connections. 3 lectures.

ARCE 305. Masonry Design. 2 units
Term Typically Offered: W, SP
Prerequisite: ARCE 371 for ARCE majors (with C- or better); ARCE 223 and ARCE 226 for ARCE minors.

Design of load-bearing walls, shear walls, columns and beams in masonry. 2 lectures.

ARCE 306. Matrix Analysis of Structures. 3 units
Term Typically Offered: F
Prerequisite: ARCE 302 (C- or better required for ARCE Majors). Concurrent: ARCE 353.

Analysis of statically indeterminate structures by direct stiffness method including continuous beams, plane trusses, and frames. Introduction to finite-element methods. 3 lectures.

ARCE 315. Introduction to Structural Design. 4 units
Term Typically Offered: F,W,SP,SU
Prerequisite: ARCE 226.

Introduction to structures that use timber, steel and concrete as the primary construction material. Introduction to gravity load carrying systems and lateral load resisting systems using timber, steel and concrete elements. Credit not allowed for ARCE majors. 4 lectures.

ARCE 316. Structural Integration in Architecture. 4 units
Term Typically Offered: SP
Prerequisite: ARCE 315. Concurrent: ARCH 353.

Integration of structural systems into architectural design. Preliminary design of structures including the development of gravity load carrying systems and lateral load resisting systems. Introduction to tall building and long span structural systems. Introduction to structural issues of cladding systems. Not open for major credit to Architectural Engineering majors. 4 lectures.

ARCE 317. Structural Systems Laboratory. 3 units
Term Typically Offered: F, W, SP
Prerequisite: ARCE 371 for ARCE majors (with C- or better required for ARCE Majors). Concurrent: ARCE 353.

Studies in the relationship of structural framing to overall building geometry. Emphasis on the stability of structural configurations, calculation of building loads and development of a complete gravity and lateral load path. 3 laboratories.

ARCE 320. Introduction to Structural Design. 3 units
Term Typically Offered: F, W
Prerequisite: ARCE 223, ARCE 227 (C- or better required for ARCE Majors), and third year standing in Architectural Engineering. Corequisite: ARCE 302.

Steel framed project incorporating structural system configuration and selection, structural analysis for gravity and lateral loads, and construction drawings and specifications. Integration of building services and architectural design, constructability issues, and relationships between construction methods and cost. 3 laboratories. Cannot be taken concurrently with ARCE 451 or ARCE 452.

ARCE 354. Numerical Analysis Laboratory. 1 unit
Term Typically Offered: W, SP
Prerequisite: MATH 244 and ARCE 353 (C- or better required for ARCE Majors). Concurrent: ARCE 412.

An intensive survey of numerical analysis techniques used for solving engineering problems. Topics include integration, ordinary differential equations, and the eigenproblem. 1 laboratory.

ARCE 357. Numerical Analysis Laboratory. 3 units
Term Typically Offered: F
Prerequisite: ARCE 257, ARCE 302, ARCE 303, ARCE 352 and ARCE 371 (C- or better required for ARCE Majors).

Steel framed project incorporating structural system configuration and selection, structural analysis for gravity and lateral loads, and construction drawings and specifications. Integration of building services and architectural design, constructability issues, and relationships between construction methods and cost. 3 laboratories. Cannot be taken concurrently with ARCE 451 or ARCE 452.

ARCE 400. Special Problems for Advanced Undergraduates. 1-3 units
Term Typically Offered: F, W
Prerequisite: Consent of instructor and department head.

Individual investigation, research, studies, or surveys of selected problems. Total credit limited to 6 units, with a maximum of 3 units per quarter.

ARCE 403. Advanced Steel Structures Laboratory. 3 units
Term Typically Offered: TBD
Prerequisite: ARCE 372 (C- or better required for ARCE Majors).

Advanced topics in design and construction of steel structures, such as: plate girders, plastic design of beams and frames, and composite beam design, load and resistance factor design, and advanced topics related to moment frames and braced frames. 3 laboratories.

ARCE 410. Integrated Building Envelopes. 4 units
Term Typically Offered: TBD
Prerequisite: Fourth year standing. Recommended: Third year design and analysis courses; ARCE 302, ARCE 372.

Multidisciplinary exploration of the value and collaboration required of an integrated project team approach to the design and construction of sophisticated building envelopes. Team taught by instructors and practitioners from each of the following disciplines: architecture, architectural engineering and construction management. 4 lectures.
ARCE 412. Dynamics of Framed Structures. 3 units
Term Typically Offered: W, SP
Prerequisite: ME 212; MATH 244; and ARCE 306 (C- or better required for ARCE Majors). Concurrent: ARCE 354.

Analysis of structures subjected to dynamic loads with single- and multi-degrees of freedom. Development of techniques for analysis of structures in response to time varying loads. 3 lectures.

ARCE 415. Interdisciplinary Capstone Project. 4 units
Term Typically Offered: F, W, SP
Prerequisite: ARCE 303, ARCE 304, ARCE 305, ARCE 444, ARCE 372 or ARCE 451 (C- or better required for ARCE Majors).

Team based interdisciplinary capstone / senior project course. Analysis and evaluation of interdisciplinary challenges associated with integrating the design and construction processes to deliver a project with respect to the design, budget, schedule, quality, and performance expectations of a client. 4 laboratories.

ARCE 421. Soil Mechanics. 3 units
Term Typically Offered: F, W, SP
Prerequisite: ARCE 212 (C- or better required for ARCE Majors); GEOL 201.

Principles of soil mechanics, including rudiments of geology, soil classification, gravimetric and volumetric relations, compaction, methods and testing, shear strength of soil and strength theories. 2 lectures, 1 laboratory.

ARCE 422. Foundation Design. 3 units
Term Typically Offered: W, SP
Prerequisite: ARCE 421 (C- or better required for ARCE Majors).

Soil-bearing capacity; sizing and design of spread footings. Design and analysis of earth-retaining structures. Analysis of the stability of slopes. 3 lectures.

ARCE 423. Advanced Foundation Design. 3 units
Term Typically Offered: TBD
Prerequisite: ARCE 422 and ARCE 444 (C- or better required for ARCE Majors).

Design, analysis, and construction issues related to shallow and deep foundation systems, mat foundations, retaining walls, and grade beams. Studies investigation the impact of sub-grade structural systems on building behavior and cost. 3 laboratories.

ARCE 444. Reinforced Concrete Design. 4 units
Term Typically Offered: F, W
Prerequisite: ARCE 371 and ARCE 302 (C- or better required for ARCE Majors).

Theory and design of basic reinforced concrete elements: non-slender columns, beams, tee beams and one way slabs. 3 lectures, 1 laboratory.

ARCE 445. Prestressed Concrete Design Laboratory. 3 units
Term Typically Offered: TBD
Prerequisite: ARCE 444 (C- or better required for ARCE Majors).

Design and analysis of prestressed concrete structures. 3 laboratories.

ARCE 446. Advanced Structural Systems Laboratory. 3 units
Term Typically Offered: TBD
Prerequisite: ARCE 226 or ARCE 371 (C- or better required for ARCE Majors).

Concepts and issues involved in the design of complex structures including tall buildings, shells, arches and tension structures. 3 laboratories.

ARCE 447. Advanced Reinforced Concrete Laboratory. 3 units
Term Typically Offered: TBD
Prerequisite: ARCE 444 (C- or better required for ARCE Majors).

Advanced topics in the design of reinforced concrete structures with emphasis on isolated and combined foundations, retaining walls, seismic-resistant ductile frames and yield line theory. 3 laboratories.

ARCE 448. Seismic Rehabilitation. 3 units
Term Typically Offered: TBD
Prerequisite: ARCE 303, ARCE 304, ARCE 305, ARCE 412, ARCE 444 (C- or better required for ARCE Majors).

Overview of the general rehabilitation process and philosophy. Evaluation and analysis of existing structures to determine expected performance due to seismic loads. Development of basic rehabilitation strategies for buildings. 2 lectures, 1 laboratory.

ARCE 449. Cold Formed Steel Design Laboratory. 3 units
Term Typically Offered: TBD
Prerequisite: ARCE 303 and ARCE 451 (C- or better required for ARCE Majors).

Analysis and design of cold formed steel structural members subjected to bending, shear, and axial forces. Project based design and constructability of cold formed structural systems including gravity framing, diaphragms, shear walls and their connections. 3 laboratories.

ARCE 451. Timber and Masonry Structures Design and Constructability Laboratory. 3 units
Term Typically Offered: F, SP
Prerequisite: ARCE 257, ARCE 304, ARCE 305, and ARCE 371 (C- or better required for ARCE Majors).

Timber and masonry framed project incorporating structural system configuration and selection, structural analysis for gravity and lateral loads, and construction drawings and specifications. Integration of building services and architectural design, constructability issues, and relationships between construction methods and cost. 3 laboratories. Cannot be taken concurrently with ARCE 372 or ARCE 452.

ARCE 452. Concrete Structures Design and Constructability Laboratory. 3 units
Term Typically Offered: W, SP
Prerequisite: ARCE 257, ARCE 444, and ARCE 372 or ARCE 451 (C- or better required for ARCE Majors).

Cast in place concrete framed project incorporating structural system configuration and selection, structural analysis for gravity and lateral loads, and construction drawings and specifications. Integration of building services and architectural design, constructability issues, and relationships between construction methods and cost. 3 laboratories. Cannot be taken concurrently with ARCE 372 or ARCE 451.
ARCE 473. Advanced Timber and Masonry Structures Laboratory. 3 units
Term Typically Offered: TBD
Prerequisite: ARCE 372, ARCE 422, ARCE 444 and ARCE 451 (C- or better required for ARCE Majors).

Emphasis on long span industrial/warehouse type buildings. Use of steel in timber/masonry construction and constructability. Holes in diaphragms, out-of-plane wall behavior and sub-diaphragms, perforated wood and masonry shear walls, pre-manufactured shear walls, masonry retaining walls, connections including post-installed anchors. 3 laboratories.

ARCE 475. Civil Infrastructure and Building Systems. 4 units
Term Typically Offered: F, W, SP
Prerequisite: Senior standing in CE or ARCE.

Principles and practices for the sustainable design, fabrication, and installation of systems for the civil infrastructure and building; including structural, air/gas, water/wastewater, electrical, and control systems. Methods and materials used for fabrication and installation; including cost and schedule considerations. 4 lectures. Crosslisted as ARCE/CE 475.

ARCE 476. Architectural Engineering Building Systems. 3 units
Term Typically Offered: F, W, SP
Prerequisite: Senior standing in ARCE.

Principles and practices for the sustainable design, fabrication, and installation of architectural engineering building systems; including air/gas, water/wastewater, electrical, and control systems. Methods and materials used for fabrication and installation; including cost and schedule considerations. 3 lectures. Not open to students with credit in ARCE/CE 475.
ARCE 503. Nonlinear Structural Behavior II. 3 units
Term Typically Offered: W
Prerequisite: ARCE 502.


ARCE 504. Finite Element Method for Building Structures. 3 units
Term Typically Offered: W
Prerequisite: MATH 244, ARCE 306, ARCE 501.


ARCE 511. Structural Systems Behavior. 3 units
Term Typically Offered: SP
Prerequisite: ARCE 371, ARCE 403, ARCE 452, ARCE 483.

Design, performance, and construction issues related to structural systems. Further development of design and analysis techniques necessary for performance based engineering of structural systems. Assessment of advantages and limitations of different structural forms and systems. 3 laboratories.

ARCE 521. Architectural Structures. 3 units
Term Typically Offered: TBD
Prerequisite: Graduate standing in Architecture.

Static and dynamic loads, structural equilibrium and stability, structural configurations and systems, response to dynamic loads, behavior of structures. 2 seminars, 1 activity.

ARCE 522. Structural Systems. 3 units
Term Typically Offered: TBD
Prerequisite: Graduate standing in Architecture.

Exploration of the relationship between structural systems and architectural form. Understanding of structural stability and structural order is developed through construction of a series of small scale models. Historical perspectives are presented along with the effects of available materials and technology on structural possibilities. 3 seminars.

ARCE 570. Selected Advanced Topics. 1-4 units
Term Typically Offered: TBD
Prerequisite: Graduate standing or consent of instructor.

Directed group study of selected topics for graduate students. Open to undergraduate and graduate students. The Schedule of Classes will list title selected. Total credit limited to 8 units. 1-4 lectures.

ARCE 571. Selected Advanced Laboratory. 1-4 units
Term Typically Offered: TBD
Prerequisite: Graduate standing or consent of instructor.

Directed group laboratory study of selected topics for advanced students. Open to undergraduate and graduate students. The Schedule of Classes will list title selected. Total credit limited to 8 units. 1-4 laboratories.