



**Appendix E  
Specialized Admissions Status  
Initial Approval Request**

In accordance with Board of Governors Regulation 8.013, Specialized Admissions

**Institution:** University of South Florida

**Degree Program:** Bachelor of Science in Design in Architecture

**CIP Code** 04.0902 **Effective Academic Year** 2027-28

1. Does the proposed program qualify as a Program of Strategic Emphasis, as described in the Florida Board of Governors 2025 System Strategic Plan?  
[Programs of Strategic Emphasis List](#)

- Yes, it does qualify as a Program of Strategic Emphasis.
- No, it does not qualify as a Program of Strategic Emphasis.

Programs of Strategic Emphasis Waiver (*for baccalaureate programs only*)  
Does the program fall under one of the CIP codes listed below?

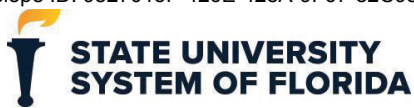
- Yes
- No

If yes, students in the program will be eligible for the Programs of Strategic Emphasis waiver. For additional details, refer to [Board Regulation 7.008](#) and the [Programs of Strategic Emphasis Waiver Guidance](#).

| CIP CODE | CIP TITLE                              |
|----------|--|
| 11.0101  | Computer and Information Sciences      |
| 11.0103  | Information Technology                 |
| 13.1001  | Special Education                      |
| 13.1202  | Elementary Teacher Education           |
| 14.0801  | Civil Engineering                      |
| 14.0901  | Computer Engineering                   |
| 14.1001  | Electrical and Electronics Engineering |
| 27.0101  | Mathematics                            |
| 40.0801  | Physics                                |
| 52.0301  | Accounting                             |
| 52.0801  | Finance                                |
| 52.1201  | Management Information Systems         |

2. Does this request for specialized admissions status apply to the whole degree program? If no, please specify which major(s) or track(s) are seeking the status.

**Yes**



3. Which criteria does the program meet for specialized admissions status?

- Limited Resources (if approved, the status will last a maximum of four years)
- Minimal Skills (if approved, the status will last a maximum of five years)
- Accreditation Requirements (If checked, you must also select either limited resources or minimal skills)

4. Provide a rationale for why the program meets the criteria selected above.

- If the program is seeking specialized admissions status due to limited resources, provide details regarding which types of resources are limited and how the current demand for the program outpaces these resources.

In recent years, the primary architecture program at USF has received approximately 200 declared FTIC majors while facilities and human resources allocated to the program have only allowed us to offer course seats for approximately 80 of these students each year. In the existing '2+4' Pre-Arch + M.Arch curriculum, the number of majors is reduced to approximately 45 students after the second year through an M.Arch. application and portfolio review. Without specialized admissions, we have had about four times the number of students admitted as pre-architecture/architecture majors than our limited resources allow to complete an architecture degree. This undermines institutional and SUS expectations and goals related to student success, retention, and graduation rates.

Enrollment in the proposed B.S., in Design in Architecture degree program is ultimately limited by the number of desks available in the studios (design laboratories) to support "hands on" learning which is critical to our highly effective teaching and learning outcomes. To facilitate "hands on," collaborative learning, each student enrolled in a studio course is assigned a dedicated workspace for the semester.

- If seeking specialized admission status based on accrediting body requirements, please include the name of the accrediting body and a direct link to or copies of the specific standard(s) that require the requested status.

The proposed 4+2 (B.S., Design in Arch. + M.Arch.) curriculum will become our primary curriculum and will also lead to a professional NAAB-accredited degree required for architecture licensure in most states. NAAB's Accreditation Condition 5: Resources includes sub-conditions related to Human Resources, Physical Resources, and Financial Resources. These conditions address faculty teaching workloads; student support services; adequate, safe learning and faculty/staff workspaces; and appropriate financial resources to support student learning. While these NAAB Conditions are not prescriptive, they are significant considerations in initial accreditations and reaccreditations. In its 2017 findings, Physical Resources was a condition "not achieved" as NAAB "found the SACD physical facility to be inadequate in terms of space needs, types of spaces, and functionality." While the NAAB Board has yet to finalize reaccreditation based on its Visiting Team's October 2025 visit, the NAAB



Visiting Team “concluded in its report that the program does not have adequate or properly funded human resources,” “observed that the building is in rough shape” and “studios [design laboratories] are full and leave little room to walk around them and minimal spaces for collaborative engagement.”

5. If the program seeks specialized admissions status due to limited resources and/or is a Program of Strategic Emphasis, provide the institution’s plan and timeline for increasing program resources and provide a rationale if the institution does not plan to increase capacity over the next few years.

Not applicable.

Our plan is to continue to submit budget requests to the university that are sufficient to meet program needs and opportunities. We recognize, particularly related to facilities, that the university has limited resources and cannot currently meet our budget requests. When the university cannot provide the resources, we must rely on donors, and we are actively engaged in fundraising for facilities.

6. If approved for specialized admissions status, what will be the program’s admissions requirements? Additionally, please indicate how these requirements and procedures ensure equal access for qualified Florida College System Associates in Arts graduates competing for available space in the program.

The USF Bachelor of Science in Design in Architecture program admissions requirements will be:

- An application to the University
- An application to the School of Architecture and Community Design that includes an opportunity to demonstrate previous creative work – e.g. a portfolio.

Assessment will prioritize past student academic achievement including GPA, standardized test scores, and creative endeavors. This assessment will apply to first-time-in-college (FTIC) students and for transfer students, including those who typically apply after completing two years of college and have earned an Architecture Associate’s in Arts degree. FTIC students and Architecture AA students would not compete with each other for admissions. While USF is focused on continuously improving its four year graduation rate, some attrition of FTIC students enrolled in the B.S., Design in Architecture during the first two years of the program will provide opportunities for AA, Architecture degree holders to transfer into the program



### Required Signatures

DocuSigned by:  
*Prasant Mohapatra*  
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Provost's Signature

4/30/2026 | 10:50 EDT

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

DocuSigned by:  
*Michelle D.*  
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Board of Trustees Chair's Signature

5/4/2026 | 22:25 EDT

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

March, 10, 2026

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Date Approved by the Board of Trustees