Master of Building Construction

McWhorter School of Building Science | College of Architecture, Design and Construction

2017 – 2018
Index

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Dear Prospective Graduate Student:

I am excited that you are considering attending the graduate program of Building Construction at the McWhorter School of Building Science, Auburn University. The McWhorter School of Building Science has been a leader in construction education for over sixty years and maintains an excellent reputation with industry professionals around the country and internationally. The Master of Building Construction (MBC) degree has been offered since 1993. Our faculty is comprised of construction management professionals, civil engineers, architects, and attorneys. The program maintains a proud tradition of practical and professional construction education.

The Master of Building Construction (MBC) program is designed to provide advanced construction education for those who hold an undergraduate construction management or construction engineering degree or for those who are making a career change and hold an accredited undergraduate degree in another discipline. Enrollment in the program, however, is limited and is awarded on a competitive basis. Class sizes are small and typically involve extensive interaction with industry professional and hands-on problem analysis. Opportunities for graduate internships, travel-based study programs, school-supported student research, and customized educational plans are vast.

If you choose to study at the McWhorter School of Building Science, you will receive a first class graduate education that will prepare you for an outstanding career in the construction industry. In recent years the placement rate for our graduate students has been exceptional, and there are opportunities in all sectors of the industry.

This booklet has been designed to provide detailed information about every aspect of our program in order to assist you as you make the important decision of continuing your professional education. If you have additional questions or would like to visit our school and meet with faculty members, please feel free to call or e-mail me. I wish you the best of luck in your future endeavors and appreciate the opportunity to share our program with you.

Sincerely,

Dr. Salman Azhar
J.E. Wilborn Professor &
Graduate Program Chair
Office: 216 Gorrie Center
Phone: (334) 844-5383
E-mail: salman@auburn.edu
Program Description

The Master of Building Construction (MBC) at Auburn is a non-thesis based graduate program which requires a minimum of 35 credit hours to complete. The program has been enrolling students since fall of 1993 and continues to grow and develop research opportunities, strong industry relations, and excellent academic content. Enrollment in the program is limited to provide sufficient faculty support, which helps our students meet their educational objectives.

Students in our program work with a first rate faculty, use unparalleled technological resources, and participate with industry partners through case studies, independent projects and funded research. Students enrolled in the MBC program learn advanced topics in construction management to prepare them for upper management positions in the industry. The program also prepares professionals from other backgrounds to transfer their skills into the construction industry by providing a comprehensive understanding of construction operations and issues.

All MBC students complete five required core construction courses, five construction and business electives, and an independent capstone project. The elective courses help prepare the student to complete the capstone project or develop a unique expertise. Elective courses in the past have included International Construction Management, Risk Assessment, Safety, Total Quality Management, Building Information Modeling, LEED accreditation, and many more.

Students pursuing a graduate degree in Building Construction can expect to:
- Be exposed to all construction processes that constitute a project, from development conception, through project financing and design, into the on-site construction phase and management of the facility.
- Solve and present solutions to complex industry problems.
- Continuously practice and improve oral and written communication skills.
- Develop an ability to communicate using digital forms.
- Work with industry to identify specific construction problems.
- Interact with a wide variety of industry professionals in and out of the classroom.
- Develop an appreciation and understanding of the collaborative nature of the construction industry.

Curriculum

The MBC program is designed to be completed in one calendar year (3 semesters) by students who hold an accredited undergraduate degree in construction or a related discipline. Those students who are entering the program with a degree in a non-construction discipline (including civil engineering or architecture) are required to take an additional 14 credit hours foundation courses designed to provide a comprehensive background in construction materials and methods, estimating, structural systems, scheduling, construction business operations, and surveying. The foundation courses are offered in the summer semester only. This increases the total time to complete the degree to 16 months (4 semesters).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>A. Undergraduate in Construction</th>
<th>Summer</th>
<th>Fall</th>
<th>Spring</th>
<th>Summer</th>
<th>Fall</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3-Core (6)</td>
<td>1-Elect (2)</td>
<td>2-Core (6)</td>
<td>2-Elect (6)</td>
<td>G. Capstone (3)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1-Elect (2)</td>
<td>Seminar (1)</td>
<td>2-Elect (6)</td>
<td>Seminar (1)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total credit hours required: 35</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>B. Undergraduate in Other Fields</th>
<th>Summer</th>
<th>Fall</th>
<th>Spring</th>
<th>Summer</th>
<th>Fall</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Survey Camp+ 4-Foundation Courses (14 cr. hrs)</td>
<td>3-Core (6)</td>
<td>1-Elect (2)</td>
<td>2-Core (6)</td>
<td>2-Elect (6)</td>
<td>G. Capstone (3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1-Elect (2)</td>
<td>Seminar (1)</td>
<td>2-Elect (6)</td>
<td>Seminar (1)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total credit hours required: 49</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The curriculum details are as follows:

Summer Semester – Foundations Courses* (for undergraduates with non-construction degrees)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BSCI 6970-1</td>
<td>Special Problems in Construction – Surveying</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BSCI 6970-3</td>
<td>Foundations I - Estimating</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BSCI 7100</td>
<td>Foundations II – Building and Temporary Structures</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BSCI 7100</td>
<td>Foundations III - Information Technology</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BSCI 7100</td>
<td>Foundations IV - Project Management / Scheduling</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Waiver for one or more foundation courses can be issued if a student has already passed those or similar courses in the undergraduate or graduate program. Please contact the Graduate Program Officer to discuss your eligibility.

Fall Semester - 13 Credits

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BSCI 7020</td>
<td>Integrated Building Processes I</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BSCI 7030</td>
<td>Construction Information Management</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BSCI 7060</td>
<td>Research Methods in Building Science</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>BSCI 7950</td>
<td>Graduate Seminar I</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BSCI 7100</td>
<td>Graduate Elective (Varies)*</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Spring Semester - 13 Credits

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
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<th>Credits</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BSCI 7040</td>
<td>Integrated Building Processes II</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BSCI 7050</td>
<td>Executive Issues in Construction</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BSCI 7950</td>
<td>Graduate Seminar II</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BSCI 7100</td>
<td>Graduate Elective (Varies)*</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BSCI 7100</td>
<td>Graduate Elective (Varies)*</td>
<td>3</td>
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</table>

Summer Semester - 9 Credits

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<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BSCI 7100</td>
<td>Graduate Elective*</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>XXXX</td>
<td>University-wide Graduate Elective</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BSCI 7980</td>
<td>Capstone Project</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


**Capstone Project**

The purpose of the Capstone Project is to demonstrate the student’s ability to independently research a topic of interest and successfully communicate the information in a professional and academically rigorous format. The capstone course allows gaining in-depth knowledge about a specific topic of the students’ choice. A committee typically consisting of a major professor and two committee members mentors the student throughout the period of research. At the conclusion of the capstone course, students are required to submit a written report and deliver an oral presentation to the faculty.
Study Abroad Program

Graduate students have the opportunity to participate in the study abroad programs which are offered every Spring and Summer semesters. Graduate students can enroll in one or two Construction Electives while traveling abroad. While specific course functions are completed and many construction related activities are carried out, students also participate in many cultural events such as operas, concerts, ballets, and musicals. We feel as though studying abroad is an invaluable experience: a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to live in a foreign country, to experience its customs and culture, and to adapt to new surroundings. Studying abroad will introduce Building Construction students to new environments through which knowledge can be gained from experiential learning. Through international education, we hope to become a more diversified, culturally aware and understanding world. The 2018 study abroad programs will be offered in Ecuador, Ireland, China and Europe. For more details, please visit our website at: cadc.auburn.edu/construction/construction-special-programs/construction-study-abroad.

Admissions

Admission to Master of Building Construction Program is based on consideration of the applicant’s proven ability to perform academic work at a superior level, leadership qualities, and overall accomplishments. Admission requirements include:

- Bachelor’s degree or its equivalent from an accredited college of university. A 3.0 GPA of the last two years of undergraduate education or a cumulative GPA of 2.75 is desired.

- Completion of the Graduate Record Exam (GRE) General Test, composed of verbal, quantitative, and analytical writing sections.

- Providing acceptable letters of recommendation.

- Official statement of financing (for international students only)

Provisional admission may be offered to borderline student’s contingent to their performance in the first graduate semester. Please contact the Graduate Program Officer to discuss your credentials and eligibility. The Dean of the Graduate School is the only person at Auburn University authorized to admit students, refuse admission, or waive any requirement.

Admission Procedure

To Apply:

1. Visit the Graduate School website (www.grad.auburn.edu), from the menu to the left, and click on Apply Online. You will be redirected to Apply Yourself, the University’s online system. You will need to select “First Time User Account Creation”, and create a username and pin number. Once you log in, you will be asked to complete several sections. Please select the correct term for which you are applying (Summer for non-construction undergraduates, Fall for construction undergraduates), choosing Building Science - Construction from the
drop down menu as your program option. In addition to completing this online application, be sure to read the information provided in the link entitled “Admissions Requirements”. This link gives very specific information regarding documentation which must be provided as part of the application process.

2. Request certified copies of transcripts from all previously attended educational institutions; send them directly to the Graduate School at 106 Hargis Hall, Auburn University, Auburn, AL 36849. If an Auburn University transcript, the Graduate School will acquire the transcript for you.

3. Request official copies of your GRE scores from the Educational Testing Service (ETS) to the University Graduate School. Auburn University’s ETS institution code is 1005.

4. For International Students Only: Request an official copy of your TOEFL or IELTS score to the University Graduate School. Auburn University’s ETS institution code is 1005.

5. Provide letters of recommendation from three references to the McWhorter School of Building Science according to the instructions on the form. Please download the forms from the school’s website (www.cadc.auburn.edu/studentservices/Pages/BSCI/BSCI_GraduateAdmissions.aspx). These letters should be submitted directly by the referees via mail, fax or e-mail (jal0021@auburn.edu).

6. Submit a Statement of Purpose (1500 words or less) explaining your motivation for seeking a graduate degree in Building Construction at Auburn University. Please e-mail it to Joline Landry (Administrative Support Specialist) at jal0021@auburn.edu.

7. Submit your current resume via e-mail to Joline Landry at jal0021@auburn.edu.

Items 1-4 should be submitted to the University Graduate School while Items 5-7 should be directly sent to the McWhorter School of Building Science via mail, fax or e-mail.

Please visit the Graduate School-Future Students webpage (www.grad.auburn.edu/prospective.html) to learn more about admission requirements, Auburn University and the Auburn community. International students are advised to visit the following webpage before submitting their application (Graduate School >> International Admissions Assistance, www.grad.auburn.edu/forms/intl_instruct.html)

**Deadlines**

- International Students: January 31, 2018 (apply for – summer 2018)
- Domestic: Non-construction graduates: March 15, 2018 (apply for – summer 2018)
- Domestic: Construction graduates: April 15, 2018 (apply for – fall 2018)
Minimum Test Scores

Graduate Record Examination (GRE)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Old GRE Format</th>
<th>New GRE Format</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Verbal Reasoning</td>
<td>410 or better</td>
<td>147 or better</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quantitative Reasoning</td>
<td>590 or better</td>
<td>147 or better</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Analytical Writing</td>
<td>3.5 or better</td>
<td>3.5 or better</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>1000 or better</td>
<td>294 or better</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Borderline students can be considered. Please contact the Graduate Program Officer to discuss your eligibility. If you have a copy of your test scores, you might want to send it to us before the official ones arrive. This way we have something on file to look at until the official scores arrive.

Test of English as a Foreign Language
(TOEFL – For International Students Only)

Students must score at least 550 on the paper TOEFL (pBT), 213 on the computer TOEFL (cBT), and 79 on the internet TOEFL (iBT) or 6.5 Overall Band Score on the IELTS to be considered for admission. On the iBT, students must score a minimum of 16 on the four component parts of the iBT (reading, listening, speaking, and writing).

Program Cost

The estimated tuition per semester (2017–18) for in-state students is $4,675 (9 or more credit hours) and for out-of-State/International students is $14,030 (9 or more credit hours). In addition, students have to pay $808 registration and service fee per semester. The estimated total cost for one year (2017–18) for international students (tuition, room/board, books, personal and transportation) is $44,972. Graduate students are exempted from the Professional Fee. For more details, please visit the Student Financial Services webpage at www.auburn.edu/administration/business_office/sfs.

Graduate Assistantships

Each academic year, the McWhorter School of Building Science offers several Graduate Teaching or Research Assistantships to graduate students with excellent academic and professional credentials. Awards are based collectively on the applicant’s overall GPA, test scores, construction experience, and research or teaching expertise. Assistantships may be from one to four semesters in length, but are typically offered for Fall and Spring semesters only. Students on assistantship for two consecutive semesters pay an in-state tuition fee for the third semester.

While employed by the McWhorter School of Building Science as a Graduate Teaching or Research Assistant, the student must follow the policies and procedures for Graduate Assistants as outlined in the Graduate Assistant Handbook and published on the Graduate School website. As a demonstration of its commitment to graduate education and to the critical role that graduate assistants play in supporting the university’s research and teaching missions, Auburn University provides full or partial tuition support to its graduate assistants. For academic year 2017–18, the graduate assistant’s tuition support formula is as follows:
• Full tuition support to graduate assistants receiving a 0.33 or higher FTE assistantship (13 hours per week).
• Full or 50% in-state tuition support for those with 0.25-0.32 FTE assistantships (10 hours per week).

To learn more, visit Graduate Teaching Fellowships link at the University Graduate School website (www.grad.auburn.edu/cs/gtufsinfo.html).

Graduate Student Health Insurance

The graduate teaching or research assistants are automatically enrolled in the Graduate Student Health Insurance Plan. Graduate student assistants receive a $900 supplement toward the total annual cost of approximately $1,941, which is billed in two installments, and brings cost per semester to $528 after application of the $450 per semester subsidy. You can read more about the plan at the following URL: www.grad.auburn.edu/Graduate_Student_Insurance/insurance-Graduate.html. If you already have health insurance, you may opt out of the Graduate Student Health Insurance plan by completing a “Waiver Request” found at the above URL and providing proof of current insurance.

Job Placement

According to the Department of Labor, construction graduates enjoyed the best prospect for employment, accounting for approximately 32% all workers in the US, with a projected increase to approximately 34% in 2018. Likewise the median salary of construction professionals is $79,860, ranging from $51,900 to $145,920. Most importantly, according to the National Association of Colleges and Employers, individuals with degrees in building construction receive job offers averaging $53,199 per year.

The School of Building Science has a very close relationship with a large number of companies located all over the country, as well as internationally. Companies come to interview in the Building Science facility on campus for full-time positions and internships every semester. If you have any questions about interviewing or job placement, contact Ms. Cassandra Calloway at 334-844-4518 or callocd@auburn.edu.
In the Spotlight: Faculty

Salman Azhar
J.E. Wilborn Professor and Graduate Program Chair
Ph.D. Civil Engineering; Florida International University
M.S. Structural Engineering, Asian Institute of Technology

Areas of Specialty:
Building Information Modeling, VR/AR Technologies
Risk Management, Construction Safety, Concrete Technology

Alan Bugg
Assistant Professor
Ph.D. (ABD) Civil Engineering, Auburn University
MBC Building Construction, Auburn University
MBA Auburn University

Areas of Specialty:
Safety and Safety Management, Construction Quality Management,
Sediment and Erosion Control, Design-Build, Project Management

Richard Burt
McWhorter Professor and School Head
Ph.D. Architecture, Texas A&M University
M.S. Construction Management, Texas A&M University

Areas of Specialty:
Sustainable Construction, Earth Building Construction,
Construction Education, Construction Activity during Wartime,
Preservation of buildings on WWII Battlefields

Les Carter
Senior Lecturer
B.S. Mechanical Engineering, Auburn University

Areas of Specialty:
Project & Construction Management, International,
Industrial Construction
Wesley Collins
Assistant Professor
Ph.D. Construction Management, Arizona State University
M.B.A Bowling Green State University
M.S. Technology Management, Bowling Green State University

Areas of Specialty:
Project Planning, Preconstruction Services, Project Management, Project Delivery Methods

Ben Farrow
Associate Dean for Academic Affairs and International Programs
Hunt Chair - Associate Professor
Ph.D. Education, Auburn University
M.B.A. Vanderbilt University
M.S. Civil Engineering, University of Texas

Areas of Specialty:
Structures, Business Management, Lean Construction

Paul Holley
J.E.Wilborn Endowed Professor
Director, Center for Construction Innovation and Collaboration
Ph.D. Education, Auburn University
M.B.A. University of Alabama at Birmingham
M.D.P Certificate, Harvard University Graduate School of Education

Areas of Specialty:
Integrated Delivery, Field Operations Management, Project Management, Construction Surveying

Jeff Kim
Assistant Professor
M.S. Building Construction and Facility Management, Georgia Institute of Technology
B.S. Building Construction, Auburn University

Areas of Specialty:
Construction technology, Process Efficiency, Contracting and Project Delivery, Construction Project Cost Controls, Construction Industry Data Management and Visualization Technologies
Junshan Liu  
Associate Professor  
M.B.C. Building Construction, Auburn University  
B.S. Civil Engineering, Shanghai Jiaotong University  

Areas of Specialty:  
Construction Technology, Building Information Modeling (BIM), International Education

Scott Kramer  
Atlanta Auburn BSCI Alumni Committee Edowed Professor  
Ph.D. Construction Education, Purdue University  
M.S. Civil Engineering, Auburn University  

Areas of Specialty:  
Labor Productivity, International Construction, Project Management

Tom M. Leathem  
Assistant Professor  
P.h.D. Curriculum & Instruction, Mississippi State University  
M.S. Integrated Design and Construction, Auburn University  

Areas of Specialty:  
Curriculum and Assessment, Integrated Delivery, Project Management, Construction Education, Construction Documents

Darren Olsen  
Associate Professor  
J.D University of Mississippi  
B.S. Building Construction, University of Florida  

Areas of Specialty:  
Project Management, Construction Law, Sustainable Construction
Keith Rahn  
Assistant Professor  
M.A Industrial Education, Ball State University  
B.A Industrial Education, Ball State University

Areas of Specialty:  
Building Systems, International Construction Management

Lauren Redden  
Assistant Professor  
M.B.C. Building Construction, Auburn University  
B.S. Building Science, Auburn University

Areas of Specialty:  
Estimating & Pre-Construction Services, Subcontractor Relationships,  
Construction in the Public Sector, Construction History,  
Renovation & Improvements

Anoop Sattineni  
Bob Aderholt Endowed Associate Professor  
Ph.D. University of Salford, Manchester  
M.S Civil Engineering, Auburn University

Areas of Specialty:  
Information and Communication Technologies in Construction, Structures

April E. Simmons  
Assistant Professor  
M.S. Civil Engineering, Auburn University  
B.S. Civil Engineering, Auburn University

Areas of Interest:  
Project Management, Structures, Concrete
Mark Tatum  
Associate Professor  
M.S. Electrical Engineering, Auburn University  
B.S. Electrical Engineering, Auburn University  

Areas of Specialty:  
Mechanical & Electrical Systems, Control Systems,  
Building Design & Modeling

J. Mark Taylor  
Chair, Building Construction Undergraduate Program  
Associate Professor  
J.D. University of Alabama  
Ph.D. Texas A&M University  
M.S. Building Construction, University of Florida  

Areas of Specialty:  
Construction Law, Conceptual Estimating, Project Management,  
Sustainable Construction, Building Information Modeling

Eric Wetzel  
Assistant Professor  
Ph.D. Environmental Design and Planning, Virginia Tech  
M.B.C Masters of Building Construction, Auburn University  

Areas of Specialty:  
Building Information Modeling, Safety,  
Facilities Management, Construction Technologies
In the Spotlight: Our Alumni

Kamal Ahmed  ’16
Assistant Project Manager, Stewart Perry, Birmingham, Alabama

After receiving an undergraduate degree in civil engineering from Pakistan, I worked as a project engineer at a shopping mall project. During this time, I heard that Auburn offered one of the best construction programs in the USA, and enrolled in the MBC program. The program has faculty members from different fields of engineering and construction. Another positive factor was that Auburn has strong industry connections which gives students the opportunity to make and establish industry links even before they graduate.

Douglas Martin  ’16
Project Engineer, Gilbane Building Company

The MBC program at Auburn University is known throughout the industry as one of the top programs in the country. The program equipped me with the necessary skills to succeed in a competitive industry. Through the program, I was able to integrate my business knowledge with the construction curriculum. The educational resources available to students in the MBC program are far and above the best in the country. There are many opportunities to work closely with the faculty who are constantly attempting to provide comprehensive educational and professional development opportunities.

Carl Vincent Lyness IV  ’15
VDC (Virtual Design & Construction) Engineer, The Whiting-Turner Contracting Company

At Whiting-Turner, my job is to support project coordination and design review, and ensure a smooth work flow. I also perform research, learn and develop new technologies and processes to help the construction industry. I chose the MBC program because I wanted a more intimate knowledge of the construction industry from a management level. Working with the professors in this program was one of the most rewarding aspects of the program. All the knowledge and technologies that they have at their disposal makes them a great resource to work with.
Major Sean Colley ’13

Project Manager, United States Army Health Facility Planning Agency (HFPA)

As a manager, I work directly with the customer, the contractor and the Army Corps of Engineers on medical facilities, and support projects like parking garages, clinics and hospitals. The Auburn MBC program combines management, critical thinking, budget monitoring, planning and real world profit opportunities. We used the latest software to analyze projects. The unique aspect of the program is that from day one on the job, I was able to use what I had learned. In the world of construction, I have used scheduling, the critical path and management skills. One of the best opportunities in the program is meeting and working directly with senior leadership in construction companies.

Mark A. Froehlich ’13

Senior Virtual Building Engineer, The Beck Group

I work on proposals, modeling, drone data, point clouds and laser scanning, and provide support to multiple projects throughout the country. Coming from an Architecture background, the MBC program allowed me to expand my breadth of knowledge of building construction. It gave me the opportunity to research and focus primarily on technology within the construction industry. Auburn fosters a highly collaborative learning environment and is dedicated to industry driven research. The program gave me the skills and knowledge to be successful in the Virtual Design and Construction field.
Jenna Garrison ’10

Senior Project Engineer at Holder Construction Company

My interest in the built environment started in college where I received a B.S. in Interior Design. The realization that I preferred the construction aspect versus designing led me to apply for the Masters of Building Construction program at Auburn University. I chose Auburn to continue my studies since there was a strong Building Science presence on campus, the majority of professors within the McWhorter School of Building Science had years of construction experience, and the school itself had a great relationship with construction companies active in the industry. The MBC program coursework developed my critical thinking skills specific to the construction industry and exposed me to common industry issues. My decision to attend Auburn University’s Master of Building Construction Program is the reason that I am here today and I would recommend it to anyone with a passion for Construction Management.

Gamze Tanfener ’09

Senior Architect, YDA, Turkey

The group I work with is responsible for Public-Private Partnership (PPP) Hospital projects initiated in various cities across Turkey. We are tasked with controlling application projects and transmitting them to the field, and coordinating site implementation projects. As a student of architecture, I had studied design, and thought that the MBC program would complement my professional work. The MBC program at Auburn University offers a more vocational and professional education than other similar programs. It is a very comprehensive and intensive program that prepares students for their professional life with examples from real business life, where current topics are taught with current technologies.
Todd Smitherman  ’11

Project Manager, Robins and Morton

I received my bachelors in Political Science and continued at Auburn to get my masters in Building Construction. My time at Auburn taught me the basic understandings of the tools used in the construction field. These included scheduling, 3-D modeling, construction finance and overall project management. The reputation of a Building Construction degree from Auburn made me marketable and has given my boss a higher level of trust in me than other new hires. My boss described his view of my education as a more professional face for our organization and gave us the marketability of having similarly-educated managers as that of our customers — general contractors. The assistantship helped financially and the program wasn’t too inconvenient of a time frame.

Maulik Lukkad  ’09

Architect and Assistant Project Manager,
Dr. D.Y. Patil Design Cell, India.

I transitioned from architecture to building construction when I was introduced to the challenges faced in the architectural practice, making me understand how the materialization of those aesthetics & functions occur when proper management of construction, design & structures is done. It turned out to be the most challenging & rewarding experience of my life. I was fascinated to see the transformation of a paper/computer-based design into reality. The MBC program at Auburn University helped me develop the knowledge and skills required by tomorrow’s leaders, providing the management expertise necessary for delivering successful projects right from inception to completion along with the much needed international exposure in a business environment.
Jim Teel ’06

Regional Vice President, Goodwyn, Mills and Cawood

Jim works in the Business Development division of Goodwyn, Mills & Cawood, a nationally recognized Architecture and Engineering Firm. During the completion of my undergraduate degree in Business Marketing I took several electives in Architecture and Building Science. Through these electives, I realized my passion for the construction industry and I selected the Auburn MBC program due to its national reputation for academic excellence and industry preparation. The Auburn MBC program challenged and developed my ability to combine technical construction knowledge with problem solving and presentation skills – this is “real-world” education!

Xingli Peng ’09

Contracts Manager, Pudongxin District, Shanghai, China

After working in construction industry in China for three years, I decided to go for a Master’s degree in Building Construction at Auburn University. Three factors helped me make my decision to join the MBC program. The curriculum provided by MBC program is very helpful to find a job in construction. When I began to work, I felt very comfortable with what I was doing because I gained the necessary skills at school. Additionally, the timeline of a 15-month program was very appealing. Although it is intensive, and time is of the essence, the students make the most of the time given and learn the material with high efficiency. Thirdly, I was awarded a teaching and research assistantship to help me pay for the cost. The professors and staff are so nice to students; I will always call it my home.
About McWhorter School of Building Science

The McWhorter School of Building Science at Auburn (BSCI) established in 1947, is the second oldest construction education program in the United States. The program has more than 4,000 graduates located worldwide, including many who lead the construction industry in the Southeast U.S. The school is currently made up of 18 full-time faculty members, approximately 600 undergraduate and graduate students. BSCI maintains a proud tradition of practical and professional construction education, offering both Bachelor and Master’s Degrees in Building Construction. It is a leader in exploring Information Technology applications in construction and construction education. BSCI is accredited by the American Council for Construction Education and is an active member of the Associated Schools of Construction.

As graduate students, you will have the chance to interact with industry leaders in the classroom, and an internal job placement program will assist you in finding employment to initiate or continue your construction career. Students in the graduate program will take classes and have their own dedicated study space in the M. Miller Gorrie Center. Built with substantial industry support, the Gorrie Center is the first public Gold LEED certified building in Alabama. This state-of-the-art “green” building is equipped with unmatched information technology, and students will be exposed to the most current computer software and hardware. Students may take advantage of the school’s various study abroad opportunities to learn about construction in other parts of the world, and experience foreign cultures. In recent years, students have had the opportunity to study in a number of European countries as well as China, and these opportunities will increase in the future.

About Auburn University

Auburn University was established in 1856 as the East Alabama Male College, 20 years after the city of Auburn's founding. In 1872, under the Morrill Act, the school became the first land-grant college in the South and was renamed the Agricultural and Mechanical College of Alabama. In 1899 the name again was changed, to the Alabama Polytechnic Institute. Finally, in 1960 the name of the school was changed to Auburn University, a title more in keeping with its location, and expressing the varied academic programs and larger curriculum of a major university. Today, Auburn is one of the few universities to carry the torch as a land, sea and space grant university. Our Fall 2014 semester enrollment was 25,912. Our students can choose from more than 140 degree options in 13 schools and colleges at the undergraduate, graduate and professional levels.

Auburn University has developed into one of the largest universities in the South, remaining in the educational forefront with its traditional blend of arts and applied science, and changing with the needs of today while living with a respect for the traditions and spirit that are Auburn.
Auburn has traditionally been rated highly by academic ranking services, and has been listed as one of the top 50 public universities for 19 consecutive years. The 2011 edition of U.S. News and World Reports ranks Auburn as the 82nd university in the nation among public and private schools and 37th among public universities.

The Auburn University campus is beautiful and alive with activities 12 months a year. There are 47 chapters of Greek organizations and hundreds of professional, recreational, and service organizations which meet most student interest areas. Graduate students can participate in all university-sponsored activities and have full access to all campus facilities. These facilities include: a state-of-the-art Student Activities Center, brand new in 2013, complete with weight rooms, a rock-climbing wall, basketball and volleyball courts, three Olympic quality pools, and racquetball courts; recreations and game centers; four libraries; cafeterias and bakeries; tennis courts; and a student program council which provides free movies, live concert and outdoor recreational activities.

Community Living

Auburn/Opelika is a twin cities community located in the southeast section of Alabama, midway between Atlanta, GA and Montgomery, AL. The community has a combined population of more than 81,000 people and is rapidly growing. Each year, new manufacturing and service industries are finding their home in the area. Many families choose to live in the Auburn/Opelika area and commute to work in the nearby cities of Montgomery and Columbus, GA because of the excellent reputation of the local schools. A wide variety of family services are available through the parks and recreation departments and local private businesses.

College students will also find a wide variety of entertainment and social activity in this college town. Both downtown areas feature restaurants and evening entertainment businesses that attract crowds every night of the week with live music, games, and quality food. Auburn University students who enjoy the outdoor life will find ready access to hiking, lake and river activities, mountain bike trails, and camping facilities at the numerous state parks in the vicinity including the Tuskegee National Forest, Chewacla State Park, and Calloway Gardens and Resort.

For those students who are avid sports fans, there is no shortage of opportunities. In addition to a myriad of University sporting events and intramural activities, Auburn/Opelika is home to 6 different public and private golf clubs including the Robert Trent Jones Grand National Resort. There is also a water amusement park, megaplex movie theatre, and an indoor shopping mall. For those who desire big city life, Auburn is only 90 minutes from downtown Atlanta and two hours from downtown Birmingham.
Contact Us

If you have any questions about the Auburn's Building Construction program or would like to visit, please feel free to contact one of us.

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Important URL’s
MBC Program: www.cadc.auburn.edu/mbc
McWhorter School of Building Science: www.cadc.auburn.edu/bsci
University Graduate School: www.grad.auburn.edu
Students Financial Services: www.auburn.edu/administration/business_office/sfs/
Office of International Students and Scholars: www.auburn.edu/academic/international/isss
Auburn University: www.auburn.edu