MASTER OF
BUILDING CONSTRUCTION
McWhorter School of Building Science | College of Architecture, Design and Construction

2014–2015

www.cadc.auburn.edu/mbc
Welcome 3

Program Description 4

Curriculum 4

Admissions 6

Program Cost 8

Job Placement 9

In the Spotlight: Our Faculty 10

In the Spotlight: Our Alumni 14

About McWhorter School of Building Science 18

About Auburn University 18

Community Living 19
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
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).

A. Undergraduate in Construction

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Summer</th>
<th>Fall</th>
<th>Spring</th>
<th>Summer</th>
<th>Fall</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3-Core (9)</td>
<td>2-Core (6)</td>
<td>2-Elect (6)</td>
<td>2-Elect (6)</td>
<td>2-Elect (6)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1-Elect (2)</td>
<td>2-Elect (6)</td>
<td>Seminar (1)</td>
<td>G. Capstone (3)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Seminar (1)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total credit hours required: 35

B. Undergraduate in Other Fields

Survey Camp: 4-Foundation Courses (14 cr-hrs)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Summer</th>
<th>Fall</th>
<th>Spring</th>
<th>Summer</th>
<th>Fall</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3-Core (9)</td>
<td>2-Core (6)</td>
<td>2-Elect (6)</td>
<td>2-Elect (6)</td>
<td>2-Elect (6)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1-Elect (2)</td>
<td>2-Elect (6)</td>
<td>Seminar (1)</td>
<td>G. Capstone (3)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Seminar (1)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Summer Int.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total credit hours required: 14 + 35 = 49
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>
</tr>
</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>
<td>3</td>
</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>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Spring Semester - 13 Credits

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<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>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Summer Semester - 9 Credits

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</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>

* The following courses are recently offered as construction electives: Mechanical, Electrical and Plumbing Systems, Labor and Productivity Issues, Construction Safety, Building Great Structures, Sustainable Construction, A Day in the Life of a Project Manager, International Construction Management, Best Construction Practices, Planning and Decision-Making in Construction, Cultures and Environments Abroad.

### 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 2015 study abroad programs will be offered in Ecuador, Ireland and Western 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
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 30, 2015 (apply for – summer 2015)
- **Domestic: Non-construction graduates** March 6, 2015 (apply for – summer 2015)
- **Domestic: Construction graduates** March 6, 2015 (apply for – fall 2015)
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 (2014–15) for in-state students is $4,293 (9 or more credit hours) and for out-of-State/International students is $12,879 (9 or more credit hours). In addition, students have to pay $804 registration and service fee per semester. The estimated total cost for one year (2014–15) for international students (tuition, room/board, books, personal and transportation) is $46,430. 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 three 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 2014–15, 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 $47,000 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**  
Associate Professor and Graduate Program Chair (MBC)  
Ph.D., Civil Engineering; Florida International University  
M.S., Structural Engineering, Asian Institute of Technology  
**Areas of Specialty:**  
Information Technology, Building Information Modeling, Risk Management, Construction Safety, Concrete Technology

**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

**Ben Farrow**  
Associate Professor  
M.B.A., Vanderbilt University  
M.S., Civil Engineering, University of Texas  
**Areas of Specialty:**  
Structures, Business Management, Lean Construction

**Michael Hein**  
Professor  
M.S., Structural Engineering, Princeton University  
B.S., Civil Engineering, Tulane University  
**Areas of Specialty:**  
Information Technology, Structures, Pervious Concrete
Paul Holley
Professor
Co-Director, Master of Integrated Design & Construction
M.B.A., University of Alabama at Birmingham
B.S., Building Science, Auburn University

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

Scott Kramer
Professor
Ph.D., Construction Education, Purdue University
M.S., Civil Engineering, Auburn University

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

Junshan Liu
Associate Professor
M.S., Building Science, Auburn University
B.S., Civil Engineering, Shanghai Jiaotong University

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

Darren Olsen
Assistant 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

Anoop Sattineni
Associate professor
M.S, Civil Engineering, Auburn University
B.E., Civil Engineering, Osmania University

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

Bruce Smith
Associate Professor
M. S., Construction Management, Southern Polytechnic State University
B. S., Business Management, Kennesaw State University

Areas of Specialty:
Construction Safety, Building Systems, Project Management

Mark Tatum
Assistant 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  
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

Peter Weiss  
Associate Professor  
M.A., Architecture, Cornell University  
B. Arch, University of Arizona  

**Areas of Specialty:**
Historic Preservation, Structures

Steve Williams  
Director, Center for Construction Innovation and Collaboration  
M.S., Civil Engineering, Clemson University  
B.S., Civil Engineering, University of Toledo  

**Areas of Specialty:**
Construction Innovation and Collaboration, Reinforced Concrete, Concrete Technology, Engineering Design Issues, Problems and Solutions
Aaron Wright, MBC (Class of 2003)
Aaron is working as a BIM Director at the Hoar Construction, Birmingham, AL. He is leading and managing BIM implementation across multiple offices and projects as well as integrating the construction coordination process and modeling applications, design analysis, cost estimating and quality programs. Considered an expert in the Southeast, he serves on many Industry Advisory Groups helping to lead BIM adoption in his region.

Why I joined Auburn-MBC? “I majored in Building Science at Auburn University because I’ve always enjoyed Physics and studying Structures. I can even remember sprinting across campus in the summer of 1999 to change my major from engineering to building science because freshmen had to take Chemistry, a subject I dreaded. I really enjoyed the graduate program, allowing for small, self-directed course studies where we were given the freedom to challenge ourselves, focus on critical thinking and research subjects that interested us.”

Clay Dillard (Class of 2007)
Clay works as a project engineer at BL Harbert International LLC. He is currently working on site on a combined renovation/new construction project for the US Embassy in Helsinki, Finland. Prior to this project, he had a similar role on the construction of a new US Consulate in Karachi, Pakistan.

Why I joined Auburn-MBC? “The MBC program gave me the basic skills to succeed in the construction industry, and the confidence to pursue a challenging career path that gives me the chance to live all over the world. My undergraduate degree is in business with an emphasis in marketing. I worked for a bank as a commercial lender after school, where I funded several construction projects, and acquired an interest in pursuing a career in the construction industry. I chose the MBC program at Auburn due to its reputation and the high rate of job placement for graduates.”
**Dan O’Hara** (Class of 2011)
Dan currently works for the Holder Construction Company on their Project Management Track. He is an office engineer on their TJX West Campus Renovation in Marlborough, Massachusetts.

**Why I joined Auburn-MBC?** "Auburn has a great relationship with many successful construction companies, which was why I had options when it came to choosing my career. The education I received through the MBC program at Auburn has put me in a position to succeed with Holder and in the construction industry. I graduated from the University of New Hampshire in 2008 with a degree in American History. I was introduced to Auburn’s Building Science Program while I was working for a nonprofit construction agency in West Alabama. Aubu’s MBC program stood out because their accelerated program did not require an undergraduate degree in construction management and the program has a great reputation in the construction industry”.

---

**Jenna Garrison** (Class of 2010)
Jenna is a Project Engineer at the Holder Construction Company she works onsite to actively manage assorted trades.

**Why I joined Auburn-MBC?** ”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.”

---

**Jim Teel** (Class of 2006)

**Why I joined Auburn-MBC?** “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!”
Maulik Lukkad (Class of 2009)
Maulik is working as an architect + assistant project manager with Dr. D.Y. Patil Design Cell, India. Currently, he is placed on an institutional project designed by the world-renowned architect, Sir Norman Foster, where his role is to carry out detail designing as per existing site condition and help planning the construction process.

Why I joined Auburn-MBC? “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.”

Talha Dikgitmez (Class of 2009)
Talha, a native of Turkey, is currently working as a BIM Specialist for CRS Engineering and Design Consultants, Birmingham, Alabama.

Why I joined Auburn-MBC? “My background is in Architecture. I decided to learn more about construction management to be able to learn the whole process of building construction from conceptual ideas to finished products. I attended few classes as an audit during my language training at Auburn, and I was very impressed with the knowledge of the professors who are coming from the construction industry and the real world scenarios included in the curriculum, so I decided to stay at Auburn for the MBC program. The real world scenarios and 3D modeling classes taught at Auburn were very helpful and I felt very prepared for any responsibility I would be assigned to upon graduation.”

Todd Smitherman (Class of 2011)
Todd is working as a project manager for Garrison Steel Erectors Inc. He is currently on site managing the erection of the new Birmingham Baron’s Ball Stadium.

Why I joined Auburn-MBC? “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.”
Wade Carlton (Class of 2009)
Wade works with Norment Security Group, North Carolina as Assistant Superintendent.

Why I joined Auburn-MBC? “Upon graduating with my Bachelor’s degree in Construction Management, I began seeking a Master’s program that would propel me and give an edge over competing job seekers. I chose to attend Auburn’s MBC program because of impressive history of their graduates’ landing jobs. The professors and staff at Auburn not only provided a challenging and valuable graduate education program, they genuinely worked hard at seeking and presenting career opportunities from all over the Southeast. The MBC program built my knowledge base of the construction industry and opened doors to countless job leads and interviews.”

Xingli Peng (Class of 2009)
Xingli, a native of China, currently work for Hermosa Construction as an estimating engineer.

Why I joined Auburn-MBC? “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: 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.

Dr. Salman Azhar
Associate Professor and Graduate Program Chair
Office: 216 M. Miller Gorrie Center
Phone: (334) 844-5383
Fax: (334) 844-5386
Email: salman@auburn.edu

Joline Landry
Administrative Support Specialist - Graduate Programs
Office: 102 M. Miller Gorrie Center
Phone: (334) 844-5308
Fax: (334) 844-5386
Email: jal0021@auburn.edu

Street Address
M. Miller Gorrie Center
270 West Samford Ave
Auburn University
Auburn, Alabama 36849-5315
Phone: (334) 844-4518
Fax: (334) 844-5386

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/iss
Auburn University: www.auburn.edu