PRACTICUM (variable credit (2-4), prereq: ARCH 4/584, pre-auth to register, P/NP)
In this course, graduate and undergraduate students participate in an off-campus learning experience hosted in a professional practice setting. The practicum is an opportunity to explore elements of architectural practice within design firms or organizations that shape the built environment or contribute to environmental design education. A Practicum mentor acts as a teacher for the students, overseeing and guiding their learning by including them in observation of professional activities and/or varied assignments that develop professional skills. Students are not paid for practicum hours. The variable credits fulfill major subject area electives.

Instructor: Amy Miller Dowell AIA, amillerd@uoregon.edu, 503-830-7227 c.

Distance Learning Format
Students will submit weekly written logs to the instructor by email. Up to four meetings with the instructor can take place individually or in groups, or by phone or teleconference, with times to be arranged. The first mandatory meeting of the practicum class will be the first Tuesday of the term at 4pm.

Credit Hours
Credits are determined by each student in consultation with the mentor who is supervising the practicum, and the instructor. Each undergraduate credit hour is equivalent to 30 hours of effort. Each graduate credit hour is equivalent to 40 hours of effort. (Approximately ten hours of the total hours will be applied to written logs and reflection, the remaining credits will be applied to work at the practicum site).

Practicum Hosts*
The instructor solicits volunteer practicum host firms and organizations that are interested in mentoring a student. Through a preferencing and interview process, students and host mentors may be given the opportunity to initiate a practicum, however a practicum placement is not guaranteed. The student, mentor and instructor must agree upon and sign the Student’s Participatory Learning Agreement (provided the first week of the term) prior to starting practicum hours. The process for receiving a practicum placement takes time and student preparation should begin at least one month before the start of the quarter for practicum placements in Oregon. Out-of-state or international placements may take longer. Graduate students may arrange their own practicum placement. Prior to contacting potential hosts, those students should communicate with the instructor to discuss their practicum goals and coordinate practicum information and arrangements.

How to Enroll
Interested students should contact the instructor one month prior to the quarter with a resume, sample cover letter and a portfolio or examples of recently completed design work. Prior to the start of the quarter, they should schedule an informational meeting or phone call with the instructor. It is important to pre-register for the course. Those with appropriate background will be authorized to enroll by the instructor and can seek a practicum placement.
PRACTICUM Term and Assignments

Hours spent in the practicum must occur during the quarter the student is enrolled. The practicum experience is for the full length of the term through the final review week. One-credit practicums may be approved by the practicum instructor, depending upon student and mentor’s agreement.

UNDERGRADUATES:
5 hours/week on-site + 1 hour/week writing = 60 hours total for 2 credits
8 hours/week on-site + 1 hour/week writing = 90 hours total for 3 credits
11 hours/week on-site + 1 hour/week writing = 120 hours total for 4 credits

GRADUATES:
7 hours/week on-site + 1 hour/week writing = 80 hours total for 2 credits
11 hours/week on-site + 1 hour/week writing = 120 hours total for 3 credits
15 hours/week on-site + 1 hour/week writing = 160 hours total for 4 credits

ARCH 409: Undergraduate Practicum

Undergraduate practicum work is organized around the day-to-day activities taking place at the practicum site. Students are encouraged to try new skills under the close supervision of their mentors, and learn by observing professionals at work.

ARCH 609: Graduate Practicum

Graduate practicum work is organized around in-depth study of a subject identified by the student that can be pursued in a practice setting. Students can contribute to a project defined by their practicum host or propose their own study topic in consultation with their practicum mentor.

Course Repetition and Continued Work Relationships with Hosts

The course is repeatable, if repetitions provide significantly different learning experiences at a different host site. If students and mentors want to continue a working relationship beyond the end of the practicum course, they should consider a paid internship. Last year, 33% of Practicum students were offered paid internships or full-time positions with their hosts after completing the course.

Recent Practicum Host Firms and Organizations

- AFO/Architecture in Schools
- ADX Portland
- Allied Works Architecture
- Crazy Turnip LLC
- Lever Architecture
- Mackenzie
- Merryman Barnes Architects
- MWA Architects
- OTAK
- Portland Bureau of Planning and Sustainability
- Second Story Interactive Studios
- SERA Architects
- SUM Design Studio
- THA Architecture
- Works Partnership Architecture
- Yale Design Studio

*Many potential practicum hosts, especially governmental agencies or non-governmental organizations, have an application process with specific requirements and due dates. International placements through the University of Oregon IE3 Program require a separate application available from UO campus advising at ie3@uoregon.edu. Students who volunteer for design assistance and education programs such as the Architectural Foundation of Oregon’s Architects in Schools Program, or Habitat for Humanity can organize a practicum around this work if a qualified professional participant is available to mentor the student.