

The ARCH 4601 4th year studio will be patterned after and conducted much like an architect's office. Each student will act as an employee within an office. The students will be expected to not only create and develop a project that will fulfill the course objectives, but also to interact as colleagues working together in a structured office environment.

A team project in research and development will be utilized to create the shared influence typically experienced within an office. Information that is gathered during the group project will be shared among all classmates. The research will be centered in code compliance, accessibility fulfillment, site analysis, cultural context, and demographics, along with requirements set forth by the state education agency.

The semester project will be focused on the conceptual development of a charter school located within the Frenship Independent School District in western Lubbock County. The school will be utilized to educate middle school aged children. There are currently no charter schools within these district boundaries.

The regimented structure of the studio will encourage strict discipline on the part of the student. It will mimic the natural performance of how an architect's office requires self-discipline and good time management skills to effectively get work completed. The students will be responsible for being prepared for the weekly "meetings" (desk critiques) with the instructor (the project architect) and how to effectively communicate design decisions. Students will present design work at an intermediate design review (mid-term) to a committee jury (the client) as a method to sharpen skills in verbal communication, design thought process, and gather feedback on client desires.

Each student will participate in weekly desk critiques, simulating meetings with clients and consultants. In practice these usually occur on a weekly basis. The class will be divided into three critique groups which will correspond to one day of the week: Monday, Wednesday, or Friday. Students not involved in that day's critique will collaborate and work on their projects. The remaining time in class will be available for individual Q & A and additional input or feedback on their project. This time will also be used for group lecture on design standards, code requirements, accessibility, proper office graphic standards, as well as topics that may arise throughout the semester.

The studio will culminate with a final committee design review. This presents an opportunity for students to demonstrate skills learned throughout the semester. Effective communication, graphic presentation, accessibility, and code compliance, along with sound design sense will be focused on to prepare students for their path to the profession.