University of Hartford 2012 Narrative Report

Name of institution: University of Hartford
Name of academic unit: Department of Architecture
Name of program administrator as identified in Section A: Michael J. Crosbie
Date of last accreditation/candidacy visit: April 2011

Part II (Narrative Report) is the narrative report in which a program responds to the most recent Visiting Team Report (VTR). The narrative must address Section 1.4 Conditions Not Met and Section 1.5 Causes of Concern of the VTR. Part II also includes a description of changes to the program that may be of interest to subsequent visiting teams or to the NAAB. In addition, this part is linked to other questions in Part I for which a narrative may be required. If a program had zero “not mets” in the most recent VTR or was “cleared of future reporting” in subsequent annual reports, no report is required in Part II.

From most recent VTR:

1.4. Conditions/Criteria Not Met

I.2.3 Physical Resources: The program must demonstrate that it provides physical resources that promote student learning and achievement in a professional degree program in architecture. This includes, but is not limited to the following:

- Space to support and encourage studio-based learning
- Space to support and encourage didactic and interactive learning.
- Space to support and encourage the full range of faculty roles and responsibilities including preparation for teaching, research, mentoring, and student advising.

[X] Physical Resources are inadequate for the program

2011 Team Assessment: The woodshop is too small for the number of students it serves. (See additional comments about the woodshop under Causes of Concern, page 1.) Other than the woodshop, there are adequate spaces to support the program. (See additional comments under Progress since the Previous Visit, Condition 8, page 2.)

2012 Narrative Report Response: Following the 2011 team visit, the Department of Architecture, working with the Dean of the College of Engineering, Technology, and Architecture, drafted a report to the Provost to address concerns about safety in the undersized woodshop. A copy of the draft plan of action, dated August 15, 2011, is attached as an appendix to this narrative. The plan identified three actions to be taken:

1. formulate a plan for expanding the woodshop; 2. hire an adjunct professor to serve as a shop monitor to be present whenever the shop is open to students and to deliver a required shop safety course to all architecture students; 3. purchase shop safety equipment to be put in place during the Fall 2011 semester. Results thus far: 1. Alternative plans were developed for the expansion of the shop facilities. This plan has been reviewed by the University facilities department, and a new plan with program has been developed (a copy of the plan and program is attached at the end of this narrative report). A campus architect is now finalizing the plans, to be completed in phases, with primary focus on the woodshop. 2. An adjunct professor was hired as a shop monitor, and has been functioning in that role since the Fall 2011 semester. The shop is now open only when the monitor is present and can be used only by students who have taken and passed the shop safety course. The monitor has delivered a 1-credit required
shop safety course to students required to take it if they wish to use the shop. A dust collection system was installed on equipment during Summer 2011 and the shop was cleaned and reorganized. This Fall semester a table saw was removed and will be replaced with a state-of-the-art table saw with a dead-stop. This will be installed in the new shop facilities.

II.1.1 Student Performance Criteria: The SPC are organized into realms to more easily understand the relationships between individual criteria.

B. 11. Building Service Systems Integration: Understanding of the basic principles and appropriate application and performance of building service systems such as plumbing, electrical, vertical transportation, security, and fire protection systems

[X] Not Met

2011 Team Assessment: There is little evidence of the integration of building service systems in ARC 513 – Advanced Building Systems. There is also no evidence of vertical transportation, security, or fire-protection systems in the student course work.

2012 Narrative Report Response: Following the 2011 team visit, the Graduate Program Director informed the instructor of ARC 513 – Advance Building Systems that the course needs to address the integration of building service systems, as well as consider vertical transportation, security, and fire-protection systems. The instructor has since left, and a new full-time assistant professor teaches ARC 513, and has upgraded the curriculum to meet the student performance criteria for ARC 513.

II.4.1 Statement on NAAB-Accredited Degrees

In order to promote an understanding of the accredited professional degree by prospective students, parents, and the public, all schools offering an accredited degree program or any candidacy program must include in catalogs and promotional media the exact language found in the 2009 NAAB Conditions for Accreditation, Appendix 5.

[X] Not Met

2011 Team Assessment: Evidence of this statement is on the home web page for the graduate program in architecture and in the graduate program’s catalog. However, it is not present in the e-brochure that is downloadable from the website. It is also not present on the web page for graduate programs that are accessible through the graduate studies website. The department is currently revising its promotional materials, where this statement should be located.

2012 Narrative Report Response: Following the 2011 team visit, the full statement on NAAB-accredited degrees was included on the downloadable e-brochure (a copy of the cover page is included in this narrative report’s appendix) and on the web page of the graduate studies website.

1.5. Causes of Concern

2011 Team Assessment: Woodshop: The woodshop does not have a dedicated staff person to manage the shop and insure the safety of the students. The space is small and poorly maintained. Ventilation of the space continues to be grossly insufficient. Working conditions in the woodshop are unsafe. The dust collection system is inadequate. An electrical conduit, condensate piping, and dust collection "duct" run fully
exposed over the floor directly next to the table saw. This is hazardous for all who traverse this area. Moreover, because so few tools are available in the small woodshop, power tools are being used in the studio itself, and their use is not sufficiently monitored. Their presence there is hazardous and a nuisance. Placement of the computer lab adjoining the woodshop is clearly undesirable as dust, noise and traffic compromise computer usage. The college plans to complete an upgrade to the ventilations system over the 2011 Summer Break. Dean Manzione also notes that arrangements could be made so that the architecture students could use the engineering woodshop that is located close by and is fully equipped and staffed.

2012 Narrative Report Response: Please see response to Conditions/Criteria Not Met under Section I.2.3 Physical Resources (above). Power tools are not permitted in the studio space.

Appendix materials that follow the Narrative Report:

“Hartford Woodshop Program and Plan”
University of Hartford Master of Architecture e-brochure cover page
**Phasing:**

1. Woodshop - Immediate
2. Fabrication Lab - Urgent
3. Accreditation Storage Room - High
4. Monitor Lab - High
5. Computer & Plotter Lab - High
6. Presentation Spaces - Medium

Faculty Access: Key to allow faculty to access the room.
Monitor Student Access: Upgraded security - Students are monitored by a shop monitor. Possibility of a card swipe system
24 Hour Student Access: Ability to lock room if need be. Possibility of a card swipe system.

**Woodshop:**

**People:** Min 10 People  
**Description:** Room housing hand and power tools for the construction of Architectural models, prototypes, furniture, etc.  
**Access:** Monitored student access  
**Ventilation:** Direct exhaust.  
**Power:** Verify appropriate amount of power for tools and appropriate lighting.  
**Adjacencies:** Material Storage, Monitor Office  
  Note: Prefer not to egress from this room to other spaces in order to reduce dust migration.

What we want:

1.) Needs to be a show piece for prospective students. (Glass walls maybe to allow viewing in without disturbance)  
   a. Currently we try to hide it from prospective students as it is an eye sore.
2.) Needs to have a proper central dust extraction system.  
   a. If we could hook up some of the pieces such as the table saw and chop saws to an air extractor would help to reduce the amount of dust produced by these pieces.
3.) Needs to be separated from other rooms as dust is easily tracked out of the woodshop into the other rooms.
4.) Peg board to allow for hand tools to be in easy grabbing distance.
5.) Possible storage area to keep materials such as wood and hand tools in contained areas.
6.)

Currently houses:

A. Saw stop Table Saw with 36 inch rails (69 1/8" w X 33” d X 34" h)  
B. Drill Press (2) ( 26" d X 14” w X 65" h)  
C. Chop Saw (2) ( 42" d X 43" w X 27" h )
D. Air Compressor for air power tools
E. Bandsaw (2) ( 19" d X 20" w X 67" )
F. Jigsaws
G. Work (30” depth work counters)
H. Hand Tool Cabinet ( 19" d X 36" w X 72" h )

What we would like to Add to the Woodshop:

A. Belt Sander ( Fixed) ( X ) (2)
B. Hot Wire Cutter (Foam Cutter) ( X )
C. Paint Spray Booth (Vented) ( X )
D. Dust Collection System ( X )
E. Saw Horses
F. Minimum (2) 30" by 50" work tables
G. Vacuum Plastic Mold

Bandsaw   Drill Press  Chop saw
**Fabrication Lab:**

**People:** 5 People  
**Description:** Room housing digital model making equipment.  
**Access:** Monitored student access  
**Ventilation:** Direct exhaust  
**Adjacencies:** Plotter room, Monitor Office

What we want:

1. Would like to hook the laser cutters into a ventilation system to allow for both machines to be able to run at the same time.  
2. Enough work bench area in order to layout materials before cutting or scanning the materials.

Currently houses:

A. (2) Universal Laser System - Laser Cutters (VLS6.60 & VLS3.50)  
B. (1) Z Corp 3D Printer  
C. (3) Computer Workstations  
D. (1) HP Printer Copier Scanner - Could be moved into the computer room.  
E. (1) 3D Scanner  
F. 10 Linear feet of 30" counter or table for model prep
**Computer & Plotter Lab:**

**People:** 10 People  
**Description:** Room housing digital Plotters, Printers, Scanners. Also Room or Area housing common computer terminals for Student use.  
**Access:** 24 hr student access  
**Ventilation:** Direct exhaust  
**Adjacencies:** Fabrication Lab or Could be part of 'hot desk' studio area

What we want:

A. This room could be split into 2 different rooms one for the plotters and one for the computers but near each other.  
B. Plotters need to be moved separate from the computers for code.  
C. A secure area to storage plotter paper and ink.  
D. Computers need to be secured so that they do not walk off.

Currently houses:

A. (10) computer work stations  
B. (2) plotters  
C. (1) 8.5" X 11" printer

What we would like to Add to the Computer Lab:

A. (1) 11" X 17" printer/ scanner  
B. (6) Linear feet of 30" deep counter for temporary plot storage  
C. Paper storage (lockable)  
D. Toner Storage (lockable)  
E. Move the (1) HP Printer Copier Scanner from the Fabrication lab into this room.
**Presentation Space:**

**People:** 20 People Min per room

**Description:** Faculty use the space for lectures and to allow students to present their work. So we need 2 separate presentation rooms with one room being larger than the other.

**Access:** Faculty Access

**Ventilation:** Standard Exhaust

What we want:

1.) Need 2 rooms to accommodate student presentation.
   a. Fit up to 20 people comfortably per room. We currently have jurors sit on rolling chairs to that we can rotate the presentations around the room.

2.) Needs to accommodate for digital presentations
   a. Digital Projector
   b. Moveable flat screen TV with DVD and VCR player
   c. Sound system to allow for instructional videos to be played
   d. Possible video camera setup to film presentations

3.) Pin up space to allow students to pin up their presentation boards which are usually 24" X 36"
   a. We currently pin up presentation boards with tacks into homasote 4'X8' sheets that are attached to the walls.

4.) Sound dampening / quieting should be looked at to allow for people in this room to not be distracted by things going on outside the room.

5.) Lighting in this room would be important. If we can put in tract lighting to allow for the presentation boards to have the light on them instead of having to use harsh white lights would be appreciated.

6.) Presentation stands in various sizes are used to place models on.

Currently houses:

1. Large space that can accommodate 50 people for presentations.

What we would like to Add to the Presentation Spaces:

1. Two separate rooms one that is larger to accommodate a lecture space and one that is more designed as a presentation space. Though both can be equal as long as they can hold up to 20 people each.
Storage Space:
Description: Room housing student projects for ongoing NAAB and ABET accreditations.
Access: Faculty Access
Ventilation: Standard return & Humidity control
Adjacencies:

What we need:
1.) Needs to accommodate space for NAAB and ABET accreditation material to be stored.
2.) Dust protection is a key to this room as it will be sitting for a while in between accreditation visits.
3.) Need to have room to store presentation stands when they are not being used in the presentation rooms.
4.) Wall Mounted Storage Racks

Currently houses:
Has moving shelves which move on tracks to allow for NAAB and ABET material to be collected and stored in between accreditations.

What we would like to Add to the Storage Space:
Possibility for digital storage of some of the material.
**Monitor Office:**

*Description:* Room for shop / fabrication suite monitor; visual and direct access to shop and fabrication lab.

*Access:* Faculty Access

*Ventilation:* Standard return

*Adjacencies:* Fabrication Lab, Woodshop

What we need:

1.) Computer Terminal
2.) Desk
3.) Storage Furniture

Currently houses:

There is currently no Monitor office the person has to sit in the woodshop in at a makeshift desk.
OVERVIEW

The Department of Architecture at the University of Hartford is a diverse community of practitioners, teachers, and students dedicated to educating future architectural professionals and growing the knowledge base of the profession. Our commitment is to engage architecture in its civic, social, and professional realms for the ultimate benefit of the built environment and those who use it.

In the United States, most state registration boards require a degree from an accredited professional degree program as a prerequisite for licensure. The National Architectural Accrediting Board (NAAB), which is the sole agency authorized to accredit U.S. professional degree programs in architecture, recognizes three types of degrees: the Bachelor of Architecture, the Master of Architecture, and the Doctor of Architecture. A program may be granted a 6-year, 3-year, or 2-year term of accreditation, depending on the extent of its conformance with established educational standards.

Doctor of Architecture and Master of Architecture degree programs may consist of a pre-professional undergraduate degree and a professional graduate degree that, when earned sequentially, constitute an accredited professional education. However, the preprofessional degree is not, by itself, recognized as an accredited degree.

The University of Hartford Department of Architecture offers the following NAAB accredited degree program:

Master of Architecture (Prerequisite + 64 credits required)

Next accreditation visit: 2017