

*2020 Conditions and Procedures*  
**Plan to Correct**  
for Continuing Accreditation

Lebanese American University  
School of Architecture & Design

Bachelor of Architecture [B.Arch.]

Date: June 27, 2024

**NAAB**

National  
Architectural  
Accrediting  
Board, Inc.



**Plan to Correct**  
(2020 Procedures)

<b>Institution</b>	<u><b>Lebanese American University</b></u>
<b>Name of Academic Unit</b>	School of Architecture & Design
<b>Degree(s)</b> <i>(check all that apply)</i> <b>Track(s)</b> <i>(Please include all tracks offered by the program under the respective degree, including total number of credits. Examples: 150 semester undergraduate credit hours Undergraduate degree with architecture major + 60 graduate semester credit hours Undergraduate degree with non-architecture major + 90 graduate semester credit hours)</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <u>Bachelor of Architecture</u> Track: 169 undergraduate credits + Lebanese Baccalaureate or Freshman Year (30 cr.)
<b>Year of Previous Visit</b>	2023
<b>Current Term of Accreditation</b> <i>(refer to most recent decision letter)</i>	Continuing Accreditation (Eight-Year Term with a Plan to Correct)
<b>Program Administrator</b>	Dr. Maroun El-Daccache, Chair of the Department of Architecture & Interior Design
<b>Chief Administrator</b> for the academic unit in which the program is located <i>(e.g., dean or department chair)</i>	Dr. Elie Haddad, Dean of the School of Architecture & Design
<b>Chief Academic Officer of the Institution</b>	Dr. Georges Nasr, Provost
<b>President of the Institution</b>	Dr. Michel Mawad
<b>Individual submitting the APR</b>	Ms. Michella Bou Nader, Executive Assistant to the Dean
<b>Name and Email Address of Individual to Whom Questions Should Be Directed</b>	Dr. Elie Haddad, Dean ( <a href="mailto:ehaddad@lau.edu.lb">ehaddad@lau.edu.lb</a> ) Copying his assistant Ms. Michella Bou Nader ( <a href="mailto:Michella.bounader@lau.edu.lb">Michella.bounader@lau.edu.lb</a> )

**Plan to Correct Form**

<b>Conditions Not Met</b>	<b>Corrective Actions</b> <i>Provide a narrative describing the corrective actions that have been taken and those that are planned but not yet implemented. For all actions taken, provide supporting evidence as described under the relevant Condition in the 2020 Conditions and 2020 Guidelines for the Accreditation Process.</i>	<b>Timeline</b> <i>List the timeline for all corrective actions, including actual or planned start and completion dates.</i>																																																																																			
<p><b>SC.5 – Design Synthesis</b></p> <p><i>How the program ensures that students develop the ability to make design decisions within architectural projects while demonstrating synthesis of user requirements, regulatory requirements, site conditions, and accessible design, and consideration of the measurable environmental impacts of their design decisions</i></p>	<p><b>Program Narrative:</b> As a response to the VTR, the program assigned a committee early in summer 2023 to address the only condition not met: SC.5 – Design Synthesis. The committee reviewed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The SC.5 sub-criteria</li> <li>- The sequence of courses used to assess SC.5 and the points of assessment</li> <li>- The coordination between the design studios and the supporting courses.</li> <li>- The assessment methods and tools</li> <li>- The benchmarks for each point of assessment</li> </ul> <p>The committee recommended to base the assessment of SC5 on the following sub-criteria for a better alignment with SC5 requirements:</p> <p><b>SC5.1</b> Synthesis of users requirements  <b>SC5.2</b> Synthesis of site conditions  <b>SC5.3</b> Synthesis of regulatory requirements  <b>SC5.4</b> Synthesis of accessible design  <b>SC5.5</b> Consideration of measurable environmental impacts</p> <p>A new assessment sequence was adopted. It includes three consecutive design courses (DES V, VI and VII) used as points of assessment, complemented by a number of supporting courses that run in parallel addressing the SC.5 components:</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="321 1020 1203 1791"> <thead> <tr> <th rowspan="2"></th> <th colspan="4">Year 3</th> <th colspan="2">Year 4</th> </tr> <tr> <th colspan="2">Fall</th> <th colspan="2">Spring</th> <th colspan="2">Fall</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td></td> <td>ARCH 431 Design Studio V</td> <td>ARCH 421 Material &amp; Methods of Construction</td> <td>ARCH 422 Climate &amp; Energy</td> <td>ARCH 432 Design Studio VI</td> <td>ARCH 423 Building Technology</td> <td>ARCH 424 Building Services</td> <td>ARCH 411 Structural Design</td> <td>ARCH 531 Design Studio VII</td> <td>ARCH 581 Professional Practice I</td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>SC.5 - Design Synthesis</b></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>SC.5.1 User Requirements</td> <td>AP</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>SC.5.2 Site Condition</td> <td>AP</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>SC.5.3 Regulatory Requirements</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>SC</td> <td></td> <td>AP</td> <td>SC</td> </tr> <tr> <td>SC.5.4 Accessibility</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>AP</td> <td>SC</td> <td>SC</td> <td>SC</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>SC.5.5 Environmental Impact</td> <td>AP</td> <td>SC</td> <td>SC</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p><i>AP: Assessment point SC: Supporting Course</i></p>		Year 3				Year 4		Fall		Spring		Fall			ARCH 431 Design Studio V	ARCH 421 Material & Methods of Construction	ARCH 422 Climate & Energy	ARCH 432 Design Studio VI	ARCH 423 Building Technology	ARCH 424 Building Services	ARCH 411 Structural Design	ARCH 531 Design Studio VII	ARCH 581 Professional Practice I	<b>SC.5 - Design Synthesis</b>										SC.5.1 User Requirements	AP									SC.5.2 Site Condition	AP									SC.5.3 Regulatory Requirements						SC		AP	SC	SC.5.4 Accessibility				AP	SC	SC	SC			SC.5.5 Environmental Impact	AP	SC	SC							<p>The Plan to Correct that was developed to address the SC.5 – Design Synthesis Condition has already been implemented according to the following timeline:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Summer 2023: the CAC in collaboration with the department faculty, coordinators and chair reviewed the curriculum matrix, and identified an updated set of courses to be used to assess SC.5, covering all the sub-criteria.</li> <li>- Fall 2023: the implementation of the plan started with the Fall courses under the supervision of the chair and coordinators.</li> <li>- Spring 2024: the implementation of the plan continued with the Spring courses.</li> <li>- Spring/ Summer 2024: supporting material, evidence and students' work were collected and the plan to correct submitted to the NAAB for their review.</li> </ul>
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	<p>A tight course coordination ensures the horizontal integration of SC.5 components covered as part of the supporting courses within the design studios running in parallel. Three consecutive semesters are required for a student to cover all the components of SC.5:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The notion of <b>measurable environmental impact</b> covered in courses ARCH421 Materials &amp; Methods of Construction and ARCH422 Climate &amp; Energy will be integrated and assessed in ARCH431 Design Studio V, as well as the synthesis of <b>user requirements and site conditions</b>;</li> <li>• The notion of <b>accessible design</b> covered in courses ARCH423 Building Technology and ARCH424 Building Services will be implemented and assessed in ARCH432 Design Studio VI ;</li> <li>• The notion of <b>regulatory requirements</b> is covered in course ARCH581 Professional Practice I and will be implemented and assessed in ARCH531 Design Studio VII.</li> </ul> <p>New benchmarks have been set addressing the 5 sub-criteria of SC.5. The benchmarks are based on both Faculty evaluations of students' work and Students Assessment of their understanding of the course SLOs that were revised as part of the correction process. Due to lack of time, the new SLOs were not updated on the survey run by the University Department of Institutional Research and Assessment for the AY 2023-24. This survey is usually done at the end of each term to collect students' feedback and evaluation of the course. Therefore, the assessment report of SC.5 that will be presented in this document, will not include the aggregated data of students' evaluation of SC.5 sub-criteria, only the Faculty evaluation of students' work. Information on Students' Evaluation will be collected starting Fall 2024.</p> <p><b>NOTE:</b> The aggregated data in this report is just an evidence of implementation of the recommended changes. It is the average grade of all the sections with relevance to the concerned KPI. Detailed information will be provided in the supporting documents, and the analysis will be later done on the section level in the data analysis phase.</p> <p><b>SC5.1 Synthesis of users requirements</b>  <b>SC5.2 Synthesis of site conditions</b>  <b>SC5.5 Consideration of Measurable Environmental Impacts</b></p> <p>The consideration of measurable environmental impacts along with the synthesis of user requirements and site conditions will be addressed in ARCH431 Design Studio V supported by ARCH422 Climate &amp; Energy and ARCH421 Materials and Methods of Construction.</p> <p>A comparative schedule has been developed paralleling progress in the Design Studio V with covered content in supporting courses ARCH 421 &amp; ARCH 422, in view of alignment. Theoretical content provided in supporting courses is put to practice in the Design Studio. Similarly, increasingly developed design in the studio is employed as a case study in the supporting courses and is detailed in parallel to the design studio. Hence, students approach all three courses as a unit focused on the resolution of a mixed-use program within a particular setting leading to developed design proposals that are environmentally conscious and technologically sound. Students' progress their projects and understand the interplay between informed qualitative design decisions along with quantitative data mostly generated in supporting courses ARCH 421 &amp; ARCH 422. All three courses' production comes to fruition at the final review of the Design Studio where synthesis of user requirements, site conditions and the consideration of measurable environmental impact are assessed among other factors.</p> <p><u>Changes based on the committee assessment:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The order and content of the lectures of the supporting courses have been modified to achieve the desired results at the right timing.</li> <li>- SLOs of Design Studio V were updated</li> <li>- The Co-requisite of Design Studio V were updated</li> <li>- Grading rubrics for the Design Studio V were rewritten to include 'Key Performance Indicators (KPI) reflecting the integration of environmental factors within the students' design proposals.</li> </ul>	
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<p><u>Point of Assessment: Design Studio V</u>            Course Description: This studio examines problematics of construction and materiality focusing on building technology, building program, environmental and site factors as essential parameters in the development and resolution of a design project. Students at this stage are expected to manage the complexity of mixed-use program within a critical site. In parallel with studio work, co-requisite building technology courses inform the translation from conceptual design to material and construction techniques.            Pre-requisite: ARCH 432 Design Studio IV, ARCH 351 Digital Drawing and ARCH 361 Theory I            Co-requisite: ARCH 421 Materials and methods of Constructions, <b>ARCH 422 Climate &amp; Energy</b></p> <p>SLO1. Integrate specific site conditions in the architectural intervention            SLO2. Integrate materials and methods of construction in the design process  <b>SLO3. Consider environmental factors in the design process</b>            SLO4. Develop a clear set of architectural documentation including assembly of materials and building systems</p> <p><u>Assessment Report:</u></p>			
<p><b>SC5.1</b> Synthesis of users requirements  <b>ARCH431 Design Studio V - SLO4.</b> Develop a clear set of architectural documentation including assembly of materials and building systems</p>			
Point of Assessment	Method of Assessment	Benchmark	Results from AY 2023-24
Review 1 KPI 2 - Research and Analysis of Architectural Program	Faculty assessment of Students work	Class Average 75/100 (C+) or above	Average of the 5 sections: 79.56/ 100
Review 2 KPI 2 - Identify the complexity of a mixed use program	Faculty assessment of Students work	Class Average 75/100 (C+) or above	Average of the 5 sections: 78/ 100
<p><b>SC5.2</b> Synthesis of site conditions  <b>ARCH431 Design Studio V - SLO1.</b> Integrate specific site conditions in the architectural intervention</p>			
Point of Assessment	Method of Assessment	Benchmark	Results from AY 2023-24
Review 1 KPI 1 - Research and Analysis of Site Factors	Faculty assessment of Students work	Class Average 75/100 (C+) or above	Average of the 5 sections: 80.4
Review 1 KPI 3 - Synthesis of Site and Program Analysis in a Design Position	Faculty assessment of Students work	Class Average 75/100 (C+) or above	Average of the 5 sections: 78.8
Review 2 KPI 1 - Identify the site conditions	Faculty assessment of Students work	Class Average 75/100 (C+) or above	Average of the 5 sections: 76.2
Review 2 KPI 3 - Define design strategy according to site conditions & program requirements	Faculty assessment of Students work	Class Average 75/100 (C+) or above	Average of the 5 sections: 78
Course Evaluation Survey run by the university Department of Institutional Research and Assessment	Students' evaluation of their understanding of the SLOs	Average of 3 on a 4 degree scale (1 worst to 4 best) for SLO 1	Average of the 5 sections: 3.6/4

<p><b>SC5.5 Consideration of Measurable Environmental Impacts</b> <b>ARCH431 Des. Studio V - SLO3.</b> Consider environmental factors in the design process</p>			
Point of Assessment	Method of Assessment	Benchmark	Results from AY 2023-24
Final Review KPI 4 - Integrate Environmental factors with building technologies	Faculty assessment of Students work	Class Average 75/100 (C+) or above	Average of the 5 sections: 79.12
Course Evaluation Survey run by the university Department of Institutional Research and Assessment	Students' evaluation of their understanding of the SLOs	Average of 3 on a 4 degree scale (1 worst to 4 best) for SLO 3	Not applicable for this assessment in AY 2023-24
<p><u>Supporting Evidence related to SC.5.1, SC.5.2 and SC.5.5 (SC5.1.2.5):</u>  <a href="#">1- Course files - ARCH431, ARCH421 and ARCH422</a>  <a href="#">2- Course coordination ARCH431-ARCH421-ARCH422.pdf</a>  <a href="#">3- Revised grading rubrics of ARCH431 - DES V</a>  <a href="#">4- ARCH431 Students work</a>  <a href="#">5- Benchmarks data - SC5.1, SC5.2 and SC5.5.xlsx</a></p>			
<p><b>SC5.3 Regulatory requirements</b> The synthesis of regulatory requirements will be addressed in ARCH531 supported by ARCH581 Professional Practice I and ARCH424 Building Services.</p> <p>ARCH531 Studio Design VII is a comprehensive studio that entails the integration of the notions of structure, building assemblies and environmental systems within the design process. Furthermore, students are expected to develop their design proposals integrating Regulatory Requirements addressed in ARCH581 Professional Practice I by emphasizing the importance of regulatory compliance in architectural design.</p> <p><u>Changes based on the committee assessment:</u> A collaborative approach between the instructors of the Design Studio VII and other supporting courses has been established to ensure the students consider the regulatory requirements early in the design process.</p> <p>The outline of courses has been revised to include a clear schedule of lectures related to regulatory and egress impact in the design process that helps the students to better understand these factors on their project.</p> <p>A two-step process was implemented to facilitate the synthesis of regulatory requirements seamlessly into the design studio workflow:</p> <p><b>Step 1: Pre-Midterm Review Support</b> Prior to the midterm review, a session of Design Studio VII is held in coordination with the Professional Practice Instructor to guide students through establishing their design criteria through analyzing relevant documents, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Adopted zoning ordinances</li> <li>- Building codes</li> <li>- Accessibility guidelines</li> </ul> <p>By incorporating these regulations from the outset, students develop a strong foundation for their design decisions</p> <p><b>Step 2: Midterm Jury Evaluation</b> During the midterm jury, the ARCH 581 instructors join the Design Studio VII review to evaluate student projects with focus on assessing the design's compliance with the</p>			

	<p>established criteria developed in step one. This collaborative evaluation provides valuable feedback, ensuring designs are not only creative but also adhere to regulations.</p> <p>This combined effort fosters a comprehensive learning experience for students. They gain a clear understanding of how regulations shape design while receiving constructive feedback during the crucial mid-point of their project development and later in the Final Review.</p> <p>As a result of this collaboration:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- SLOs of Design Studio VII were updated</li> <li>- The Co-requisite of Design Studio VII was updated</li> <li>- The grading rubrics of design VII have been updated by introducing the regulatory, egress and environmental impact on the final grading assessment.</li> </ul> <p><u>Point of Assessment: Design Studio VII</u></p> <p>Course Description: This comprehensive design studio entails the integration of questions of structure, building assemblies and environmental systems within a design experimentation. Students must develop their design proposal into a fully detailed solution, documented using various media at the appropriate scale.</p> <p>Pre-requisite: ARCH411 Structural Design, ARCH424 Building Services, ARCH432 Design Studio VI, and ARCH481 Construction Documents <b>Co-requisite: ARCH 581 Professional Practice I</b></p> <p>SLO1. <b>Address building codes and regulatory requirement in the design process</b> SLO2. Develop structural systems through architectural details SLO3. Develop environmental systems through architectural details SLO4. Develop building assemblies details SLO5. Present a comprehensive architectural documentation</p> <p><u>Assessment Report:</u></p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td colspan="4" style="text-align: center;"><b>SC5.3</b> Synthesis of regulatory requirements <b>ARCH531 Design Studio VII - SLO1.</b> Address building codes and regulatory requirement in the design process</td> </tr> <tr> <th style="width: 25%;">Point of Assessment</th> <th style="width: 25%;">Method of Assessment</th> <th style="width: 25%;">Benchmark</th> <th style="width: 25%;">Results from AY 2023-24</th> </tr> <tr> <td>Midterm, KPI: - Regulatory Requirements</td> <td>Faculty assessment of Students work</td> <td>Class Average 75/100 (C+) or above</td> <td>Average of the 5 sections: 86</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Final Review, KPI: - Regulatory Requirements and accessibility</td> <td>Faculty assessment of Students work</td> <td>Class Average 75/100 (C+) or above</td> <td>Average of the 5 sections: 85.7</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Course Evaluation Survey run by the university Department of Institutional Research and Assessment</td> <td>Students' evaluation of their understanding of the SLOs</td> <td>Average of 3 on a 4 degree scale (1 worst to 4 best) for SLO 1</td> <td>Not applicable for this assessment in AY 2023-24</td> </tr> </table> <p><u>Supporting Evidence related to SC.5.3 (SC5.3):</u></p> <p><a href="#">1- Course files - ARCH531, ARCH424, ARCH 581</a>  <a href="#">2- Course Coordination ARCH 581-ARCH 531.xlsx</a>  <a href="#">3- Revised grading rubrics of ARCH531 - DES VII</a>  <a href="#">4- Students work - ARCH 531 - DES VII</a>  <a href="#">5- Benchmarks data SC5.3.xlsx</a></p>	<b>SC5.3</b> Synthesis of regulatory requirements <b>ARCH531 Design Studio VII - SLO1.</b> Address building codes and regulatory requirement in the design process				Point of Assessment	Method of Assessment	Benchmark	Results from AY 2023-24	Midterm, KPI: - Regulatory Requirements	Faculty assessment of Students work	Class Average 75/100 (C+) or above	Average of the 5 sections: 86	Final Review, KPI: - Regulatory Requirements and accessibility	Faculty assessment of Students work	Class Average 75/100 (C+) or above	Average of the 5 sections: 85.7	Course Evaluation Survey run by the university Department of Institutional Research and Assessment	Students' evaluation of their understanding of the SLOs	Average of 3 on a 4 degree scale (1 worst to 4 best) for SLO 1	Not applicable for this assessment in AY 2023-24	
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	<p><b>SC5.4 Synthesis of Accessible Design</b>          The synthesis of Accessible Design will be assessed in ARCH432 Design VI supported by ARCH424 Building Services, ARCH423 Building Technology and ARCH411 Structure Design.</p> <p>Design Studio VI addresses projects of greater complexity in terms of program, site constraints, accessibility, and the introduction of safety criteria. The project developed in Design Studio VI progresses in parallel to notions covered in-depth in ARCH411 Structural Design, ARCH 423 Building Technology and ARCH424 Building Services. Specific attention is given to the interrelation between structure and architectural form as essential factors in the process of creating an integrated project.</p> <p>In order to ensure the horizontal integration across the different courses, the coordinators agreed on a synchronized schedule. As part of this coordination effort, the project developed in Design Studio VI has been designated to serve as the main case study for ARCH411, ARCH423 and ARCH424.</p> <p>Prior to the studio midterm review, a workshop will be held in the presence of ARCH411, ARCH423 and ARCH424 instructors to guide the students through the process of structural systems, fire regulations, egress and accessibility integration. Finally, the instructors of the supporting courses will be invited to assess the Final submissions of students in compliance with the established criteria for SC5.4.</p> <p>In addition to the studio application, the students will develop particular aspects of their projects in ARCH411, ARCH423 and ARCH424 to include thorough integrated structure, regulatory requirements (accessibility and egress routes) with impact on details and specifications of their projects.</p> <p><u>Changes based on the committee assessment:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The SLOs of the Design Studio VI were updated</li> <li>- The Co-requisite of the course were updated</li> <li>- The outline of the courses has been revised to include a clear schedule of lectures related to accessibility and structure impact in the design process that help the students to better understand these factors on their project.</li> <li>- The rubrics of Design Studio VI have been updated by increasing the percentage of the accessibility grade in the midterm and final review grading assessments.</li> </ul> <p><u>Point of Assessment: Design Studio VI</u>          Course Description: This studio addresses projects of greater complexity in terms of program, site constraints, accessibility, and the introduction of safety criteria. Specific attention is given to the interrelation between structure and architectural form as essential factors in the process of creating an integrated project. Students at this level are expected to elaborate a clear set of drawings highlighting the tectonic aspects of their projects.</p> <p>Pre-requisite: ARCH311 Structural Concepts, ARCH422 Climate and Energy AND ARCH431 Design Studio V  <b>Co- requisite: ARCH424 Building Services</b></p> <p>SLO1. Develop an architectural program in correlation to site conditions and accessibility          SLO2. Integrate structure in the design process  <b>SLO3. Integrate building life safety codes and accessibility regulations</b>          SLO4. Develop a clear set of architectural documentation including structural systems and egress</p>	
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<i>Assessment Report:</i>			
<b>SC5.4</b> Synthesis of Accessible Design <b>ARCH432 Design Studio VI - SLO3.</b> Integrate building life safety codes and accessibility regulations			
<b>Point of Assessment</b>	<b>Method of Assessment</b>	<b>Benchmark</b>	<b>Results from AY 2023-24</b>
Midterm, KPI: - Ability to make design decisions while demonstrating Life Safety systems and accessible design	Faculty assessment of Students work	Class Average C+ or above	Average of the 5 sections: 77.4/100
Final Review, KPI: - Ability to make design decisions while demonstrating Life Safety systems and accessible design	Faculty assessment of Students work	Class Average C+ or above	Average of the 5 sections: 82
Course Evaluation Survey run by the university Department of Institutional Research and Assessment	Students' evaluation of their understanding of the SLOs	Average of 3 on a 4 degree scale (1 worst to 4 best) for SLO 3	Not applicable for this assessment in AY 2023-24
<i>Supporting Evidence related to SC.5.4 (SC5.4):</i> <a href="#">1- Course Files of ARCH432, ARCH424</a> <a href="#">2- Course Coordination ARCH432 ARCH423 ARCH424 ARCH411.xlsx</a> <a href="#">3- Revised grading rubrics of ARCH432 - DES VI</a> <a href="#">4- Students work - ARCH432 - DES VI</a> <a href="#">5- Benchmarks Data SC5.4.xlsx</a>			