**Joining the Five College Architectural Studies (FCAS) Major**

**for Amherst College students**

**Name: Date:**

**College:**

**Class/expected year of graduation:**

**Email:**

**alternate email:**

**FCAS advisor(s) with whom you have spoken:**

**· Mapping Your Concentration ·**

Þ **Foundation**

**4 Foundation Courses**

At the foundational level, we expect that each student will take core courses, sequentially, in architectural design, environmental design, and/or architectural history. It is *recommended* that studio courses be preceded by basic drawing, and that architectural history courses be based on foundational art history courses at the 100 level. Students need to complete at least one architectural studio and one architectural history course as part of the foundation, and two studios and two architectural history courses are highly recommended. (Please indicate the number and title of the course, Professor, and semester/year in which you have taken or plan to take each course.)

1.

2.

3.

4.

List any other relevant courses at the foundational level, use the back of this page if necessary (Students planning on graduate study in architectural design after Amherst should be sure to check graduate school admission requirements for a Masters in Architecture (M.Arch), which normally include calculus, an introductory physics course, a drawing course, two art history courses, and two studio architecture courses):

Þ **Intermediate:**

At the intermediate level, students will develop particular concentrations, including (but not limited to) architectural design; environmental/sustainable design; community design; architectural history, theory, and criticism; urban studies, politics, performance, and cultural studies. For some, this will mean that your studio architecture courses are supplemented by a progression of courses in the science of climate change and sustainable practices. For others, it will mean that your concentration in design is matched by courses in applied design and computer modeling, or drawing, sculpture, and installation art. A concentration in architectural history and criticism might be complemented by study in literary theory, philosophy or journalism. You might study city planning, landscape studies, or economics. The focus is yours to design. Identify here the courses that develop your interdisciplinary concentration in architectural studies:

**Brief Narrative description of your concentration (including, if relevant, your post-graduation plans for further study):**

**5 Intermediate Courses**

(Please indicate the number and title of the course, Professor, and semester/year in which you have taken or plan to take each course.)

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

**List any other relevant courses at the intermediate level:**

#### **Global Studies**

The intention of the FCAS program is to expose our students to as many interpretations and conceptual theories about architecture as possible. In what courses, study abroad programs, or other educational activities did you learn about global or multicultural approaches to the built environment?

**Community Engagement**

Five Colleges, Inc., along with its individual institutions, is committed to establishing strong relationships and promoting public engagement with its regional communities. Have you had the opportunity to work on the campuses or in the community in any way? (internships, community design courses, employment opportunities, etc.):

**Capstone/Senior thesis**

Amherst students are required to complete a two semester-long thesis project during their senior year. This can be in any area of architectural studies, and might be a design project, research paper, exhibition, urban plan, or in any number of creative forms and formats. **When the required courses are met, each student will submit a proposal** that will describe their topic, working project outline, and research strategies, including a bibliography. This proposal will be read and evaluated by the Amherst College Architectural Studies Committee, and subsequently by the FCAS major faculty committee.

In your thesis proposal, be sure to discuss what form your project will take (design project, urban plan, scholarly paper, series of critical essays, or hybrid project combining written and designed elements).

**Addendum:**

An Amherst student may choose from a variety of courses in pursuit of his or her individualized major in Architectural Studies. What follows are a few examples of possibilities selected from recent (and always changing) offerings at Amherst and in the Five Colleges:

**Example of Student A: Studio Architecture Focus**

Student objective: To develop and/or create skills in form-making and studio architecture

Foundation courses: Studio: Introduction to Sculpture (AC)

 Introduction to Architectural Design

 History/Theory: History of Art (AC)

 History of Modern Architecture (AC)

Intermediate courses: Studio: Intermediate Architectural Design

 Digital Architectural Design (AC)

 History/Theory: CityScapes (AC)

 SPACE (AC)

 Focus Area: Intermediate Sculpture (AC)

Capstone/Thesis: Studio: Studio Architecture Concentrator

Course/Thesis

 Senior Thesis (AC)

**Example of Student B: Architectural and Urban History/Theory**

Student objective: Study of architectural and urban history/theory

Foundation courses: Studio: Introduction to Sculpture (AC)

 Introduction to Architectural Design

 History/Theory: History of Art (AC)

 History of Modern Architecture (AC)

Intermediate courses: History/Theory: Material Culture (AC)

 Arts of Japan (AC)

 Making Memorials (AC)

 Focus Area: Cityscapes (AC)

 Architectures of Disappearance (AC)

Capstone/Thesis: History/Theory Senior Thesis (AC)

 Senior Thesis (AC)

**Example of Student C: Sustainable Architecture**

Student objective: Study of architecture and the environment

Foundation courses: Studio: Introduction to Drawing (AC)

 Introduction to Architectural Design

 History/Theory: History of Art (AC)

 Focus Area: Introduction to Environmental Studies

Intermediate courses: Studio: Intermediate Architectural Design

 History/Theory: SPACE (AC)

 Environmental Issues 19th Century (AC)

 Focus Area: Social Construction of Nature (AC)

 Ecology (AC)

Capstone/Thesis: Studio: Studio Architecture Concentrator

Course/Thesis

 Senior Thesis (AC)