The study of Building Science focuses on phenomena that inform the design of next-generation buildings. As the complexity of building systems, design and analysis tools increase to match ever-expanding performance expectations in a sustainability-minded world, a foundational understanding of first-principles is increasingly vital to diverse sectors of the design and construction industry. Using a holistic approach, students in the Building Science program develop an understanding of buildings as a set of interconnected systems that can be built, modified, and adapted to meet requirements for functionality, energy optimization and human comfort.

In addition to establishing a solid grounding in fundamentals relating to materials, structure, energy, heat transfer, enclosure and management, students also gain an awareness and critical perspective of the design process before selecting an area of concentration such as construction management, structural engineering, sustainability, lighting or architectural acoustics. Individualized concentrations may also be crafted with approval of the Building Science program director.

Rensselaer’s four-year Bachelor of Science in Building Sciences degree provides an exceptional preparation for direct entry into one of the building industry’s many sectors ranging from real estate development to construction management, specialty consulting in environmental systems, sustainability, façade design, building performance consulting, architectural acoustics or lighting, to working with manufacturers and suppliers in the development and delivery of new products and systems. It also serves as an excellent foundation for advanced degrees in architecture, engineering, construction management or business, to name just a few. High-performing students may also choose from several dual degree or co-terminal (5-year Bachelor and Masters of Science) options while at Rensselaer.

As a polytechnic with a long and substantial history of ‘applying science to the purposes of life’ the Rensselaer education and research setting is uniquely situated for a progressive Building Science Degree program. Some of those assets that are drawn upon include:

- Rensselaer’s status as a top-tier research university – engaged in myriad areas of research that are well-suited for technology transfer to the building industry.
- Highly ranked Schools of Architecture and Engineering
- Exceptional programs in Material and Computer Science
- Two internationally acclaimed Lighting Research Centers
- A world renowned Architectural Acoustics Program
- The award-winning Center for Architecture Science and Ecology [CASE]

Rensselaer’s focus on the integration of theoretical and practical knowledge in the Building Science program prepares students for leadership in response to existing and emerging global challenges in the design and construction of the built environment.

Deadline to apply is January 15.
Early decision 1 deadline is November 1.
Early decision 2 deadline is December 15.

CONTACT INFORMATION

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