



# Architect

## Job Description

Responsible for technical oversight in the **design and construction of** medically unique features of work and systems in new, altered, and renovated medical projects. Ensures technical compliance with all federal codes and standards under the Department of Defense (DOD) other Federal agencies.

## Salary

Entry — \$70,000  
Middle — \$130,000  
Top — \$180,000

## Core Tasks

- Provide technical oversight for In Patient, Outpatient, Specialty Care Clinics, Veterinary Clinics, Research Laboratories, and other Healthcare focused projects.
- Provide guidance in the development of medically unique code, technical standards, and policy.
- Provide technical training to project teams, representatives, and agency partners, to provide consistency and continuity in the design and construction of medical facilities.

## Workplace / Environment

- Work hours**  
**Approx. 40 hours/week**  
(At key project milestones overtime work may be required to meet deadlines)
- Environment**  
**Typical office setting**, frequent travel and site work required.
- Travel**  
**Can be worldwide** to international offices or project sites.

## Education / Prerequisites

### Education Level

Bachelor's or master's in architecture or related fields

### Licensing

Registered Architect (RA)

### Pre-Job Preparation

Typically 5+ years of professional experience. Licensure required after college.

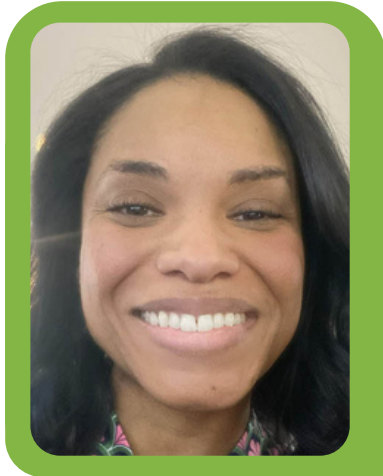
## Experience

### Soft Skills

- Excellent Communication and Listening skills
- Leadership
- Creativity

### Technical Skills

- Software Experience (BIM, REVIT, Photoshop, etc.)
- Technical Sketching and Modeling
- Analytical Thinking



## Career Path: Allison Pride

### About Me

Architect at US Army Corps of Engineers |  
Medical Facilities Center of Expertise and  
Standardization (MX)

Bachelor of Science in Architecture from the  
University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign

### High School Life

"In high school, I didn't know that I wanted to be an architect. I knew I **felt different in buildings, depending on how they were built**, and I wanted to learn more. I was actually in a language immersion program in K-12 so I had the opportunity to travel through that program. I started seeing how architecture was expressed in other communities. That was really **the spark** that showed me that architecture can be expressed in a lot of different ways and that the communities need to be able to lead what that expression can become. In high school I didn't have awareness to a lot of the programs that support early education and engagement in engineering. I **went on a hunch** and made the decision to **study architecture** in college."

### College Choices

"As I got into college, I started learning the **many different pieces** that shape how buildings come together. After school, I went to work for a small firm in architecture, where I learned the **business side** of this practice. I started to understand that architecture is not a practice that is done individually, it can be comprised of **very large teams**. These teams bring together individuals from different backgrounds and varying levels of expertise, and are **critical** to how we design and build.

I spent time working as a community planner and took positions in construction, because it's one thing to design and it's another thing to actually build. I then spent time working in **leadership and strategic roles** where I was helping to lead design teams, architects, and engineers.

Understanding the responsibility of these roles and how they contribute to the overall process was very important to me."

### Into the Real World

"I was always interested in **how buildings impacted people**, I actually thought I was going to study psychology. When I was in college, I had a design studio that was sponsored by a healthcare focused architecture and engineering firm. There's no better example than a healthcare environment to see how each little decision we make in creating those spaces can make an impact. This is for both patients, the doctors and clinical teams that are there to actually provide that care, and for the operations and maintenance teams that keep these facilities running. I decided at that point that **healthcare** was going to be a space that I wanted to focus on. The ability to be able to support teams that are creating these environments to have positive outcomes was **really an exciting challenge** for me to be a part of."

# About My Job

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"For anyone who's interested in architecture there is space for you. "

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## Pros

- "One of the things that I enjoy is the **diverse teams** that we get to work with. These individuals have different expertise, they come from different backgrounds. So it's really exciting to be able to see a lot of people work together to help bring forward these environments."
- "I also **enjoy the opportunity to travel** to different areas of the country or different areas in the world to help support project teams."

## Cons

- "One of the challenges I think **inherent to design and construction** are the schedules. Sometimes those schedules are very compressed so we have to be very adaptable to what the needs are of specific projects. We also have to be prepared to respond in those timelines. Sometimes that can constrain some of our effort, and then other times we have a little more flexibility. **It's a balance.**"

## Fieldwork

- "It depends on the time of year, but **I travel quite a bit**. Sometimes that means I'm in the office one week out of the office one week, sometimes I'll have weeks in the office, and then sometimes it can be consecutive trips. It **depends on what the projects** need at that time."
- "We actually have offices **all over the world**. Our office supports projects internationally, so sometimes the travel is within the United States, and sometimes we're working to support project teams that are overseas. It can **vary and that's really cool.**"

## Office Work

- "A typical work day is actually **very different for me**. So some days, that means I'm in the office **with colleagues** working on projects, sometimes that means that **I'm traveling**, and on **actual construction sites**. Sometimes that means I am at workshops, or we're leading technical training, because that's one of the services that we provide. It can also mean I'm working in a home office, working on research within the field that I'm in."

## Skills

- "When I learned about architecture, my assumption was that you have to really love math or science. I was not necessarily excited about those aspects of the profession. I think at the root of what the built environment is being asked to do is to **help support people.**"
- "This is a profession where we are highly dependent on a lot of different people coming forward and bringing these projects together. **Interpersonal skills are hugely important**, and probably often understated if we compare it to the technical competencies of this profession."

## Education/Experience

- "If there are programs or areas of interest that you have, especially in high school, **pursue those.** There are a lot of programs out there that are providing opportunities for youth to get more involved in the built environment, construction, and design."
- "I would pay attention to your state's board requirements for licensure, and let that be a **bit of a guide.** Architects also have to go through an experience program (AXP) to complete a **minimum number of hours** in core areas of the practice of architecture. Try to broaden your experience so that you can meet those objectives in all categories."

## The Future of **Architecture**

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"We are building buildings that outlive a lot of people."

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"The profession is moving past **the stereotype** of what an architect is, what they look like, their typical background, etc. When I was in school, it was hard to see whether I really had a place here. For those who want to learn more, I would offer that there's space for you here, and that it doesn't have to look like the typical trajectory."

It's also important to understand we rely on a lot of allied professions, engineers, environmental specialties, technologies, construction, manufacturers, planners, etc., and they are critical to our success and our **ability to continue to innovate.** We are building buildings that are getting smarter and there's a **large responsibility** in ensuring that what we're placing is **sustainable, long term.** There's an increased focus on climate change and how the built environment is impacting the environment, either positively or negatively. Partnership is critical to how we continue to evolve how we build and what resources we use. The profession is charged with and will need to be successful in creating spaces that are unique to the communities that they need to serve but also responsible to the environment in which they are placed."

# About Sustainability Ambassadors

We are here to **RAPIDLY ADVANCE A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE**. Empowering **YOUTH** to catalyze community sustainability, **TEACHERS** to integrate rigor with relevance for real-world impact, **COMMUNITY** to drive collective impact.

We support a year-round training program for over 60 highly motivated middle and high school youth, a Teacher Fellows Program, City-County CAP internships, and college-level interns, and work with hundreds of educators to design new models of problem-based, place-based learning around **a shared vision of educating for sustainability**.

## Your Green Jobs Future

**Ready** to explore your future in green jobs? Use [Map your Career](#) to map your trajectory!

**Find** career opportunities near you now! Use [Career Connect - Washington's](#) tool to find programs to build your career skills.

**Interested** in a future in solar? Take a look at the [Solar Jobs Census](#) to track solar job growth nationwide.

**Explore** [RVC's opportunities](#) to work with organizations led by communities of color.

**Dive** into the [Center of Excellence for Clean Energy's](#) robust career tools in the sustainable energy sector.

**Grow** your professional sustainability skillset with the [Seattle Youth Good Program](#).

**See** Seattle's [Clean Energy Resources Map](#) to examine what the city is planning for a greener energy future.

**Check out** the [U.S. Green Building Council](#) to explore the sector's current opportunities. :

## Funder Acknowledgement



**King County**

Department of Natural Resources and Parks  
**Wastewater Treatment Division**

