



The major purpose of the Practice Analysis was to identify the tasks and knowledge/skills that are important for the competent performance of recently licensed architects, practicing independently, in order to safeguard the health, safety, and welfare of the public.

What Do You Need to Know to Practice Architecture Today?

That's what the National Council of Architectural Registration Boards wanted to find out when it invited over 50,000 architects from across the United States and Canada to participate in the *2007 Practice Analysis of Architecture*. A record 9,835 practicing architects completed an extensive electronic survey last spring, making the *2007 Practice Analysis* the greatest outreach and response from architects ever received.

Information garnered from the survey will serve as the primary basis for updating the Architect Registration Examination® (ARE®),

much in the same way the *2001 Practice Analysis* results influenced the content and organization of ARE 3.0, ARE 3.1, and the soon-to-be released ARE 4.0. For the first time, the survey will also be used to strengthen the Intern Development Program (IDP). The results will guide the most significant update of IDP since its inception over 25 years ago. The findings of the survey will serve as the voice of architects, and be used to ensure that the ARE and IDP are based on a common set of validated tasks and knowledge/skills.

FIGURE 1 How Well Architecture Education is Preparing Interns

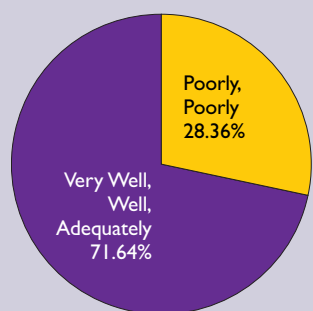


FIGURE 2 How Well IDP is Preparing Interns

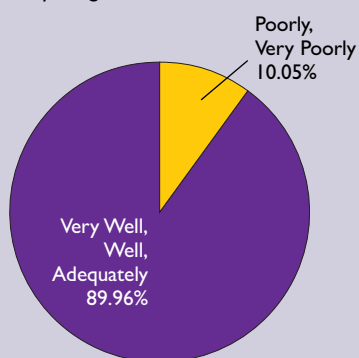
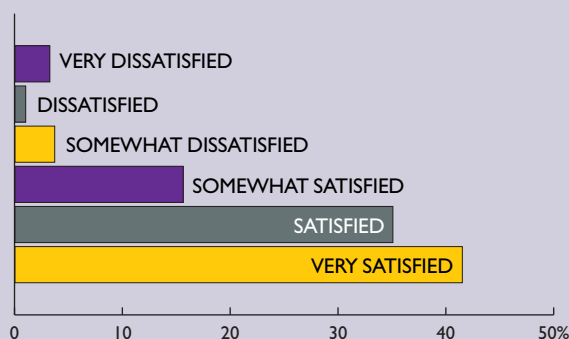


FIGURE 3 How Satisfied are You with Your Career in Architecture



Over 90 percent of the nearly 200 tasks and knowledge/skills surveyed were identified as important and should be acquired *prior* to licensure, either through completion of a professional architectural degree or during a structured internship. The respondents also identified 17 of the knowledge/skills surveyed as currently being acquired *after* licensure. NCARB is working with the related collateral organizations to ensure these weaknesses are addressed and incorporated at the most appropriate time.

In addition to identifying important tasks and knowledge/skills, survey participants were asked how well they thought architecture education and IDP are preparing interns to become future architects. More than 28 percent of the respondents that supervised or mentored an intern in the past two years felt that architecture students are “poorly,” or “very poorly” prepared to begin careers in

architecture. On a more positive note, nearly 90 percent of that same group felt that IDP is preparing interns “adequately,” “well,” or “very well,” for their future career.

Respondents were also asked to identify areas of professional development they thought would help their career. Nearly 30 percent felt they could use more training in the business side of architecture and in construction administration.

Several open-ended questions provided an opportunity for respondents to voice their opinions on the changes they expect to see in the field of architecture. Sustainable design and computer technology were the topics most frequently mentioned.

Finally, respondents were asked how satisfied they are with their career in architecture. The vast majority (92 percent) indicated that

they are “somewhat satisfied” to “very satisfied.”

The Practice Analysis was more than just a survey. It involved a multi-method approach that included meetings with subject-matter experts, an extensive online survey, and detailed analysis of the results. NCARB’s test development and psychometric consultant, Prometric, administered the process and analysis according to the guidelines of *The Standards for Educational and Psychological Testing*.

The findings of the 2007 *Practice Analysis of Architecture* provide empirical data that will inform and, as needed, refine the content of the ARE and the IDP. A detailed summary of the results was published in November 2007, and can be downloaded from the NCARB web site. [DC](#)