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## FLYING THROUGH ARE 4.0

ARE 4.0 was released on 1 July 2008. The following day, Caleb Buland became one of the first candidates to sit for the new exam when he took the Construction Documents & Services division. Over the next five months, Buland took the remaining six divisions. In early January 2009, he got the news he had been waiting for: he passed all seven divisions.

“ARE 4.0 was a good experience—as soon as the pass letters started to arrive!” said Buland. “My test strategy was: study, test, pass, celebrate. Then repeat as necessary.”

The University of Nebraska graduate earned a Bachelor of Design in 2003 and a Master of Architecture in 2005. Buland worked at a small architectural firm and for a general contractor before going to work at HOK Sport,

one of the world’s leading sports architecture firms, to complete the Intern Development Program (IDP). When he received his Authorization to Test in June 2008, he became an ARE 4.0 candidate.

“At first I was concerned about a not being able to talk with people who had taken ARE 4.0 because it was so new,” said Buland. “But after completing the practice programs available on NCARB’s web site, I felt reassured. I was excited to take the most current test available and the reorganized sections seemed to be an improvement. It made it easier to focus my preparation.”

To prepare for the exam, Buland read the AIA contracts, NCARB study material, NCARB sample tests, and study guides from other provid-

ers. But he attributes much of his success to his education and the skills he learned during IDP.

“The dean at Nebraska always told me the process of becoming an architect was three part: education, experience, and examination. When I reached the experience phase, my goal was to work with and learn from talented people. My boss, Earl Santee, AIA, is one of the most experienced ballpark architects in the world. He let me review many of his drawings and contracts. I learned a lot from this and put the knowledge to use while helping to design and document other projects. By the time I arrived at the examination phase, I had a good working understanding of architecture contracts and deliverables.”

# TRANSITIONING TO ARE 4.0

## **Schedule Remaining ARE 3.1 Divisions Early**

The last day to take an ARE 3.1 division is 30 June 2009. While the last day to schedule an ARE 3.1 appointment is 27 June 2009, if you plan to take a division of ARE 3.1 in May or June, you should schedule it well in advance. Appointments are made on a first-come, first-served basis, based on availability at your local test center. NOTE: As indicated in the *ARE Guidelines*, eligibilities for candidates who need to schedule ARE 3.1 retakes of failed exams will be reopened approximately two months prior to the start date of the new eligibility period for that division.

## **Eligibility Mapping to ARE 4.0**

In early July, Prometric will begin to map all transition candidates' open eligibilities from ARE 3.1 to ARE 4.0. If you have no exam scores pending on 1 July 2009, you should be able to schedule divisions in ARE 4.0 by mid-July. If you have an exam score pending on 1 July 2009, your eligibilities will be mapped following the typical score report process. The mapping to ARE 4.0 will be complete by mid-August for all ARE candidates. Once your eligibilities have been mapped to their equivalent exam(s) in ARE 4.0, you can find out the remaining divisions you need to pass to complete the ARE by checking the Prometric web site or by calling the ARE Help Desk at 800-896-2272. NOTE: Candidates will NOT receive an updated Authorization to Test (ATT). Your current authorization number will continue to work in ARE 4.0.

## **Six-Month Waiting Period**

Candidates transitioning from ARE 3.1 to ARE 4.0 will need to wait six months after a failed test in ARE 3.1 before they can take the equivalent division(s) in ARE 4.0. For example, if you fail an ARE 3.1 division in February 2009, you will need to wait until August 2009 to take the equivalent division(s) in ARE 4.0.

## **Transition Chart**

If you will be transitioned to ARE 4.0 in July, you can use the online transition chart at [www.ncarb.org/are/40/transition\\_chart.html](http://www.ncarb.org/are/40/transition_chart.html) to see which division(s) you will need to take to complete the ARE.

## **Voucher Policy Reminder**

All vouchers for ARE 3.1 examinations will expire when the holder of the voucher is transitioned to ARE 4.0. Please contact the ARE Help Desk at 800-896-2272 for information about how you can convert your current voucher to an ARE 4.0 voucher before 30 June 2009. You will need to return your current voucher(s) with a certified check/money order for any additional funds required. All new vouchers will be valid for one year from date of purchase.

## **“Transitioning to ARE 4.0” Podcast**

Erica Brown, AIA, Director, ARE, answers frequently asked questions about the July transition from ARE 3.1 to ARE 4.0 in a podcast available on NCARB's web site at [www.ncarb.org/webcasts/podcasts.html](http://www.ncarb.org/webcasts/podcasts.html).

Buland received a great deal of support from HOK Sport during his journey to licensure. The firm provided study materials and paid IDP and exam fees. They also provided paid time off to take the exam. After passing the ARE, Buland was promoted to “architect” and received a bonus from the firm. In addition, all newly licensed architects at HOK Sport receive an automatic salary review.

“HOK sport has been a great place to develop as an architect and designer. I am able to work with some of the most prestigious clients in cities around the world. I am optimistic that my role in the firm will continue to expand with each project I work on.”

Buland's advice to interns is to use the IDP as an opportunity to ask for many different responsibilities and seek out new opportunities. When you complete the IDP, make an ARE plan and stick to it. “Work and life never slow down,” said Buland, “so take the ARE as soon as you can.” **DC**