

Sometimes very interesting questions come after the obvious and urgent ones are asked and answered. This Q&A features NCARB's responses to those other important, albeit secondary, questions from Record holders. Any questions needing timely response should instead be directed to NCARB customer service by calling 202/879-0520.

NCARB INQUIRIES

I've noticed that NCARB has changed the way that users access their online accounts. Why has this change been made?

NCARB is in the process of making significant upgrades to its online services. The first visible impact of these changes is the launch of My NCARB. As a part of the new system, users of the NCARB online system must create a new username-based login credential. The login change is the first step in the development of enhanced services that will be available through My NCARB in the future.

An immediate effect of this change is added convenience. Users who had multiple NCARB accounts—such as NCARB Record holders who are also supervisors for the Intern Development Program (IDP)—previously used multiple sets of login credentials to access all of their online services. Now, under our new login system, an individual can access all of their account options by using one, new login. The single login also ensures that

users only need to update their information in one place; if you switch e-mail addresses, you can log in to the account and change it once, confident that all of your NCARB services will reflect the updated information.

The launch of My NCARB is the first step toward online services that are more integrated, user-friendly, and indispensable.

I'm an intern, and I heard that NCARB is proposing changes for continuing education hours. Do I have to document these now?

No. Continuing education is a requirement in many jurisdictions for licensure renewal. NCARB does not require continuing education in order to renew your NCARB Record, your NCARB Certificate, or to complete the IDP.

As an intern participating in the Intern Development Program (IDP), there are several continuing education opportunities, such as AIA seminars and NCARB's free *Professional Conduct* monograph, which can be submitted for credit toward completion

of the IDP. See the "Supplementary Education" section of the *IDP Guidelines* for more information.

I'm an architect, and I heard that NCARB has introduced a continuing education requirement. Do I have to document continuing education hours for NCARB now?

No, NCARB does not require any continuing education hours to renew a Record or Certificate. NCARB has amended its *Model Law and Model Regulations* to recommend that jurisdictions adopt a uniform requirement for continuing education.

Each state sets its own requirements for registration and registration renewal. Many jurisdictions have widely differing requirements for continuing education, which can make license renewal confus-

ing for architects who are registered in multiple states. NCARB has proposed that all jurisdictions adopt a uniform standard. If it is adopted, then instead of having to comply with several different continuing education requirements, an architect could potentially only have to document 12 continuing education hours per calendar year to renew any and all licenses. It would simplify the process and make it significantly less complicated to maintain multiple licenses.

All jurisdictional renewal requirements, including the continuing education requirement, are set by their individual boards, so you must always verify the requirements with your board. For board contact information, please see the licensing requirement page at <http://www.ncarb.org/Getting-an-Initial-License/Registration-Board-Requirements.aspx>.

For more, read "All Over the Map" on page 26 in this issue.

Why has NCARB selected new vendors for the Architect Registration Examination® (ARE®)? Will this affect my ability to sit for the exam divisions or complete the ARE?

NCARB has selected two new vendors for their ability to partner with NCARB in providing an examination that will best serve our candidates and our Member Boards.

Alpine Testing Services, Inc. was selected to manage both the content management and candidate management services. This includes support for the exam committees, creation and maintenance of all multiple-choice and graphic content,

management of all candidate records and testing eligibilities, score reporting, and statistical analysis. Alpine's extensive background and expertise in test design and analysis will help to maintain and improve the highest quality examination content and management.

Prometric, Inc. was selected to continue its role as the site management consultant offering ARE candidates access to their extensive testing center network.

Partnering with these two vendors will enable NCARB to build, maintain, and continuously improve testing programs. Among the benefits that this change will bring to ARE candidates is a more user-friendly experience in terms of communication and scheduling. Read more on page 24. Additional information on future enhancements to the ARE will be released throughout the migration process, which is anticipated to be complete in 2013.

I'm an intern, and I'm just starting to document my IDP. Which of the IDP Eligibility Date forms should I use? Do I still have to send in my transcript?

The three forms all do the same thing—establish an IDP eligibility date. Which form you will use depends on your individual circumstances. The *IDP Guidelines* provides information on the three eligibility dates, so make sure to read through the requirements before downloading the associated form. It is possible that you may qualify for more than one of the IDP eligibility dates. If so, you will need to consider which date is most appropriate to use.

You are able to start documenting your experience online before you establish your IDP eligibility date. You may see a “warning” in the e-EVR that indicates that your IDP eligibility date has not been established, but this will not prohibit you from submitting your experience report. While you will need to document your IDP eligibility date at some point, don't wait to document your experience!

NCARB will need documentation of your education in your Record. While the tran-

script is no longer the only means used to establish an IDP eligibility date, it will still be evaluated against the *NCARB Education Standard*. All states have education requirements for licensure, and most require an architecture degree accredited by the National Architecture Accrediting Board (NAAB). Make sure to have an official copy of your transcript sent to the NCARB office once a degree has been conferred.

I've heard some information about the new Practice Analysis. Why is it important? What effect does it have on the profession and on NCARB programs?

The Practice Analysis serves the profession by directly surveying the architectural community to understand the knowledge and skills necessary to practice architecture independently now and in the future. Established architects, recently licensed professionals, interns, and educators will all be asked to comment on the profession in the 2012 Practice Analysis.

The results of previous Practice Analysis have greatly informed the development of the ARE and the IDP. The empirical data derived from the 2012 NCARB Practice Analysis will shape the focus of future NCARB programs including the IDP, the ARE, NCARB's continuing education policies, and NCARB's contribution to the 2013 NAAB Accreditation Review Conference (ARC).

The more people who participate in the Practice Analysis, the better the data will be for making informed decisions about the future of the profession. This is your opportunity to actively participate in shaping the future. The survey will be emailed in April 2012; be sure and respond!

For more, read “Designing a Strong Foundation” on page 12 in this issue. **DC**