NCARB

NCARB BY THE NUMBERS

2025 EDITION

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NCARB

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Welcome to the 2025 edition of *NCARB by the Numbers*!

Each year, *NCARB by the Numbers* provides exclusive insights into key data shaping the architecture community. This year's report marks our 14th edition, and, as always, we have continued to enhance and expand this publication to offer clear and reliable data on the path to architectural licensure.

For NCARB and our member licensing boards, the information contained in *NCARB by the Numbers* shines a light on the overall health, trajectory, and makeup of the licensure pipeline. By closely monitoring data coming out of our community of members, customers, and volunteers, we have been able to drive strategic decisions that are shaping the future of regulation and the architecture profession. Over the past several years, NCARB has implemented several programmatic and policy changes designed to promote greater accessibility on the path to licensure while maintaining the standards necessary to protect the public's health, safety, and welfare: launching free practice exams for the Architect Registration Examination® (ARE®), retiring the ARE's rolling clock policy, offering English as a Second Language accommodations, and more.

In this year's edition, you'll see the ongoing impact of those changes. The licensure candidate pipeline has fully recovered from the COVID-19 pandemic, with nearly 40,000 candidates actively working to become architects—and the average time to licensure has fallen below the 13-year mark for the first time since 2016. And while exam pass rates have decreased slightly, candidates are still completing the ARE faster than ever.

While the overall architect population has decreased as the baby boomer generation has begun to retire, architects are also demonstrating increased interest in reciprocal licensure. Over 51,000 architects hold the NCARB Certificate, and NCARB continues to keep pace with an increasingly interconnected global economy by enhancing the value of the NCARB Certificate as a passport to global licensure.

New in this year's edition, you'll find an expanded look at new architects' educational backgrounds and their impact on experience and examination program progress. Additionally, we've included key takeaways from a recent NCARB survey exploring the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on licensure candidates.

Behind the scenes, our data is informing even more comprehensive changes to the licensure process as NCARB seeks to reimagine the path to becoming an architect through our Pathways to Practice initiative. We look forward to sharing how the information gathered in *NCARB by the Numbers*, as well as insight from our members, customers, volunteers, and the public, continues to shape the regulatory landscape in architecture and beyond.



Michael J. Armstrong
Chief Executive Officer
National Council of Architectural Registration Boards

State of Licensure

The pool of candidates pursuing licensure continued to grow in 2024—but the pool of licensed architects fell. While the total number of U.S. architects saw a 4% decrease to 116,000, the number of reciprocal licenses rose to an all-time high of over 150,000.

The number of individuals actively working to become architects rose by 5% to more than 39,000. The number of newly licensed architects (typically between 9-10% of the active candidate pool) held steady at close to 3,600. However, those new architects completed the path to licensure faster than the previous year: On average, it took candidates 12.9 years to earn a license in 2024, approximately 6 months less than in 2023.

Recently, NCARB has implemented several programmatic changes that could impact the state of licensure—including the retirement of the licensing exam's five-year expiration date on passed divisions, the reinstatement of thousands of previously expired exam divisions, and the launch of free practice exams, which have contributed to higher pass rates.

Typically, 36-38% of candidates stop pursuing licensure over a 10-year period. As NCARB reduces unnecessary impediments and improves accessibility on the path to licensure, we hope to see these changes reflected in attrition rates and licensure statistics in the years to come.

39,499 CANDIDATES PURSUING LICENSURE

+5% CHANGE

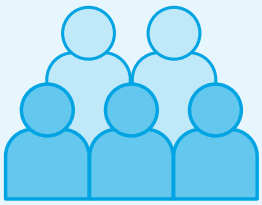
12.9 YEARS
Average time to earn a license

NO CHANGE

3,606 NEW ARCHITECTS

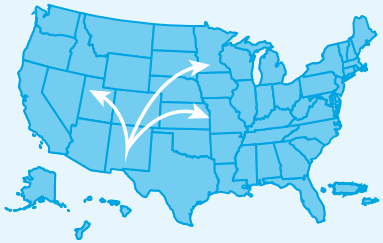
-4% CHANGE

116,005 U.S. ARCHITECTS



Over 10 years,
38%
of licensure candidates stop pursuing licensure

+2% CHANGE



Architects hold over
150,638
reciprocal licenses

+6% CHANGE

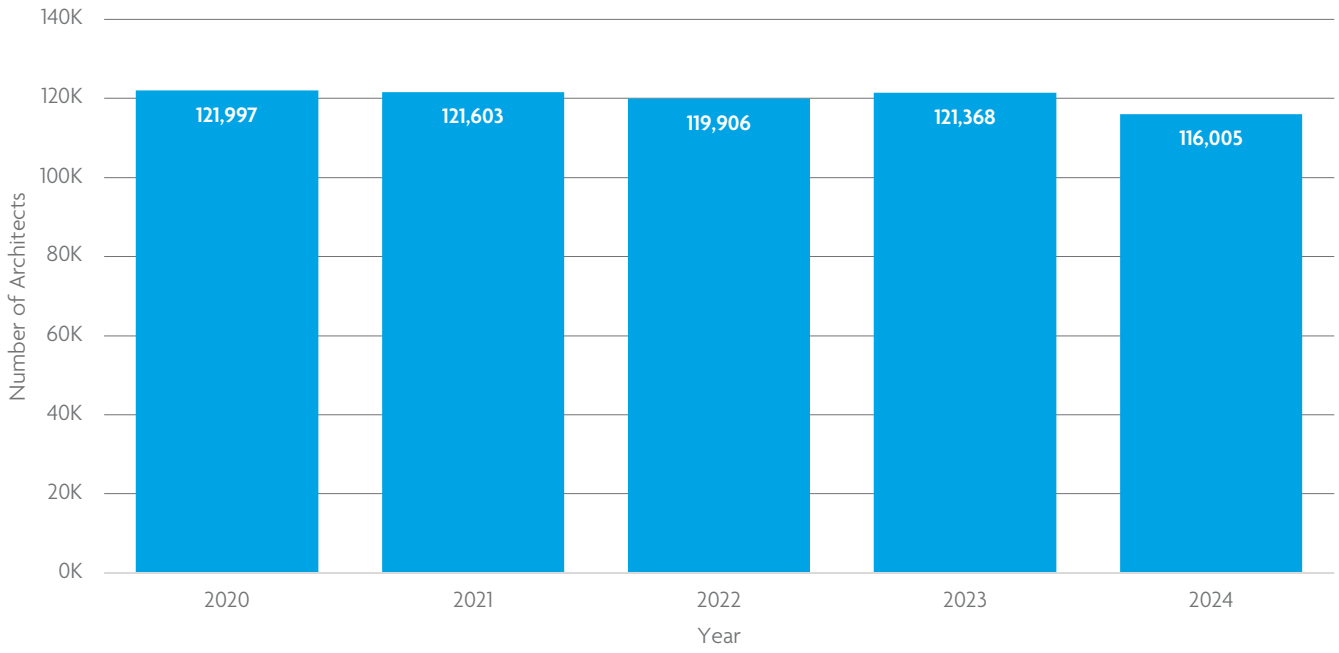
The number of U.S. architects fell by 4%.

The number of U.S. architects fell by 4% in 2024, according to NCARB's annual Survey of Architectural Registration Boards. This is the first significant drop in several years. Since 2020, the number of architects has hovered close to 120,000; now, there are fewer licensed practitioners in the U.S. than there were prior to the COVID-19 pandemic.

DID YOU KNOW?

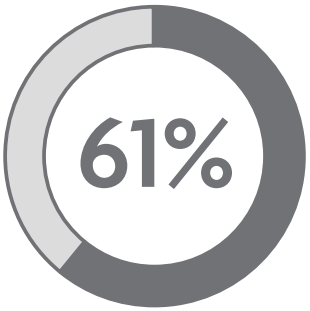
Traditionally, many older architects have held on to a single license long past their "official" retirement.

This year's decline may be a sign that baby boomers (individuals born between 1946-1964), who have long made up a significant proportion of the practitioner population, are beginning to filter out of the pool of architects. **However, architects who are over the age of 65 continue to make up nearly 13% of the total architect pool.** NCARB has anticipated that the retirement of the baby boomer generation might result in a smaller architect population. As the oldest baby boomers begin to reach their 80s, the number of architects might continue to fall over the next several years before evening out at a "new normal."



116,005 ARCHITECTS IN THE U.S.
—A 4% DECREASE

The architect population is slowly becoming more diverse:

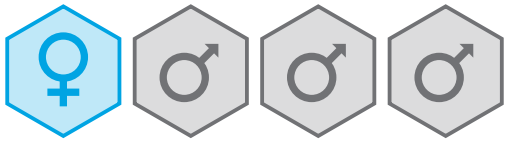


WHITE MEN



PEOPLE OF COLOR

1 IN 4
ARE **WOMEN**



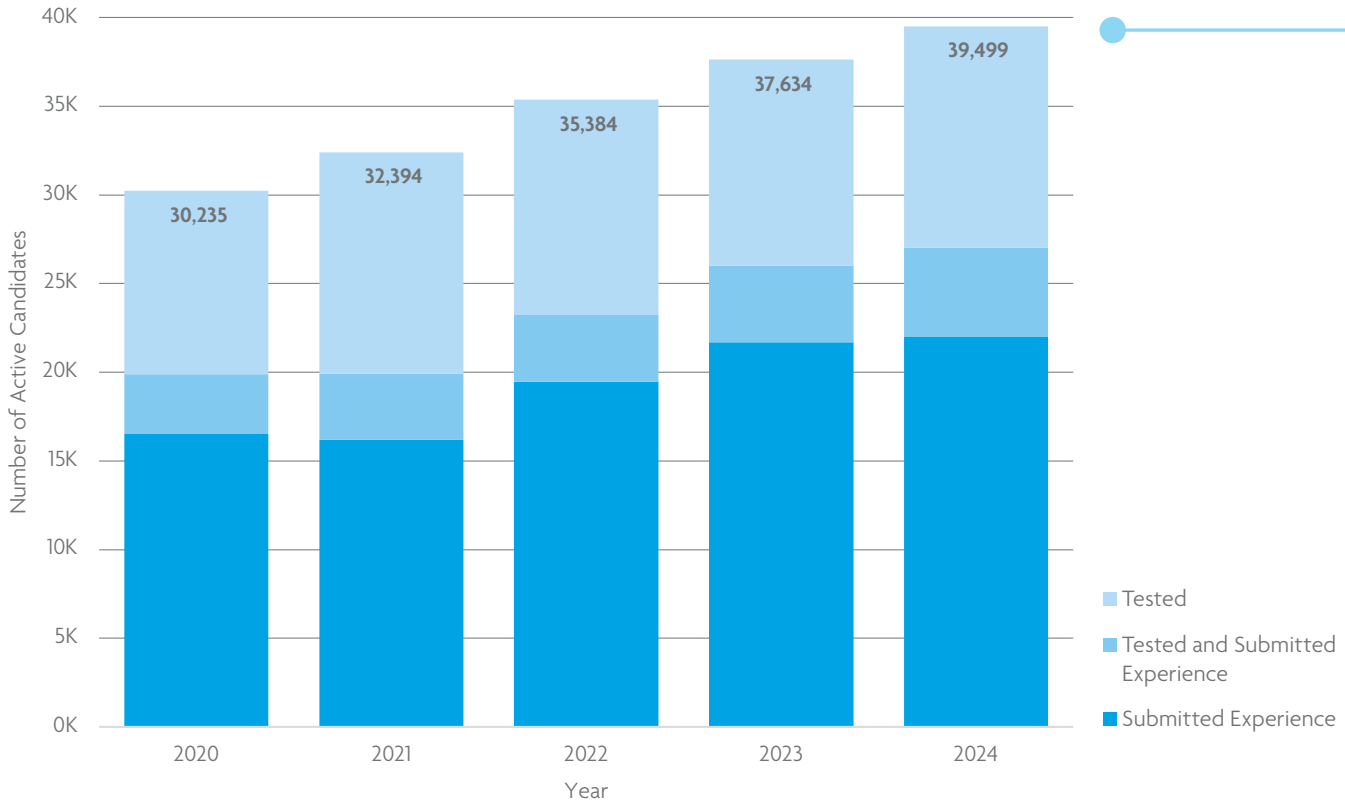
13%
of architects are
over the retirement age of 65

3%
of architects are
under the age of 30

The number of active licensure candidates increased by 5%.

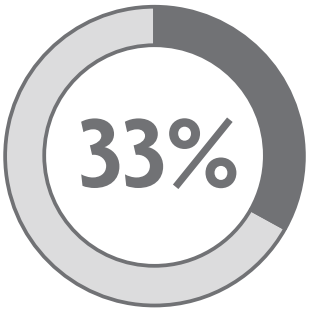
The number of candidates actively pursuing licensure continued to rise in 2024. Nearly 40,000 candidates reported experience, took a division of the exam, or both in 2024. This is the highest number of active licensure candidates NCARB has seen since 2018, a sign that the pipeline of new architects is healthy and growing.

Since most active candidates eventually become licensed architects, the increase in the candidate pool suggests that the number of new architects will increase in the years ahead. If enough candidates complete the path to licensure, they could offset any potential decline in the number of architects due to baby boomers' retirement.

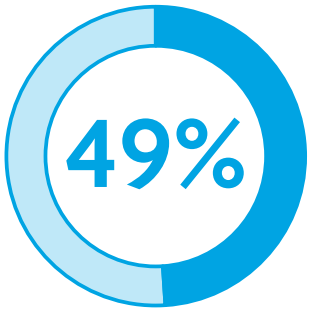


39,499 LICENSURE CANDIDATES
—A 5% INCREASE

The licensure candidate population is increasingly diverse:

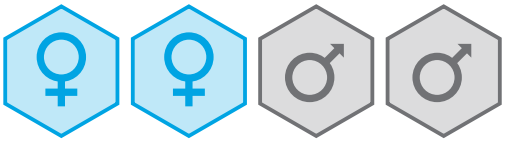


WHITE MEN



PEOPLE OF COLOR

46%
ARE **WOMEN**



5%
of candidates are **over the age of 55**

41%
of candidates are **under the age of 29**

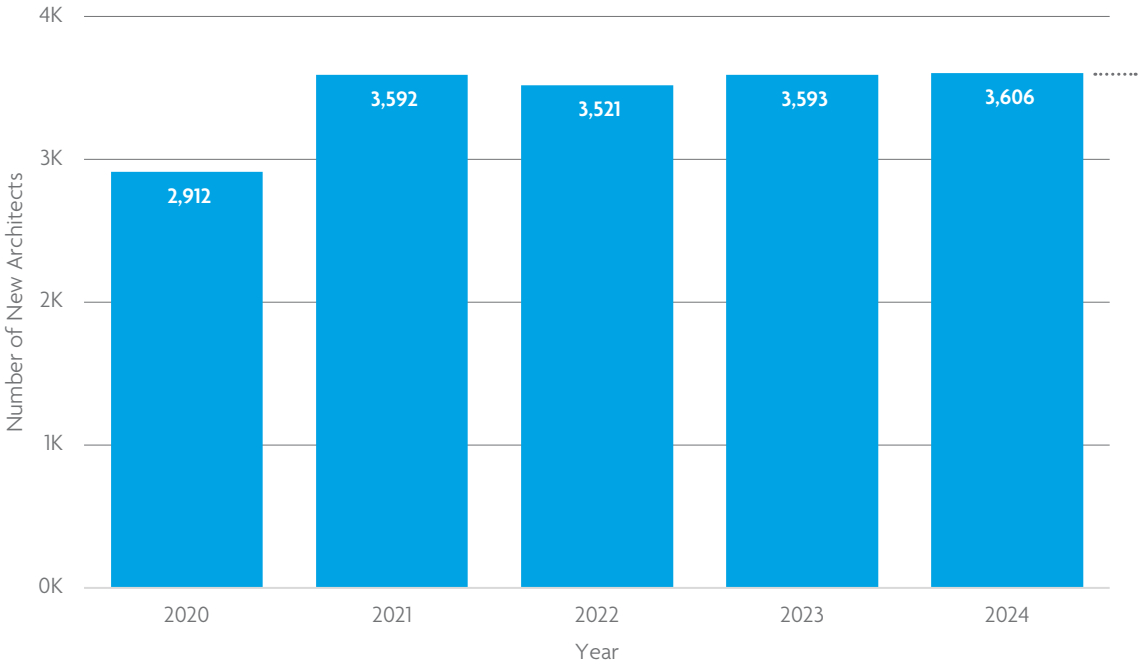
The number of new architects remains unchanged, but candidates are getting licensed faster.

Just over 3,600 licensure candidates finished the path to licensure and became architects in 2024, taking an average of 12.9 years to do so.

This is relatively equal to the number of new architects who earned a license in 2023. Typically, 9-10% of the total candidate pool completes the path to licensure each year, which remains true for 2024.

WHO'S CONSIDERED A "NEW ARCHITECT?"

"New architects" refers to individuals who completed their final requirement for licensure in a given year. The last requirement for most candidates is the exam, which is why the number of new architects closely aligns with the number of exam completions.

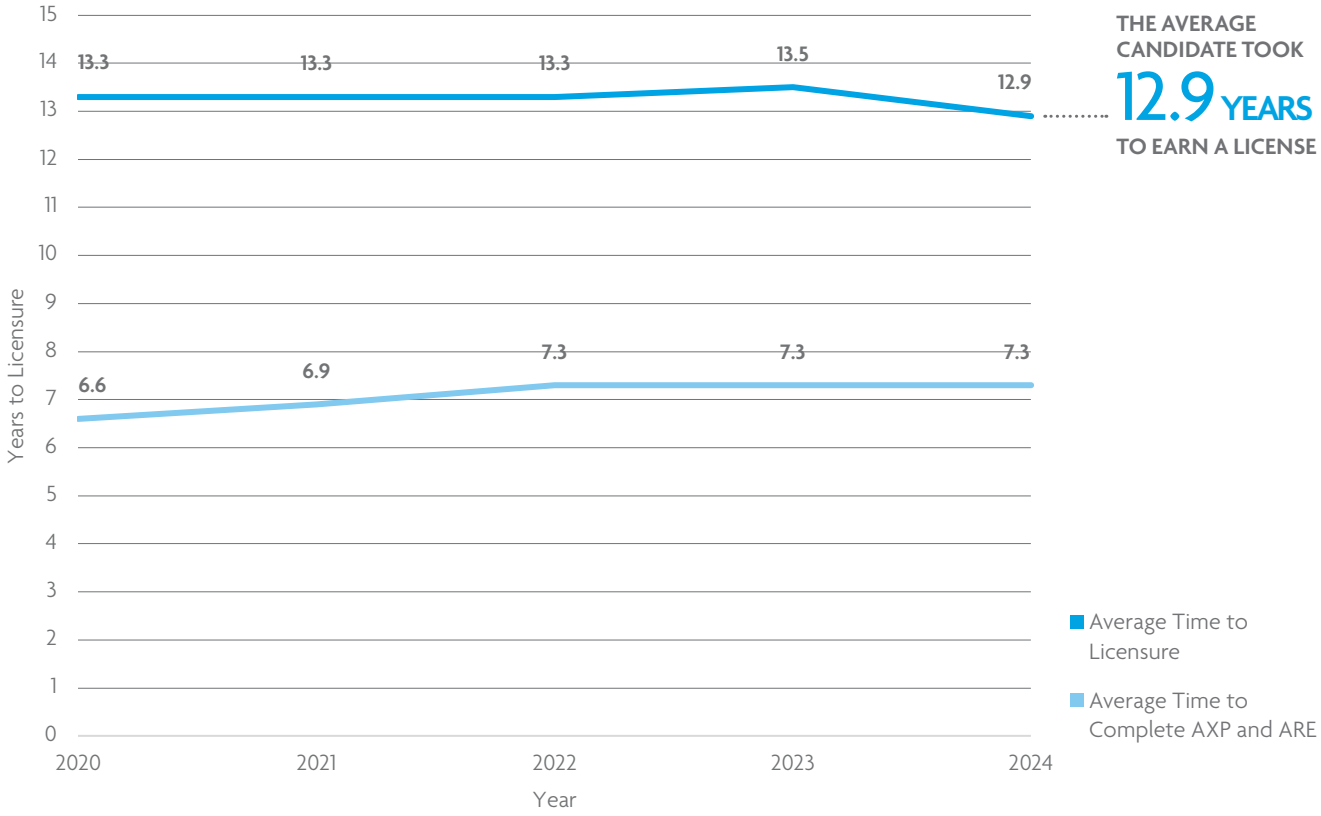


THE NUMBER OF NEW ARCHITECTS HELD STEADY AT

3,606

The average time to complete the path to licensure—including earning a degree, completing the experience program, and passing the exam—fell by 4% in 2024. This is the first time since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic that NCARB has seen a decrease in the time to licensure. As the pandemic's impact continues to fade, NCARB anticipates that candidates may continue to get licensed slightly faster over the next several years.

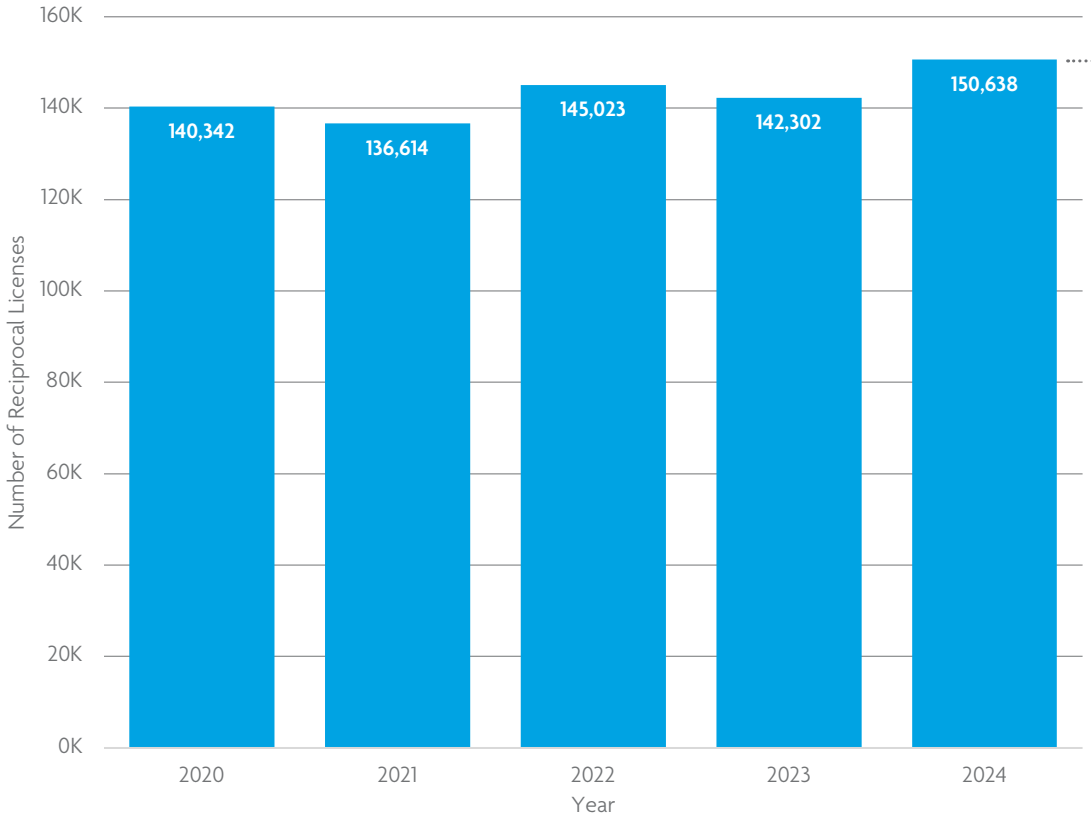
However, other factors are at play when it comes to the average time to licensure. NCARB has been working to implement programmatic changes designed to make licensure more accessible, such as retiring the exam's five-year rolling clock. By removing artificial time constraints on the path to licensure, these changes have the potential to increase the average time it takes to become an architect. That's why we're shifting our focus from time to licensure to flexibility of licensure: NCARB believes it's critical that all candidates can choose a pathway to practice that aligns with their goals, timeline, and experiences.



The number of reciprocal licenses rose by 6%.

Many architects are licensed in more than one state, which allows them to meet existing clients' needs and expand their potential client base. **In 2024, the number of out-of-state (or reciprocal) licenses rose to 150,638—an all-time high—according to NCARB's annual Survey of Architectural Registration Boards.**

While the overall number of reciprocal licenses has generally been trending upward, NCARB has historically seen a pattern of alternating increases and decreases from year to year. In this context, 2024's growth is likely a part of this pattern as architects respond to ebbs and flows in client demand. If the total number of architects continues to decrease in future years, demand for reciprocal licenses may increase to make up for new gaps in the practitioner pool.



THE NUMBER OF RECIPROCAL LICENSES ROSE TO

150,638

A 6% INCREASE

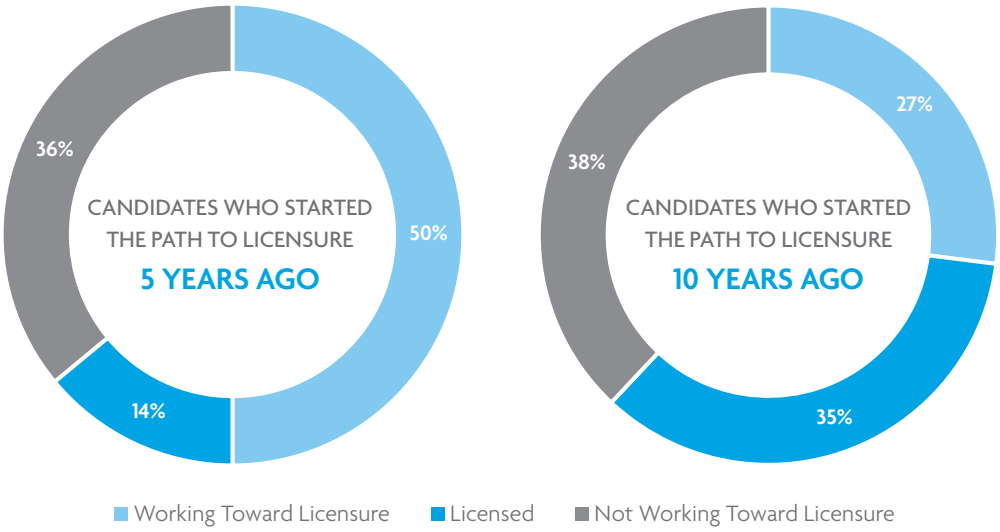
Over 10 years, 38% of candidates stopped pursuing a license.

NCARB tracks candidate activity on the path to licensure to identify potential impediments that might be preventing candidates from becoming architects. While some changes in career plans or professional fields are expected, ideally, NCARB would see a similar level of attrition across demographic groups.

More than a third of candidates stop pursuing licensure over a 10-year period.

In 2024, 50% of individuals who started the path to licensure 5 years ago (in 2020) were still actively working toward earning their license, and 36% were no longer pursuing licensure. For candidates who started the licensure path 10 years ago (in 2015), 27% were still actively working toward earning their license, and 38% were no longer working to pursue licensure.

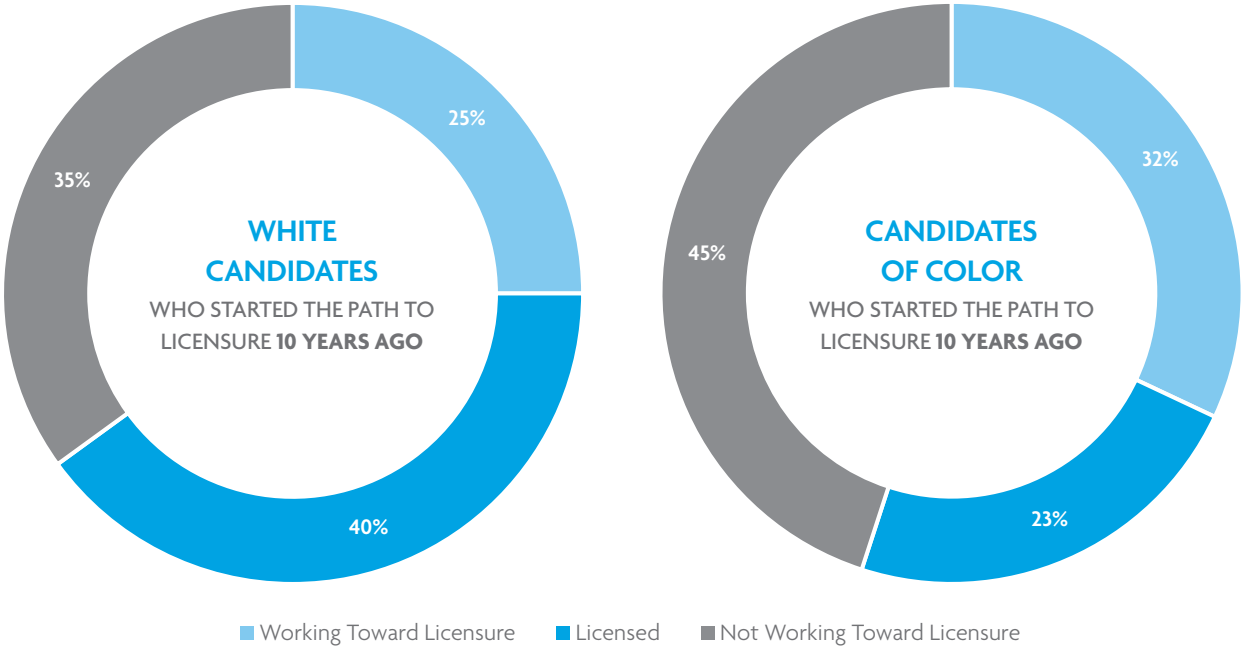
Compared to 2023's attrition data, there was a slight decrease in the proportion of candidates who have finished the licensure path at the 10-year mark, as well as a slight increase in attrition for candidates who started the path to licensure 10 years ago. However, for candidates at the 5-year mark, NCARB has seen a slight decrease in attrition—potentially a result of NCARB's efforts to remove unnecessary impediments on the path to licensure over the past several years.



White candidates are nearly twice as likely as candidates of color to become licensed after 10 years.

While attrition from the licensure path is equal for men and women, there are disparities at the 10-year mark based on racial and ethnic identity. **Compared to candidates of color, white candidates are far more likely to be licensed at the 10-year mark.** In 2024, 40% of white candidates were licensed after 10 years, compared to 23% of candidates of color.

People of color were also more likely than their white peers to stop pursuing licensure over a 10-year period: 45% of candidates of color fell off the path to licensure, compared to 35% of white candidates.



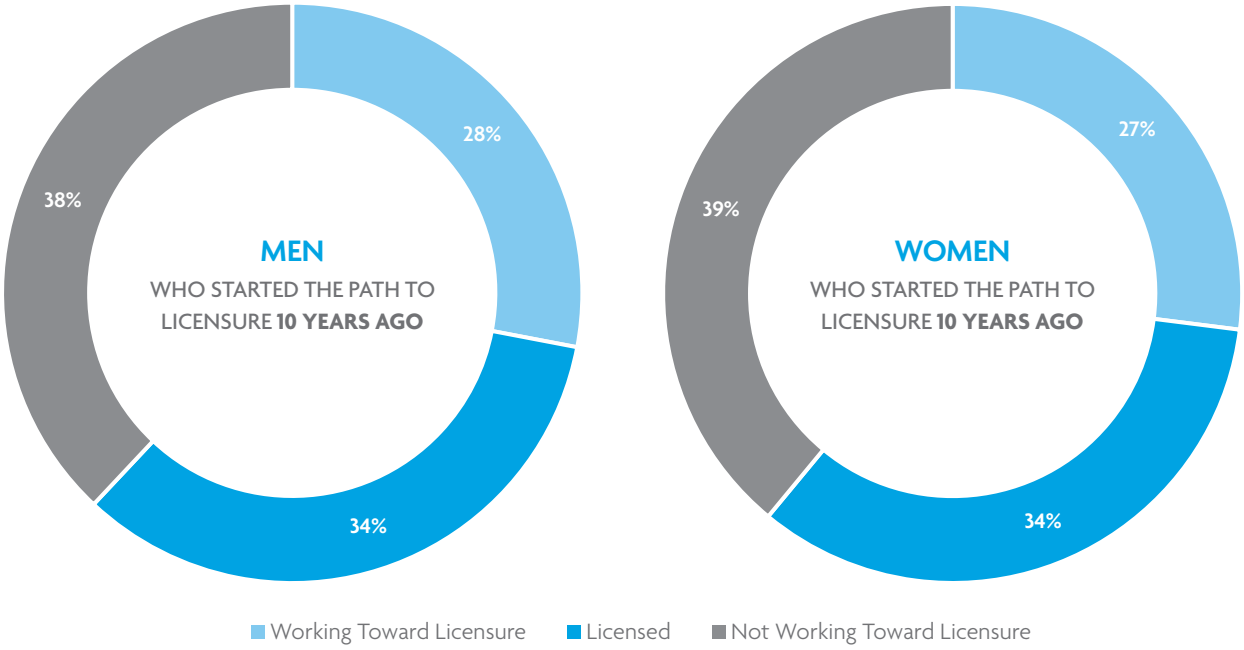
Men and women are equally likely to stay on the path to licensure.

When it comes to attrition on the path to licensure, there are no significant disparities between genders at the 10-year mark. **Women and men have had nearly equal rates of attrition at the 10-year mark for the past several years.** In 2024, 34% of both groups were no longer working toward licensure after 10 years—a drop compared to the 36-37% seen in 2023.

In addition, women have been consistently more likely than men to remain active at the 5-year mark.

WHERE ARE NONBINARY CANDIDATES?

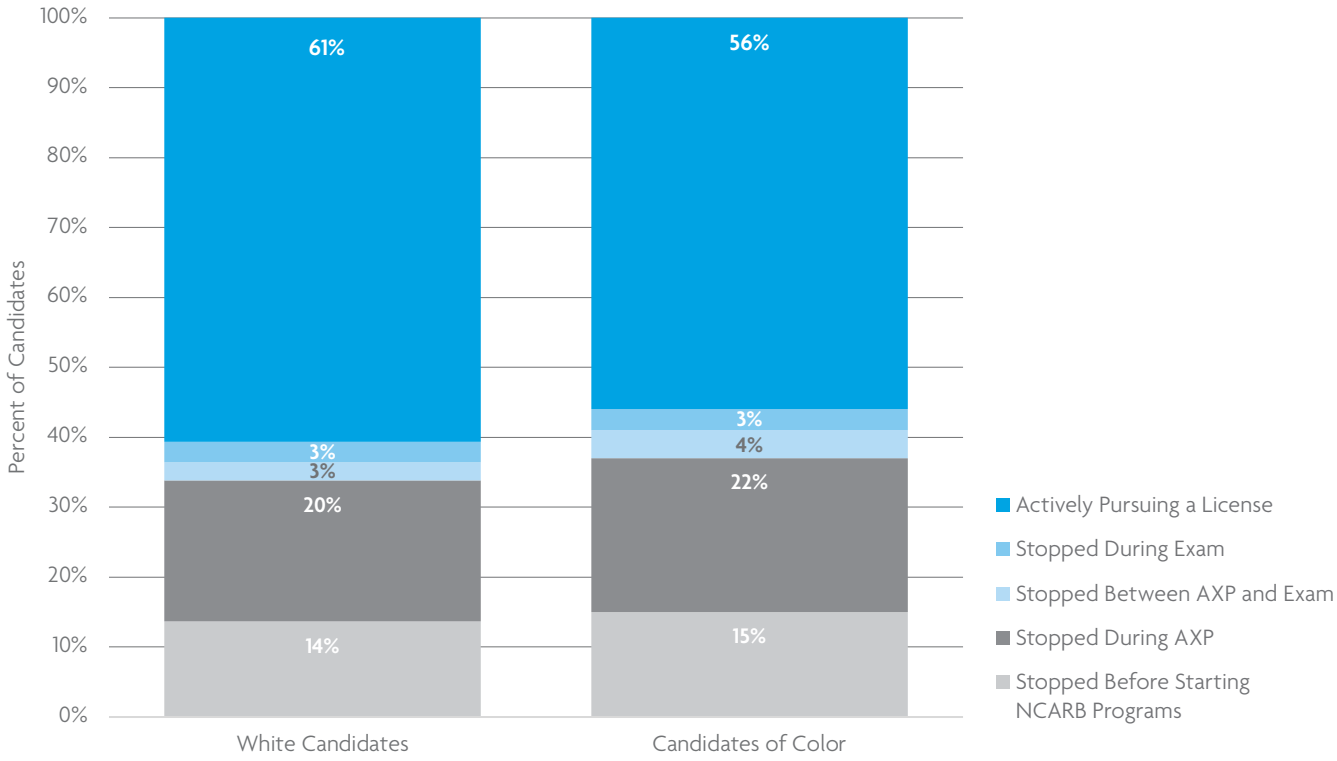
Currently, the number of licensure candidates who have identified as nonbinary does not meet NCARB's standard sample size, which is 30.



Candidates of color are most likely to fall off the path to licensure during the experience program.

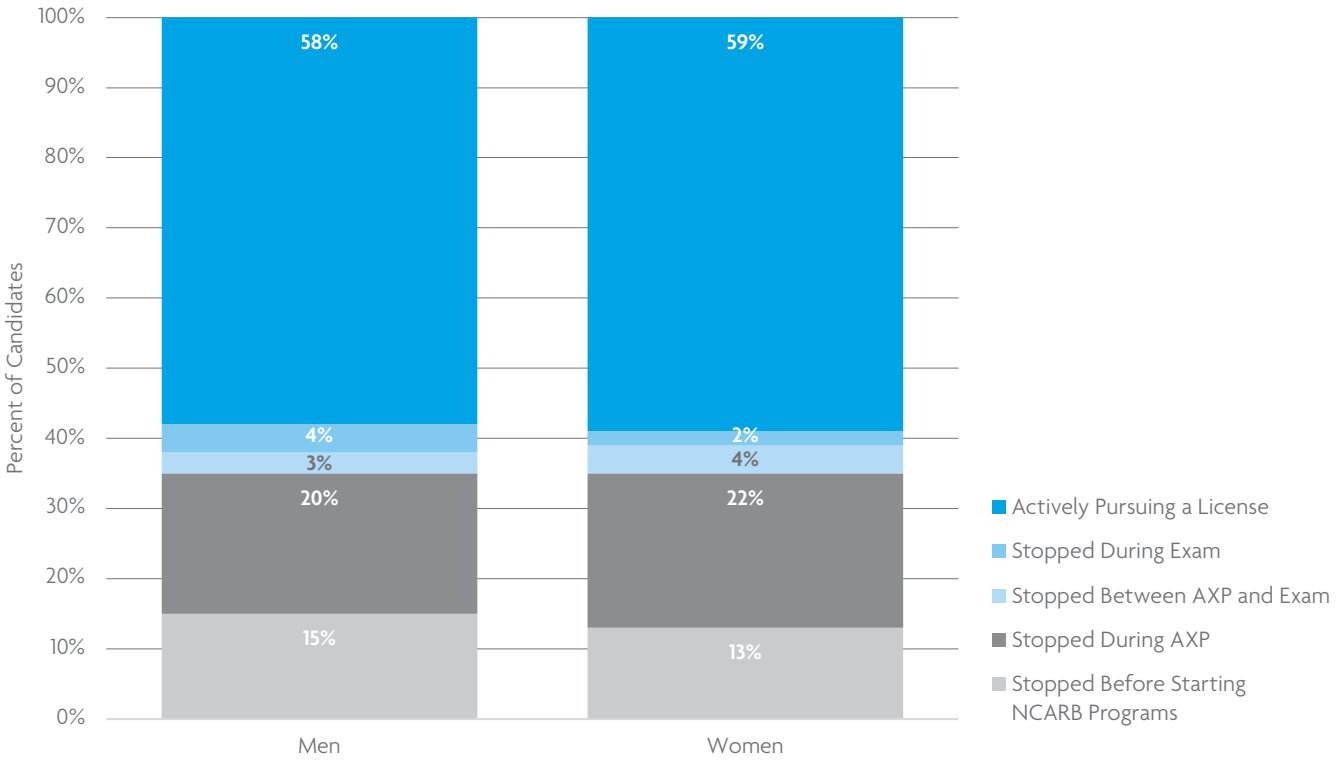
For licensure candidates who started their NCARB Record between 5-10 years ago but haven't earned a license yet, navigating the experience program is the most common pinch point. **For both white candidates and candidates of color, 1 in 5 fell off the path while working to complete the AXP.**

In addition, a large proportion of candidates stop pursuing licensure before beginning either the AXP or the ARE: 14% of white candidates and 15% of candidates of color start an NCARB Record but never progress further along the path.



Women and men experience similar rates of attrition at every point on the path to licensure.

When comparing men and women who started their NCARB Record between 5-10 years ago but *haven't* earned a license yet, rates of attrition are nearly equal at every stage of the licensure path. Overall, **women are 2 percentage points more likely than men to stop pursuing licensure while completing the experience program.** Men, by comparison, are 2 percentage points more likely to stop pursuing licensure while taking the exam, and 2 percentage points more likely to stop pursuing licensure before beginning either the AXP or ARE.



Demographics

Over the past several years, NCARB has implemented several changes to improve accessibility on the path to licensure—with the ultimate goal of improving representation among licensed practitioners. Greater diversity in the candidate population is beginning to make its way to the pool of licensed architects: In 2024, 1 in 5 architects identified as a person of color.

NCARB has seen continued growth in gender equity and racial diversity across all licensure candidate stages, from creating an NCARB Record to completing the ARE, over the past 5 years. In 2024, racial and ethnic representation among candidates hit a record high, with nearly half (49%) of candidates identifying as a person of color. Additionally, 46% of licensure candidates are women, including 51% of new Record holders. As candidates progress along the licensure path, these increases are becoming more and more apparent in the profession.

Women make up 47% of the testing population and typically earn their licenses faster than men—completing requirements more than a year sooner on average. In 2024, 44% of candidates completing the AXP and 33% of candidates completing the ARE identified as a person of color.

+2% CHANGE

49%

of licensure candidates are people of color

NO CHANGE

46%

of licensure candidates are women

44%

OF CANDIDATES COMPLETING THE AXP ARE PEOPLE OF COLOR

+1 percentage point change since 2020

OF NEW ARCHITECTS:

1 IN 3

IS A PERSON OF COLOR

2 IN 5

ARE WOMEN

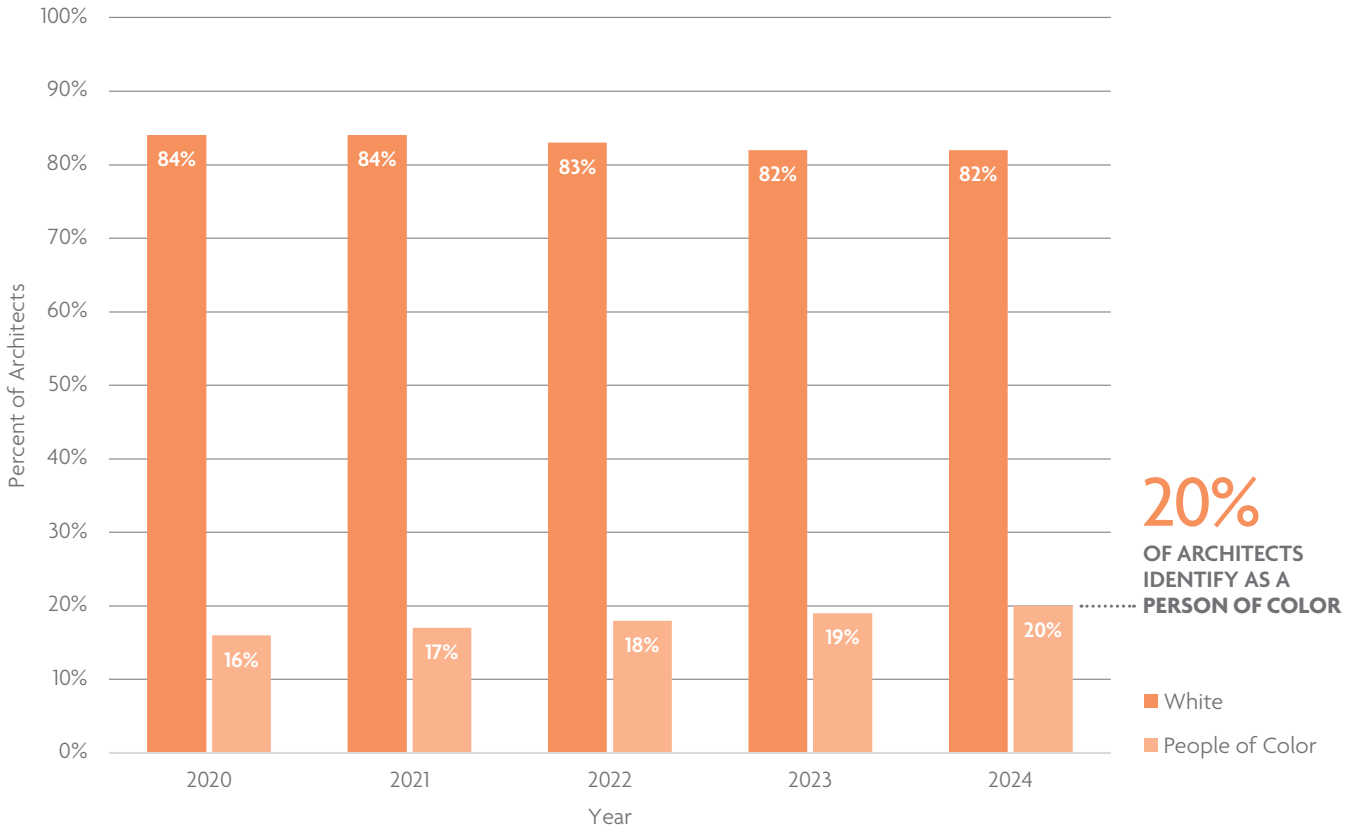
WOMEN are ready for licensure **1+ YEAR FASTER** than men on average

20% of architects identify as a person of color.

NCARB has seen steady growth in representation within the architect population over the past decade. **The proportion of architects who identify as a person of color (POC) rose by 1 percentage point in 2024.** People of color now make up 20% of the total architect population, 4 percentage points higher than the proportion seen 5 years ago. While white architects still make up a majority of the population, increased diversity in the candidate pool is slowly filtering into the pool of licensed practitioners.

DID YOU KNOW?

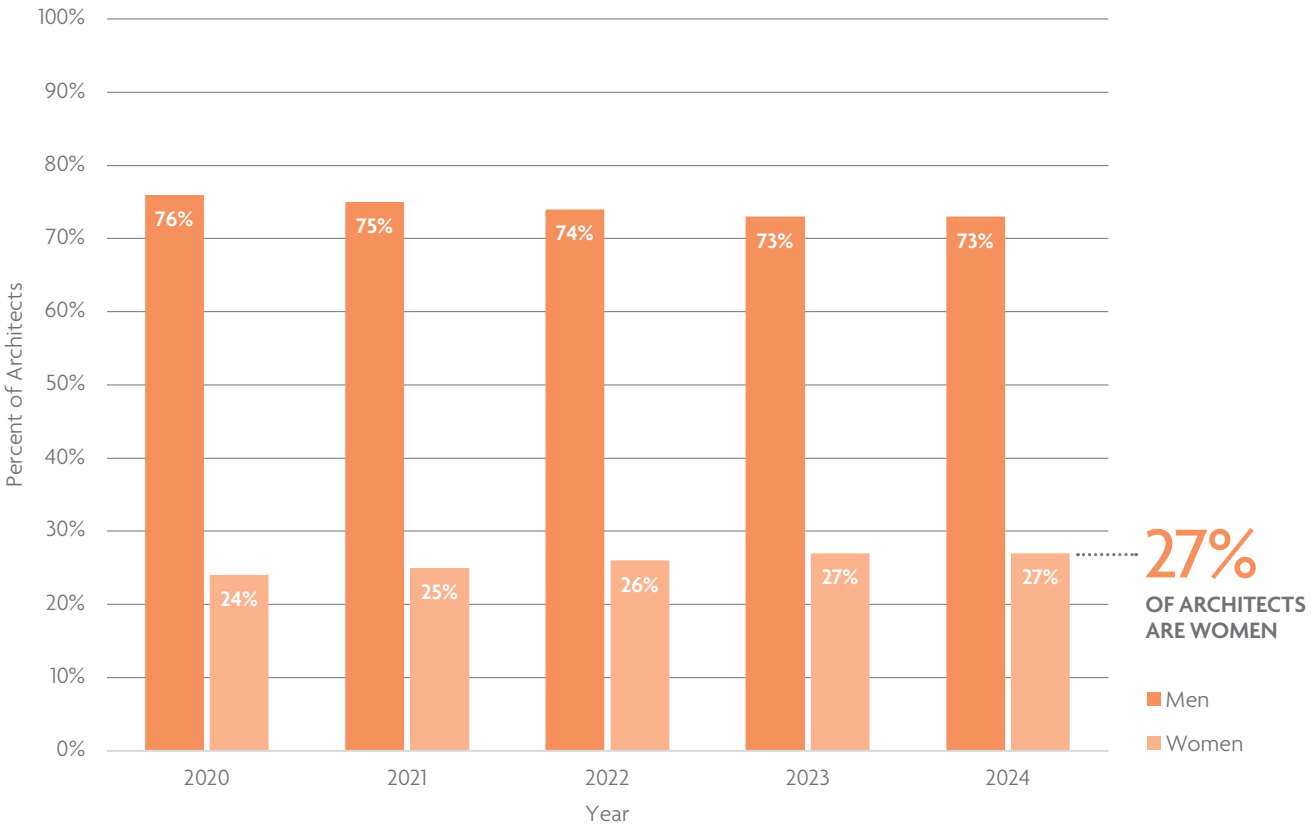
"People of color" includes anyone who identifies as a race or ethnicity other than white. Because individuals can identify as part of more than one racial or ethnic group, these percentages can add to more than 100%.



More than a quarter of architects are women.

In 2024, 27% of the architect population identified as a woman, the same proportion seen in 2023. Like racial and ethnic representation, gender representation has shown a slow-but-steady increase over the past several years: Women now make up 3 percentage points more of the architect population than they did in 2020.

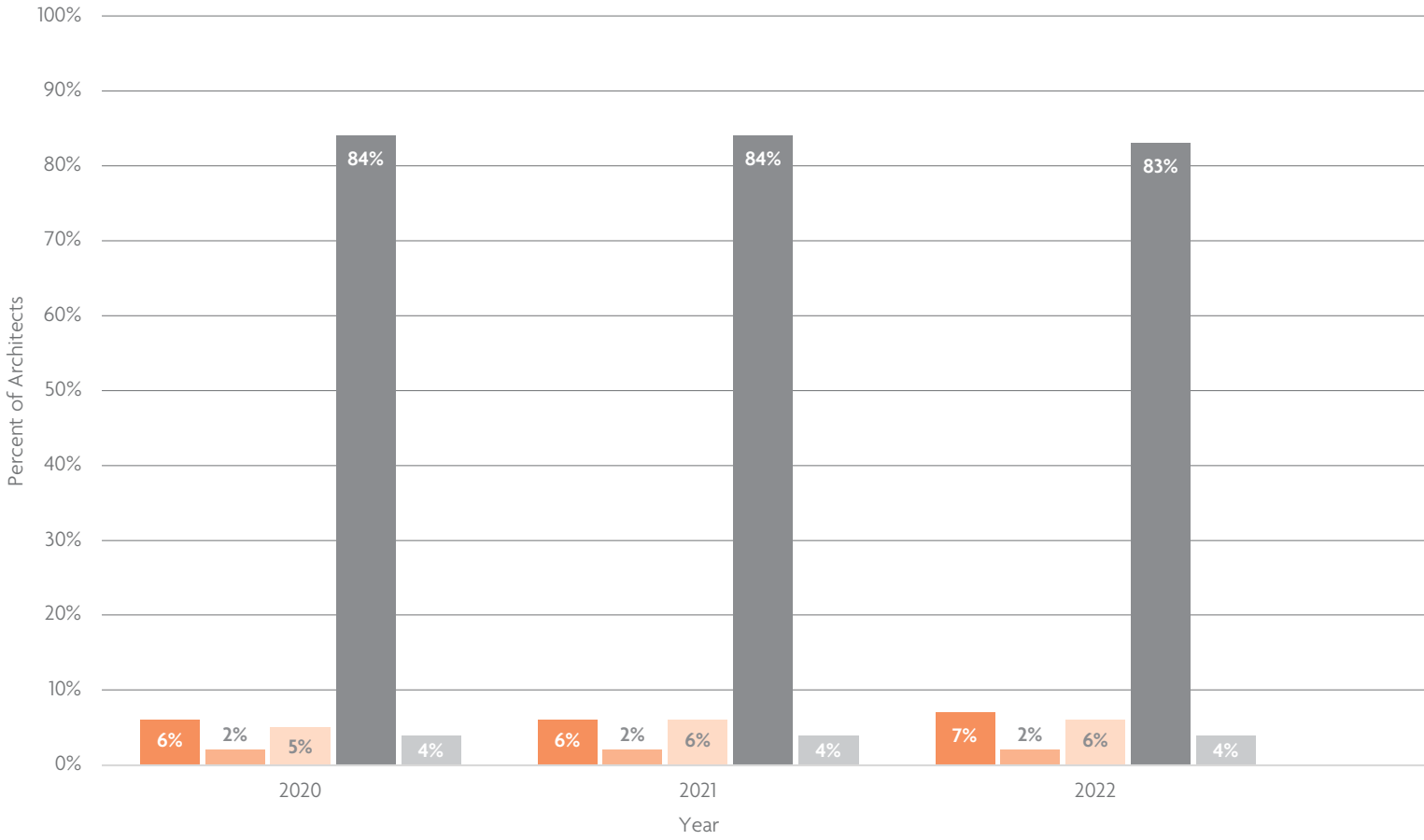
According to NCARB's Record holder data, less than .02% of the architect population identifies as nonbinary, approximately 20 individuals. NCARB's threshold for minimum sample size is 30 individuals. NCARB began offering nonbinary gender options within customer Records in 2023, so this proportion could shift upward over time as more Record holders make use of the updated field.



Racial and ethnic diversity among architects holds steady.

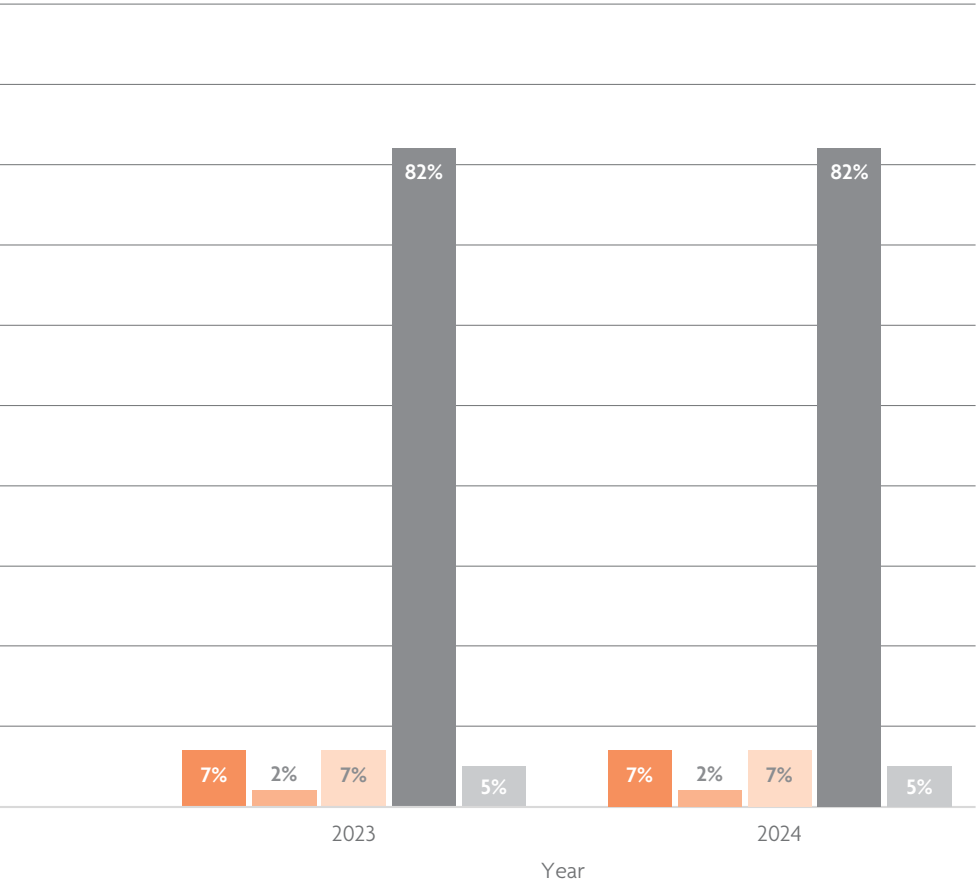
Racial and ethnic representation in the architect population did not change between 2023 and 2024: **Asian and Latino architects continue to make up 7% each of the total architect population, with Black or African American architects representing another 2%.**

While most underrepresented demographic groups have seen slight increases over the past 5 years, Black or African American representation has remained unchanged.



WHAT IS "ANOTHER GROUP"?

"Another group" includes architects who identify as any group that is too small to include on its own, as well as those who self-identify.



ASIANS AND LATINOS EACH MAKE UP

7%

OF THE ARCHITECT POPULATION

- Asian
- Black or African American
- Hispanic or Latino
- White
- Another Group

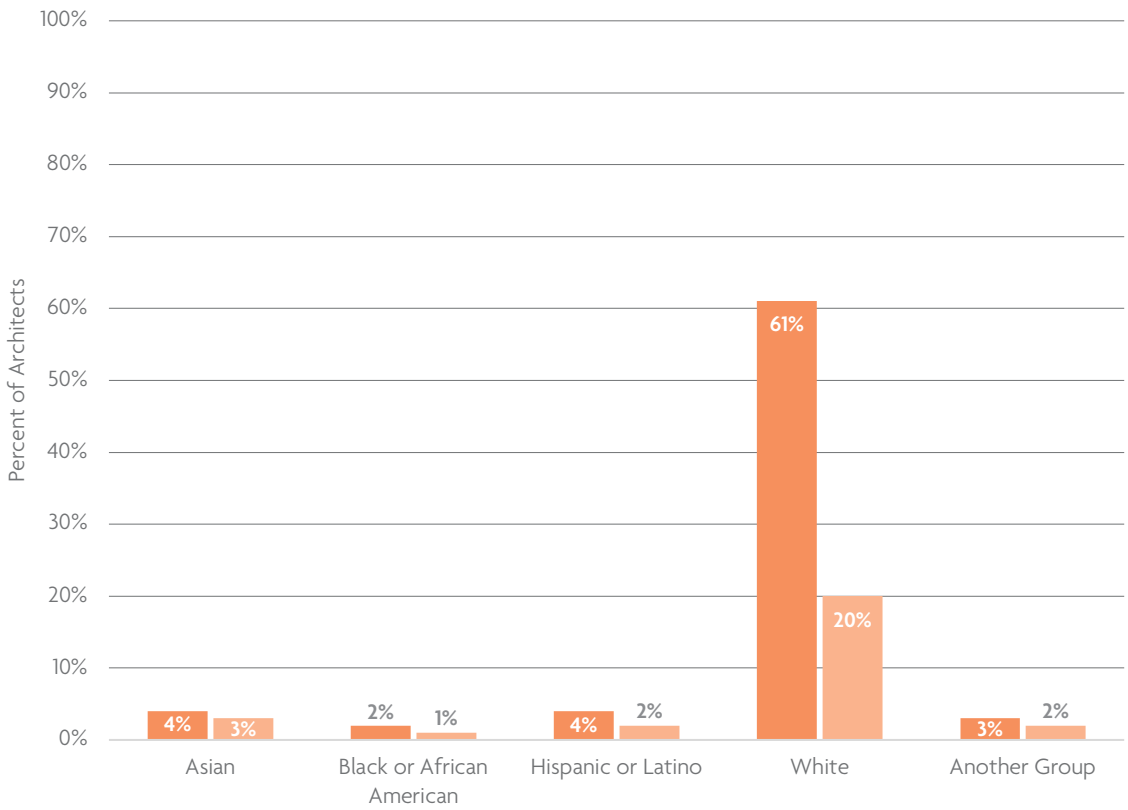
White men make up 3 out of every 5 architects.

White men have historically been the most represented demographic within the architect population; in 2024, they made up more than 60% of all U.S. architects. **White women are the second-most represented group, making up 20% of the total architect population.**

Representation for other demographic groups has slowly improved over the past several years. In 2024, women of color comprised 8% of the architect population, and men of color comprised 13%—1 percentage point more each than in 2023.

DID YOU KNOW?

NCARB uses the NCARB Certificate holder population as an approximation for the architect population.

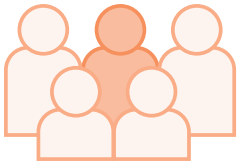


WOMEN OF COLOR MAKE UP JUST

8%

OF THE ARCHITECT POPULATION

Diversity is slowly improving in the architect population.



1 IN 5

ARCHITECTS

IS A PERSON OF COLOR



1 IN 4

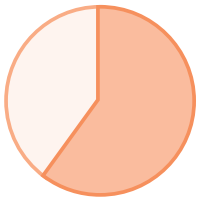
ARE WOMEN



1 IN 4

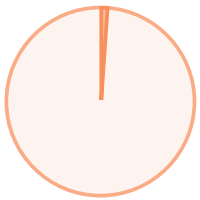
ARCHITECTS

IS UNDER THE AGE OF 40



60%

OF ARCHITECTS ARE WHITE MEN



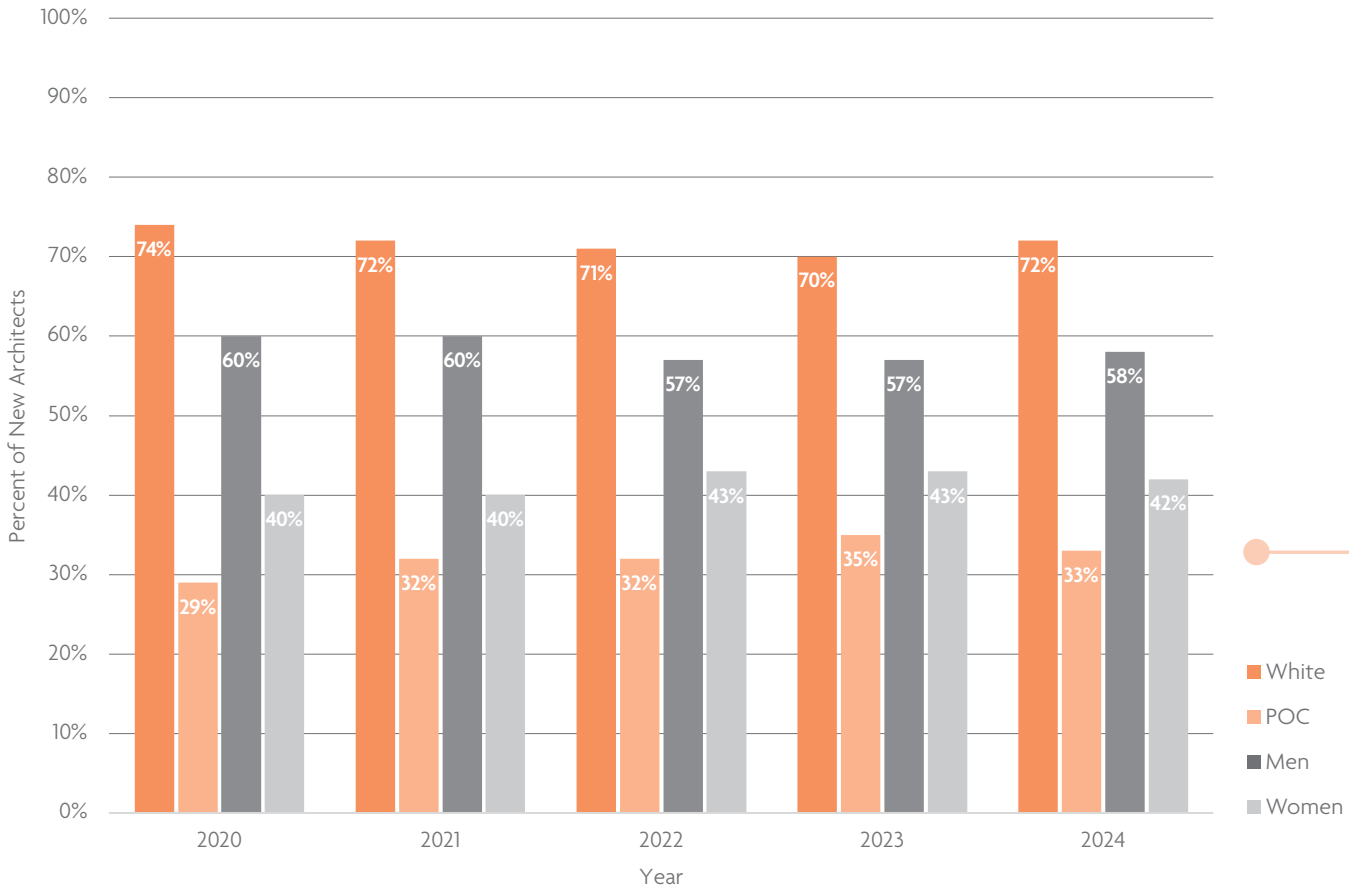
1%

OF ARCHITECTS ARE BLACK WOMEN

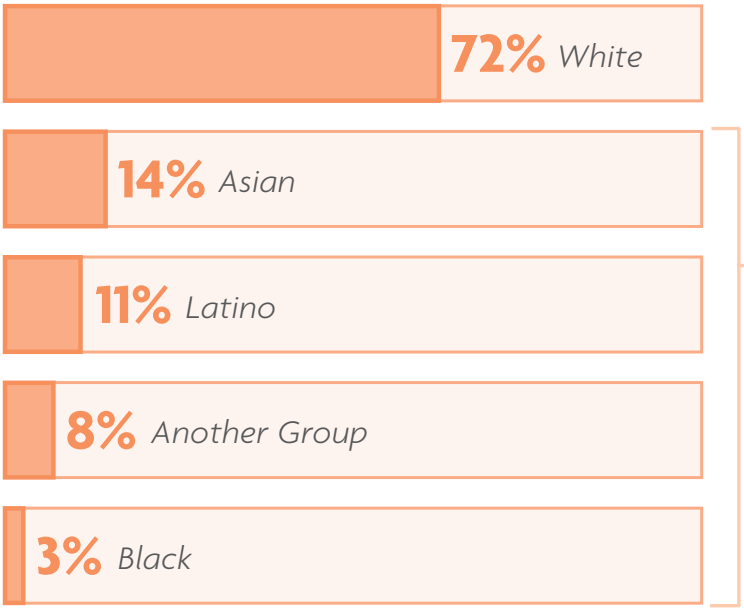
New architects are more diverse than the overall architect population.

While diversity in new architects slowed in 2024, representation has followed an upward trend over the past 5 years. **More than 2 in 5 new architects are women, and a third are people of color**—an increase of 2 and 4 percentage points, respectively, compared to 2020.

As the current cohort of candidates earn their licenses and become architects, NCARB expects to see representation continue to increase in the new architect population.



Over the past 5 years, representation among new architects has steadily increased:



1 IN 3
NEW ARCHITECTS IS A PERSON OF COLOR

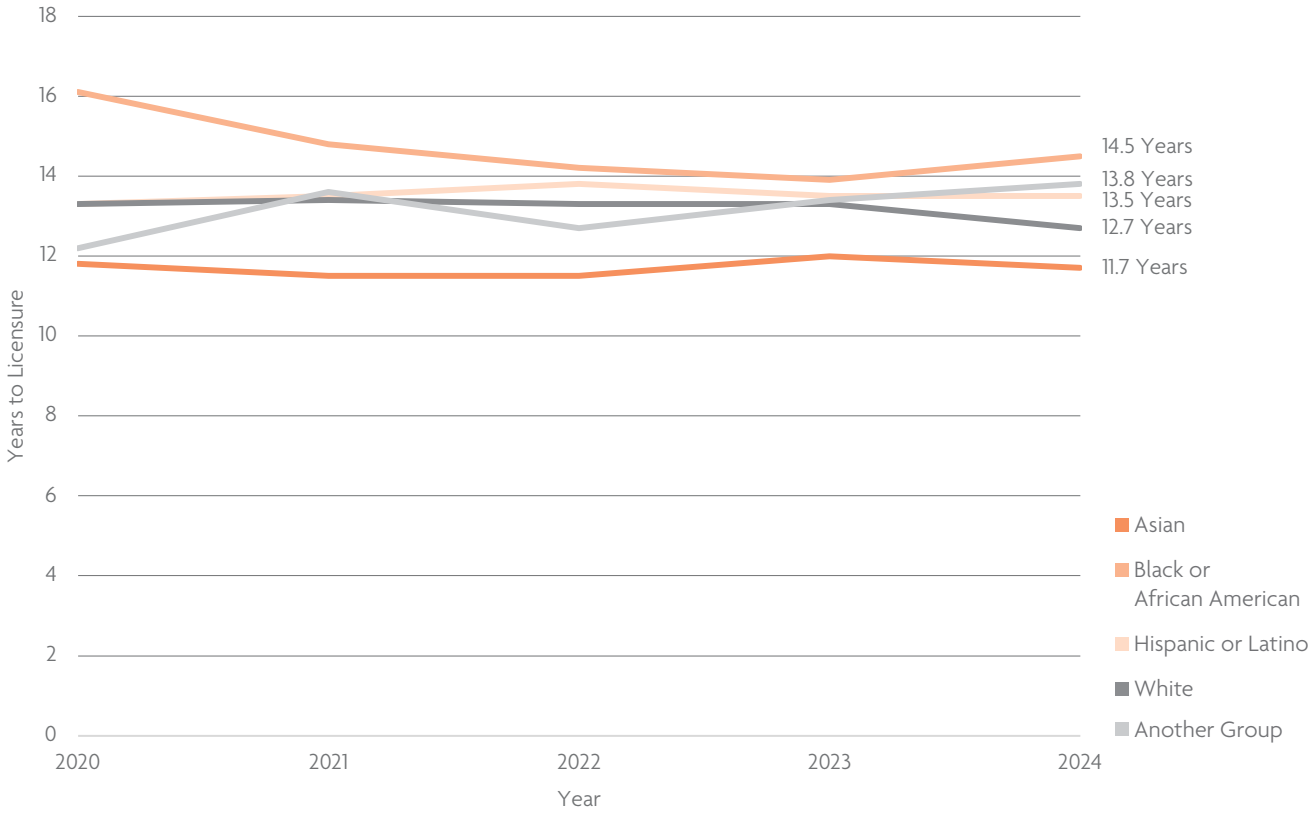
2 IN 5
ARE WOMEN

79% are under the age of 40

Asian candidates consistently become licensed faster than their peers.

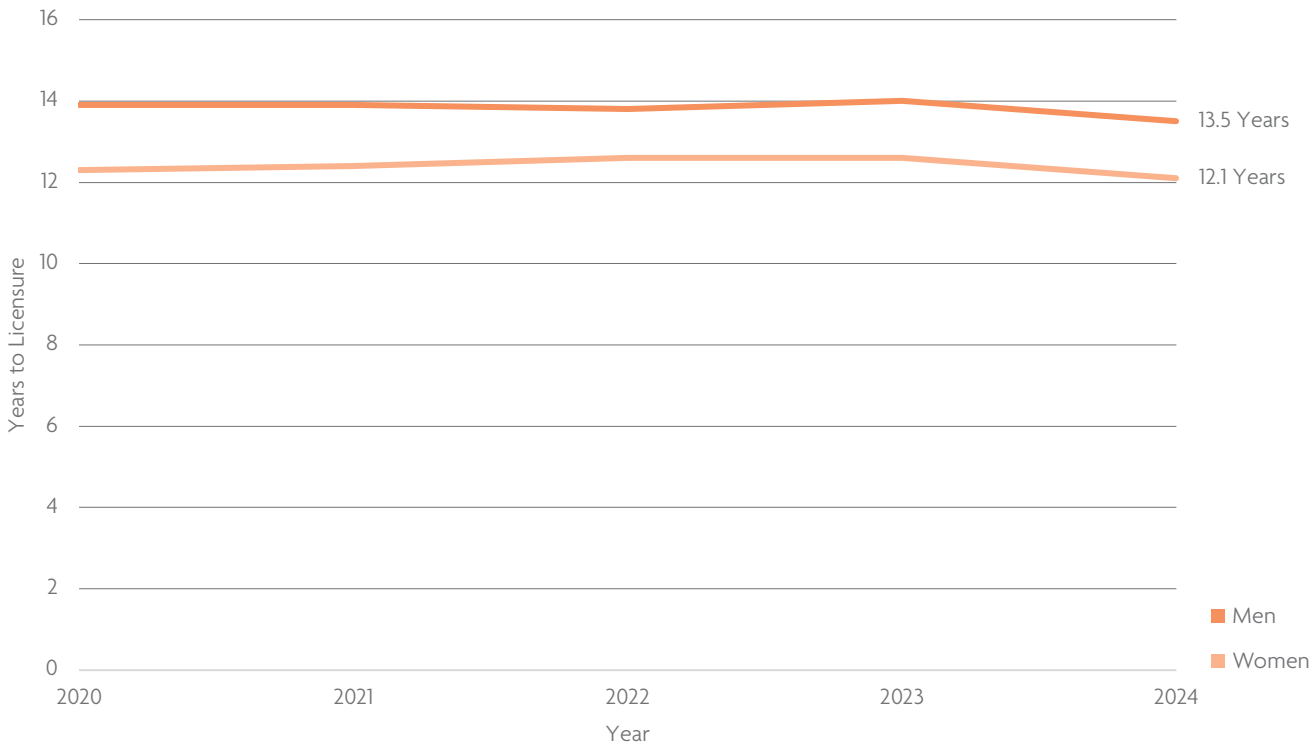
The average Asian candidate who completed the licensure path in 2024 took 11.7 years to do so. This is approximately 1 year faster than the average white candidate, who are typically the next fastest to complete the path to licensure. In comparison, Black candidates took the longest at approximately 14.5 years.

Note: Because the sample size for underrepresented demographic groups is much smaller, the average time to licensure for these groups tends to fluctuate more significantly from year to year. Time to licensure data can also shift from previously reported numbers as candidates backdate experience or document additional information.



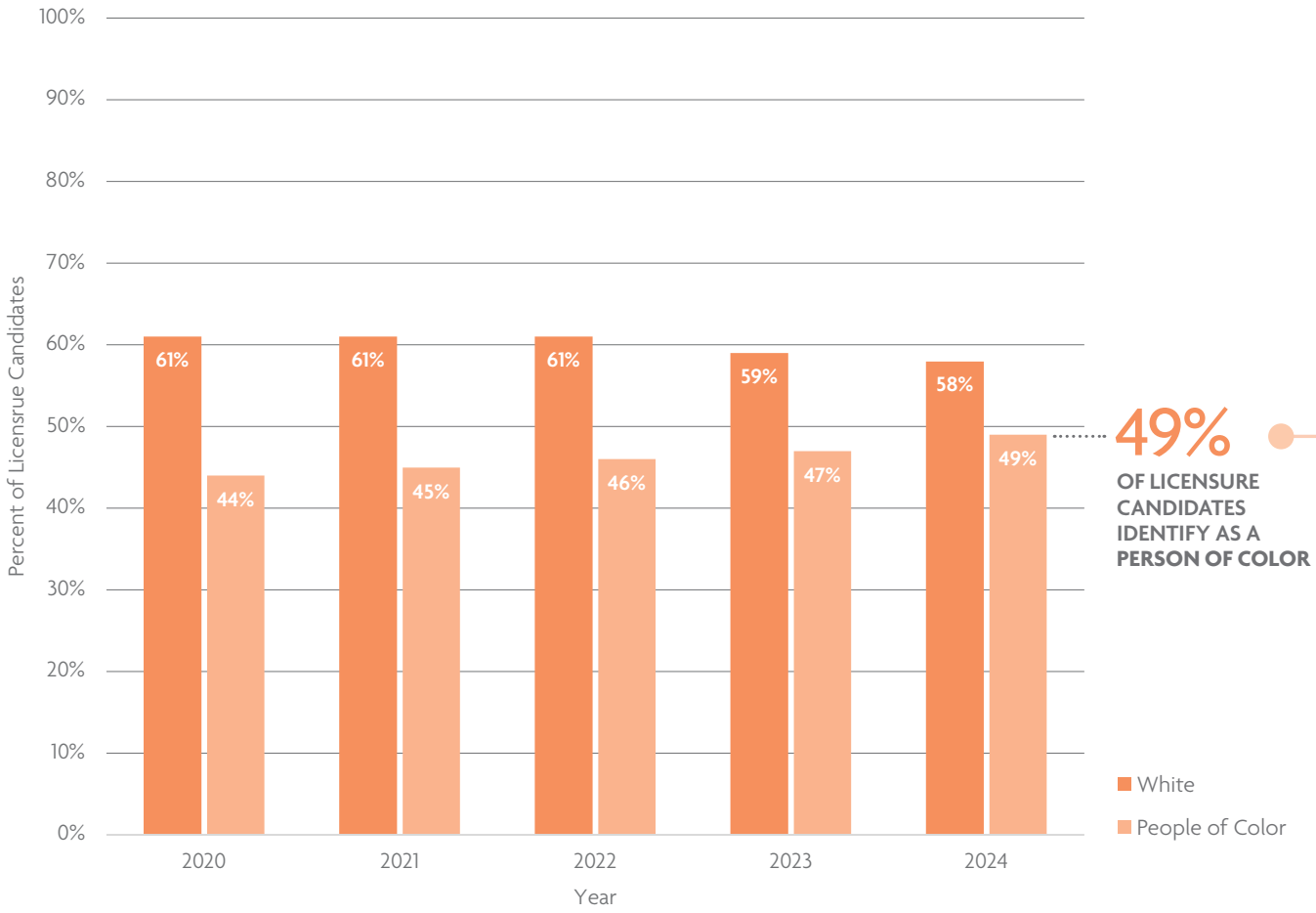
Women consistently earn their licenses faster than men.

Historically, women have completed the path to licensure in less time than their male peers, a trend which continued in 2024. **The average woman who completed the path to licensure in 2024 took 12.1 years to do so**, more than a year faster than the average man. For both men and women, the average time to licensure fell by 6 months compared to the average time seen in 2023.



Nearly half of licensure candidates are people of color.

Over the past 5 years, diversity among candidates pursuing licensure has continued to increase. **Just under half (49%) of licensure candidates in 2024 identified as a person of color**—a new record for racial and ethnic representation in the candidate community. Representation in the community of licensed practitioners could increase in the years ahead as these candidates make their way into the architect population.

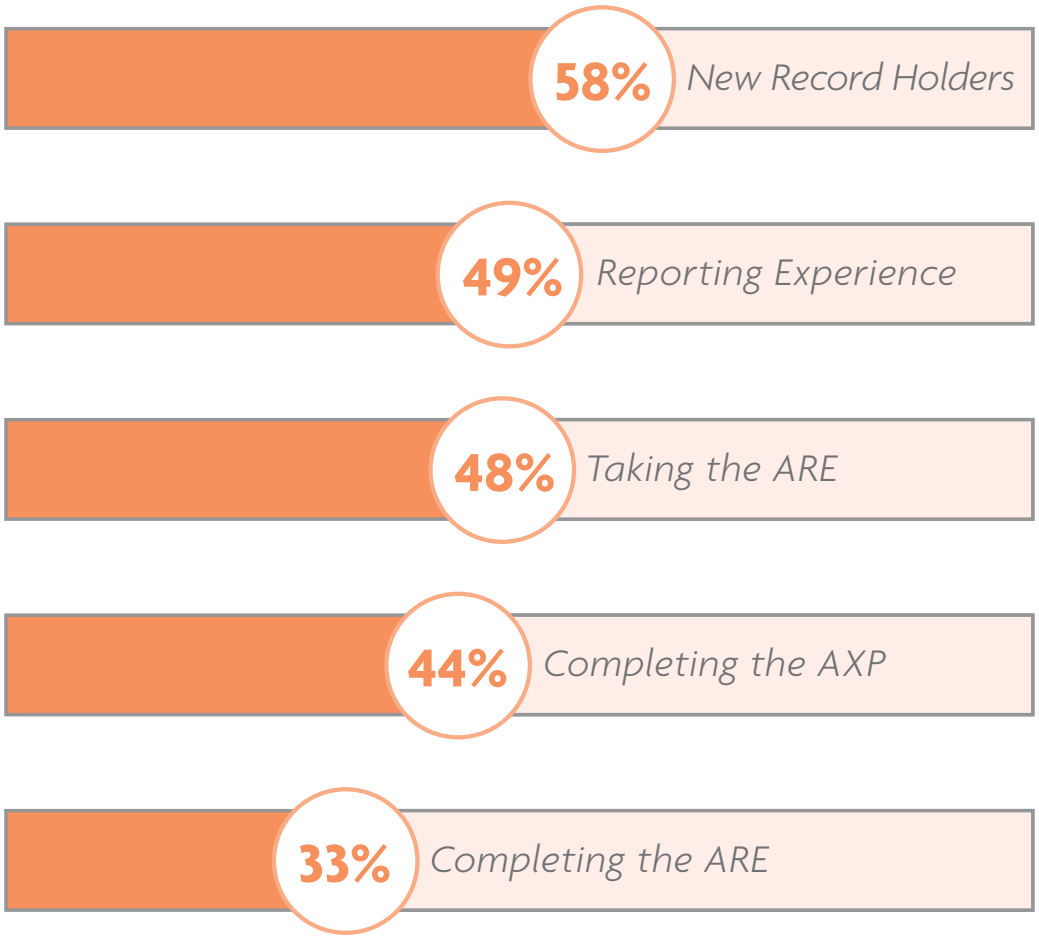


49%

OF LICENSURE CANDIDATES IDENTIFY AS A PERSON OF COLOR

Licensure candidates are increasingly diverse.

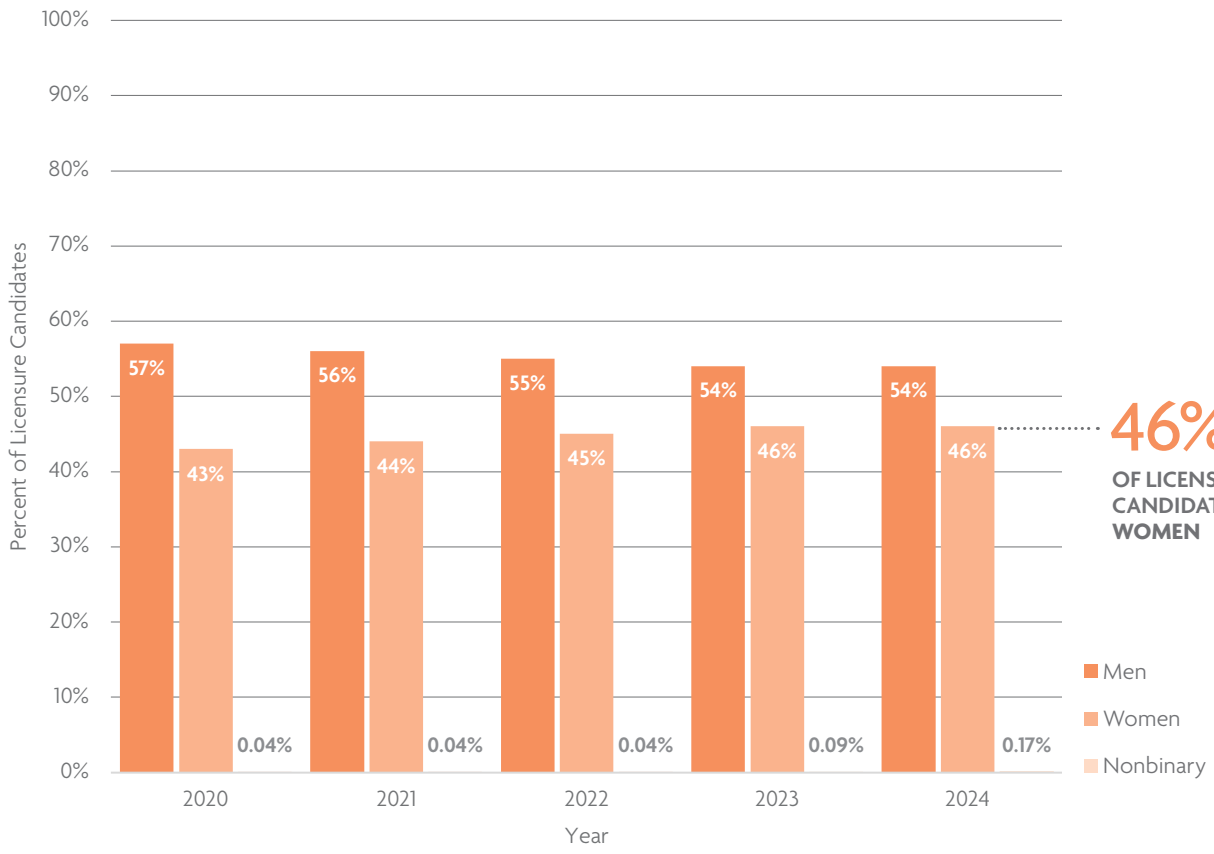
People of color make up:



Gender representation among licensure candidates holds steady.

In 2043, 46% of the population of licensure candidates were women—a 3 percentage point increase since 2020. The licensure candidate population has been steadily approaching gender parity over the past decade. This trend reflects the increase in women pursuing careers in the architecture, engineering, and construction industry. It also highlights the impact of continuous work to promote greater equity and diversity within the architecture profession.

Currently, .17% of licensure candidates have self-identified as nonbinary—the first time that this demographic has crossed NCARB's minimum sample size threshold of at least 30 individuals.

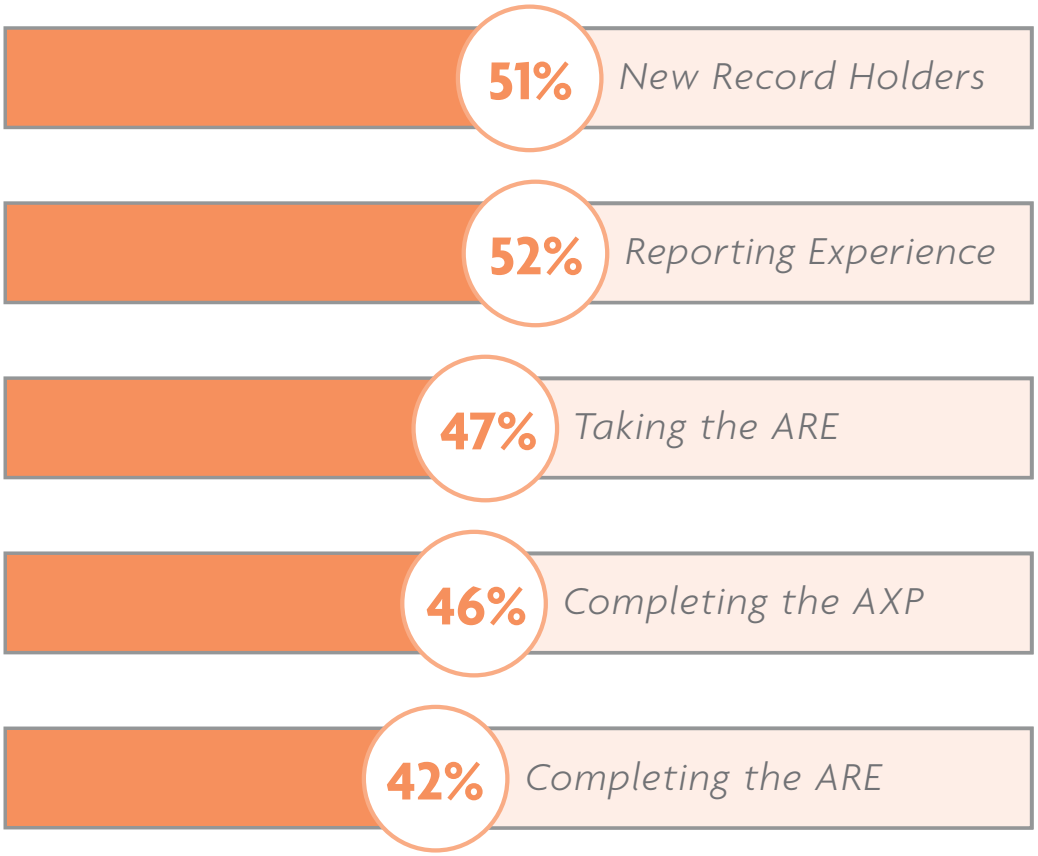


46%

OF LICENSURE CANDIDATES ARE WOMEN

Gender representation among licensure candidates continues to improve.

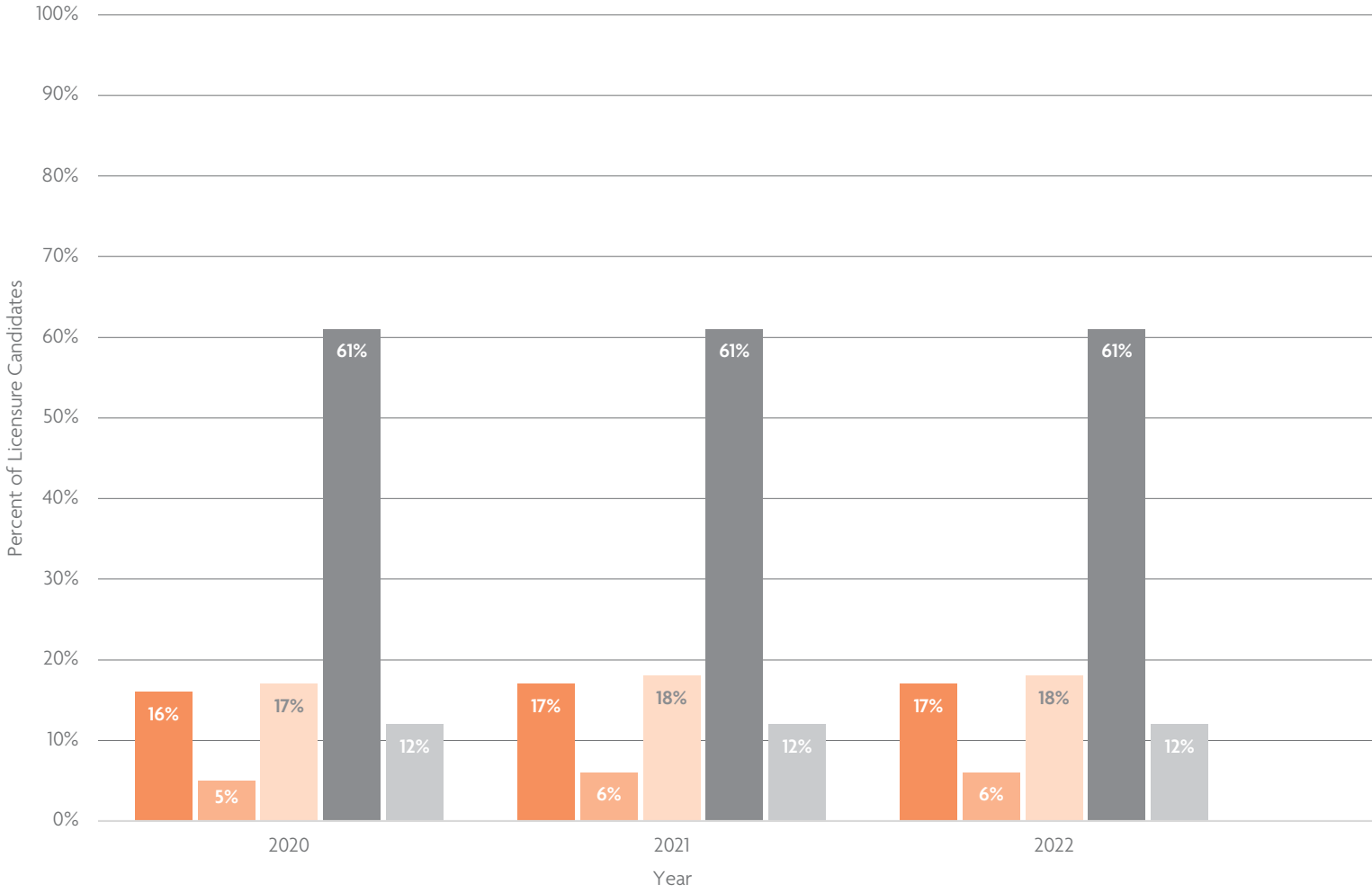
Women make up:



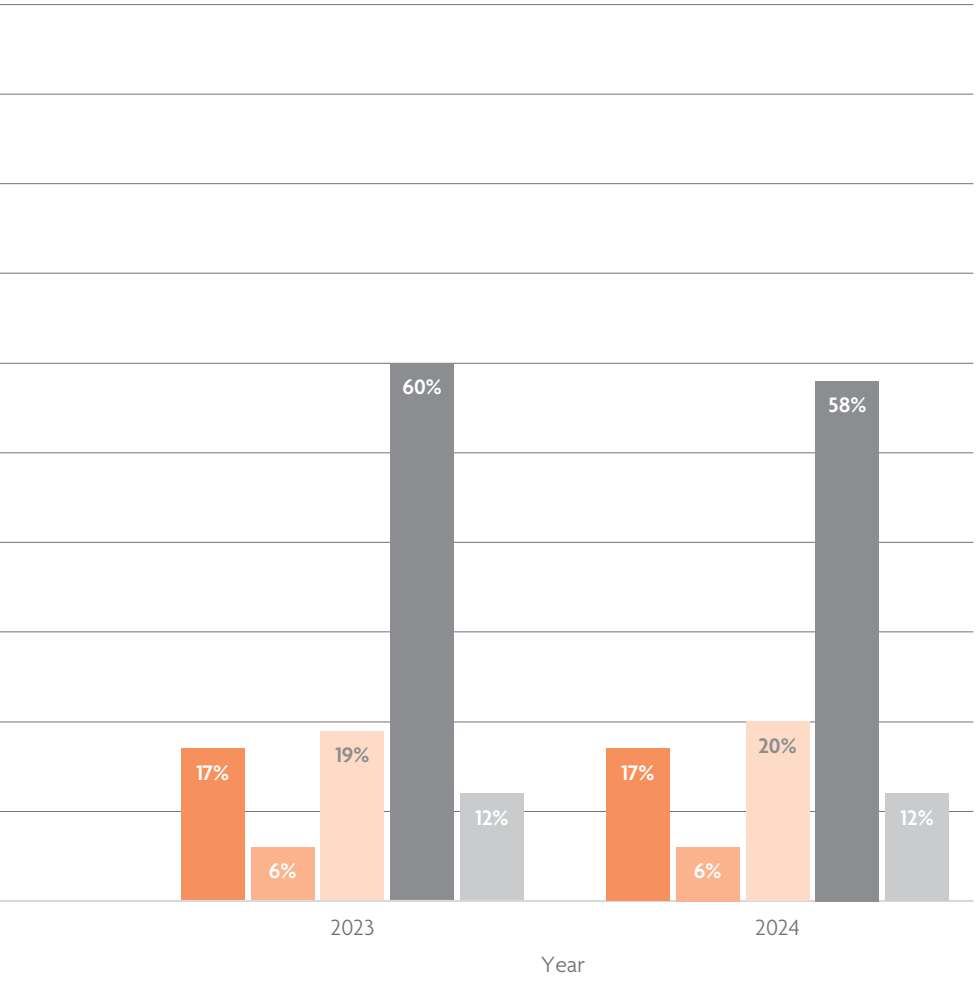
0.17% of licensure candidates are nonbinary

Latino representation among licensure candidates continues to grow.

White candidates remain the most represented group, making up 58% of all licensure candidates. However, representation continues to improve for other racial and ethnic groups. **In 2024, 1 in every 5 licensure candidates identified as Hispanic or Latino**—a record high and a 3 percentage point



increase since 2020. Growth has been slower for Asian candidates, who made up 17% of the total candidate population in 2024, as well as Black or African American candidates, who made up 6%—a 1 percentage point increase over the past 5 years for both groups.



ASIANS AND LATINOS EACH MAKE UP

17%

AND

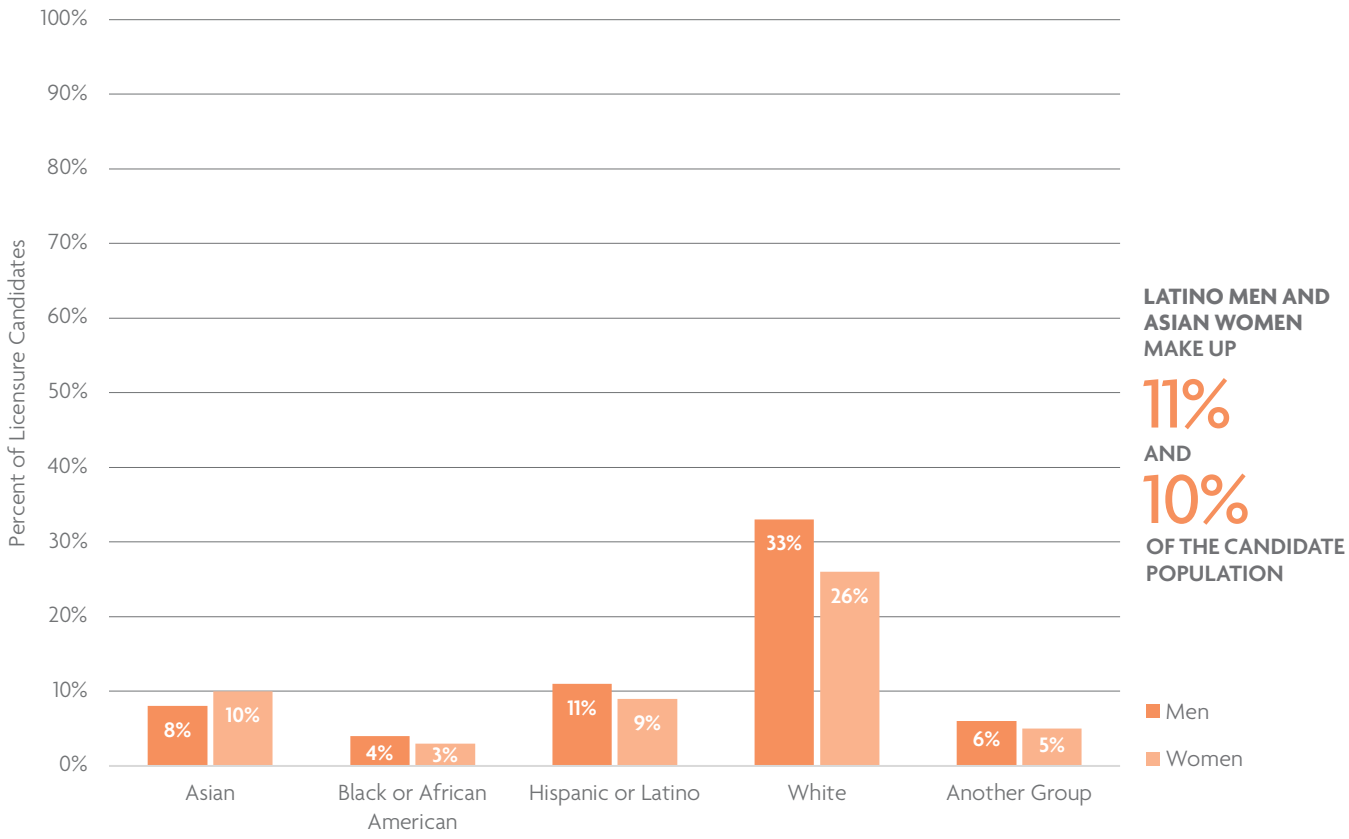
20%

OF THE CANDIDATE POPULATION

- Asian
- Black or African American
- Hispanic or Latino
- White
- Another Group

One third of licensure candidates are white men.

While white men continue to be the most represented group of licensure candidates, making up 33%, people of color now make up nearly half of the candidate population at 49%. **Of candidates of color, Latino men and Asian women were the most represented groups**, making up 11% and 10% of the population, respectively. While Black or African American men (4%) and women (3%) continue to be one of the most underrepresented groups of the licensure candidate population, the proportion of licensure candidates who are Black men has seen some growth compared to 2023.



LATINO MEN AND ASIAN WOMEN MAKE UP

11%

AND

10%

OF THE CANDIDATE POPULATION

Building Competency

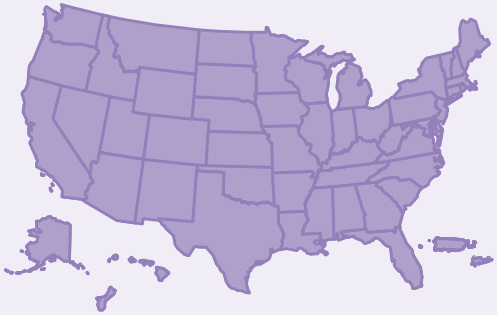
The licensure process is designed to help candidates build their knowledge, skills, and abilities in areas of architecture that are essential for protecting the public's health, safety, and welfare.

Most candidates develop these competencies through a combination of education and experience. Typically, candidates earn a degree from a program accredited by the National Architectural Accrediting Board (NAAB) and complete the Architectural Experience Program® (AXP®). However, 11% of new architects in 2024—approximately 400 practitioners—chose to earn additional experience in lieu of earning a degree from a NAAB-accredited program.

Through our Pathways to Practice initiative, NCARB is working to expand access to licensure outside of the traditional 5-7 years of higher education required for a NAAB-accredited degree.

The experience program continued to show signs of recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic. More than 8,300 candidates started reporting professional experience in 2024, and over 5,200 completed the AXP—both close to pre-pandemic levels. Plus, the time to complete the program fell by 1 month in 2024, and the proportion of candidates who complete the program in less than 4 years rose to 40%.

Still, NCARB expects to see the lingering effects of the pandemic for several more years. Explore the impacts of the pandemic on early career licensure candidates in the COVID-19 & AXP chapter of this publication.



18 JURISDICTIONS
ALLOW MULTIPLE PATHWAYS TO INITIAL LICENSURE

But 49 allow multiple pathways for reciprocal licensure

Out of **27,029** candidates reporting experience in 2024,

8,375 -8% CHANGE

CANDIDATES SUBMITTED THEIR FIRST EXPERIENCE REPORT

5,254 -2% CHANGE

CANDIDATES SUBMITTED THEIR LAST EXPERIENCE REPORT

4.8 years average time to complete AXP

OF NEW ARCHITECTS:



89% followed the NAAB-accredited education path

11% earned additional experience

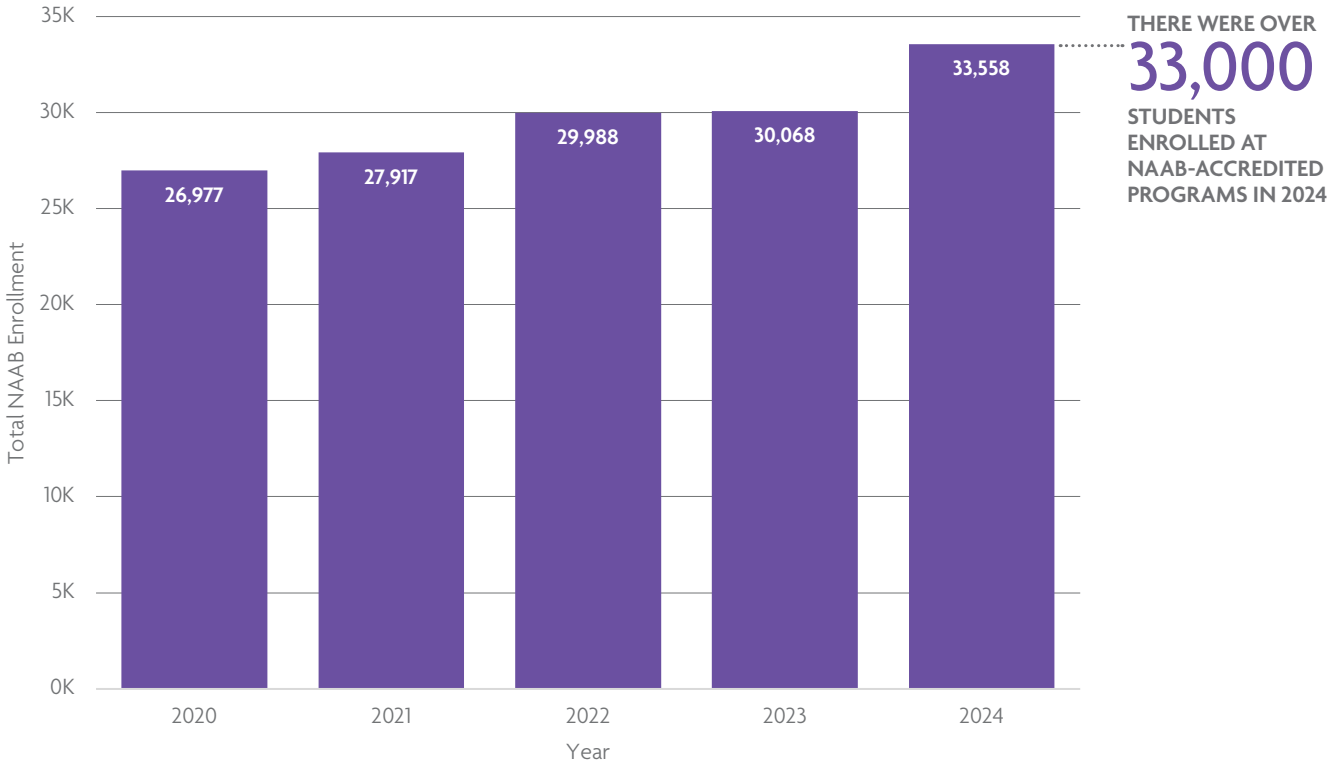
More than **2 IN 5 CANDIDATES** completed the AXP in less than 4 years

NAAB enrollment grew by almost 12% in 2024.

More than 33,000 students were enrolled in a NAAB-accredited program in the 2023-2024 school year, a 12% increase compared to the previous school year. The total number of students enrolled in a NAAB-accredited program has been steadily growing over the past several years. Of the more than 33,000 total enrollees, nearly 7,000 graduated in the 2023-24 school year.

Of students enrolled in NAAB-accredited programs, 57% are enrolled in Bachelor of Architecture programs, and 43% are enrolled in Master of Architecture or Doctor of Architecture programs. Forty-five percent are men, 55% are women, and nearly .5% are non-binary.

Note: This data is provided to the NAAB by accredited programs and will be published in the 2024 NAAB Report on Accreditation in Architecture, available at www.naab.org. Students enrolled in non-accredited architecture programs are not represented.



THERE WERE OVER

33,000

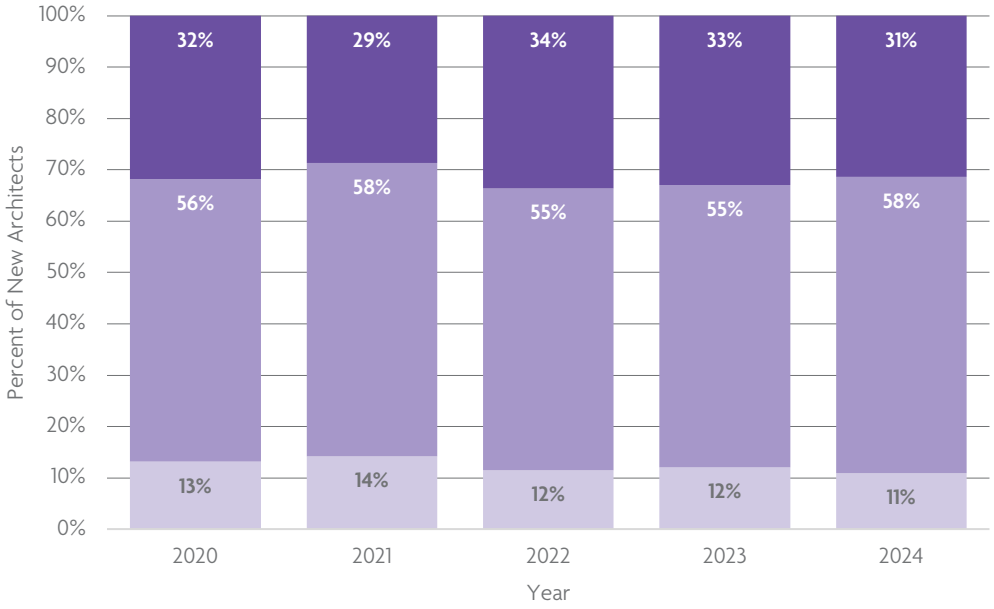
STUDENTS ENROLLED AT NAAB-ACCREDITED PROGRAMS IN 2024

Most jurisdictions require a NAAB degree for initial licensure—but not reciprocal.

Of the 55 U.S. jurisdictions, most require licensure candidates to have a degree from a NAAB-accredited program for initial licensure: Only 18 jurisdictions offer multiple pathways to initial licensure. However, 49 jurisdictions allow multiple pathways to reciprocal licensure, a flexibility NCARB is working to expand through our Pathways to Practice effort.

Because most jurisdictions require a degree from a NAAB-accredited program, this is the most common path to earning a license in the United States. Only 11% of new architects in 2024 pursued licensure without a degree from a NAAB-accredited program, down 1 percentage point from 2023.

Earning a degree from an accredited program typically takes 5-7 years—**often because candidates pursue a non-accredited, 4-year degree before completing a Master of Architecture program.** Independent research shows that these additional years of school represent an investment of time and resources that not all aspiring architects can afford (see RAND's *Building Impact* report for additional details). To address this impediment, NCARB is working to create multiple pathways to licensure that include a variety of education and experience opportunities.



11%

OF NEW ARCHITECTS DON'T HAVE A DEGREE FROM A NAAB-ACCREDITED PROGRAM

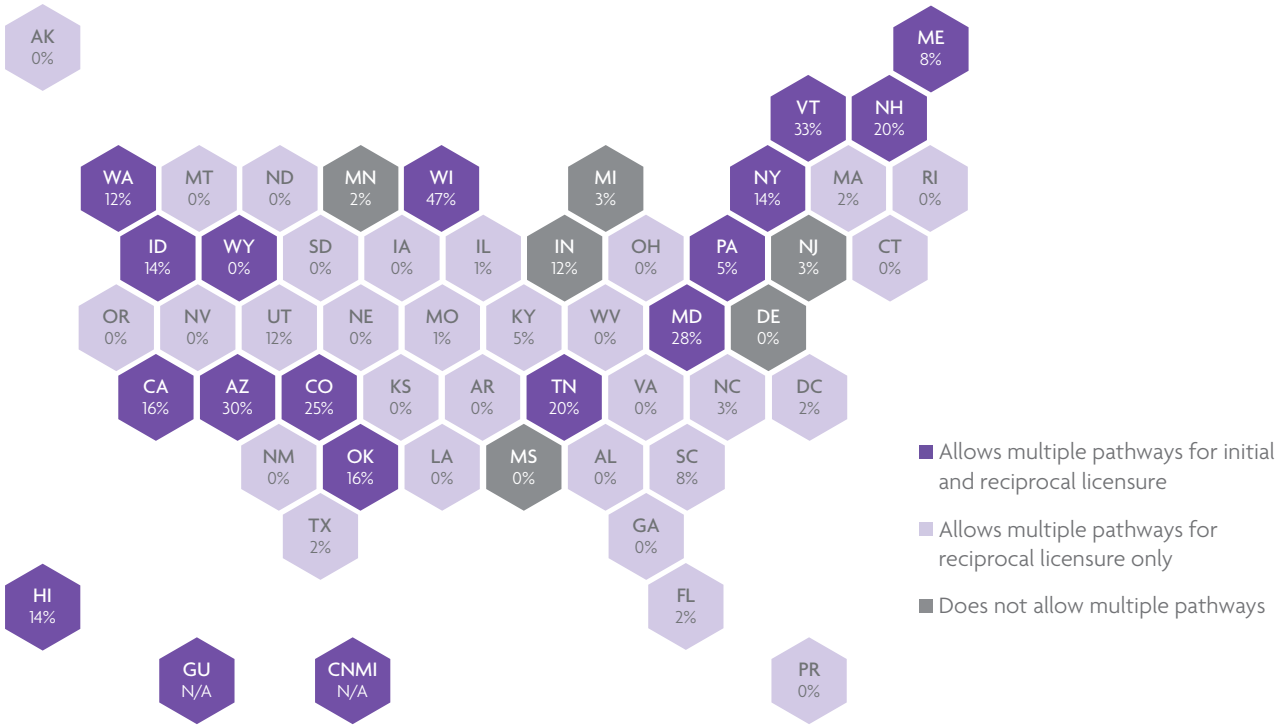
- Only Holds a Degree From a NAAB-Accredited Program
- Holds a Degree From Both a NAAB-Accredited & Non-NAAB Program
- Doesn't Hold a Degree From a NAAB-Accredited Program

In states with multiple pathways, 20% of new architects don't hold a degree from a NAAB-accredited program.

While the proportion of new architects across the U.S. who don't have a degree from an accredited program is just 11%, that proportion is typically higher in jurisdictions where a degree from a NAAB-accredited program isn't required for initial licensure. **On average, 20% of new architects don't hold a degree from a NAAB-accredited program in states that offer additional licensure pathways.**

The state with the highest proportion of new licensees without an accredited degree is Wisconsin: In 2024, 47% of new architects in Wisconsin did not hold a degree from a NAAB-accredited program. Some states that require a degree from a NAAB-accredited program still offer limited access to additional pathways, which is why states like Indiana still show as many as 12% of new architects without a degree from an accredited program.

As more states adopt additional pathways to initial licensure, NCARB expects to see an increase in the number of new architects who follow non-traditional pathways.



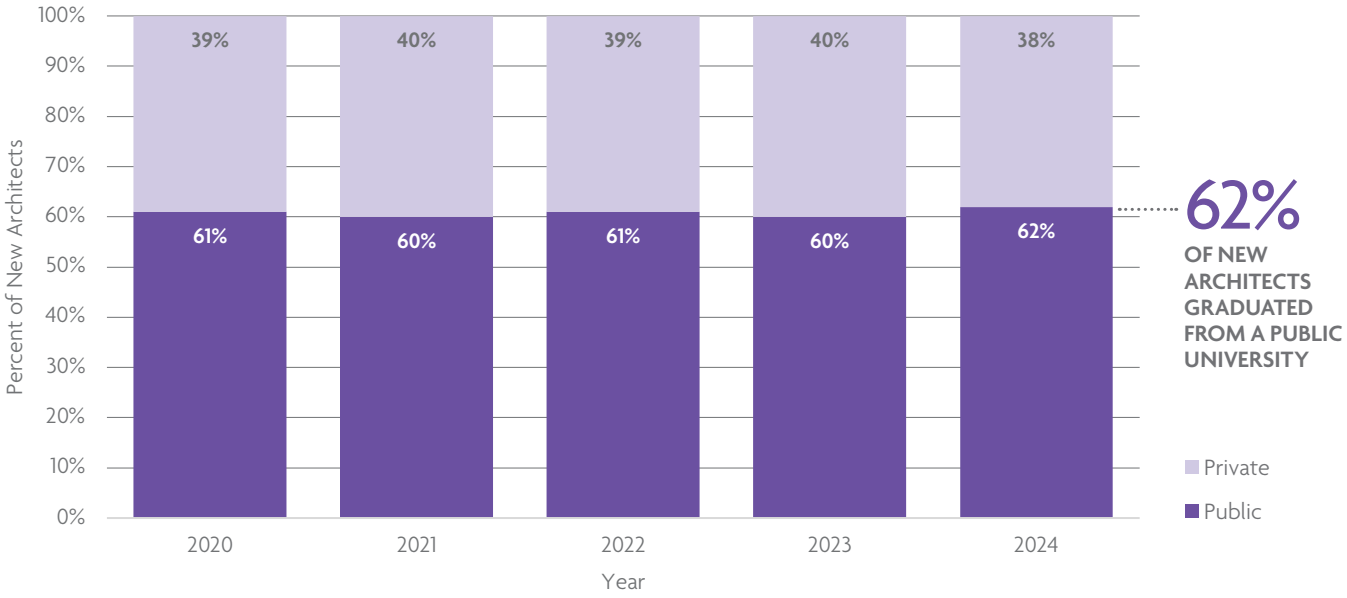
62% of new architects graduated from public universities.

Most new architects attend public, rather than private, universities. The ratio of public to private has stayed relatively stable over the past 5 years, with 60-62% of new architects each year attending a public institution.

This breakdown aligns with the makeup of NAAB-accredited programs. According to the NAAB's latest report, 60% of schools that offer NAAB-accredited programs are public institutions, and the remaining 40% are private.

All five of the schools whose graduates make up the largest proportion of architects newly licensed in 2024 were public universities:

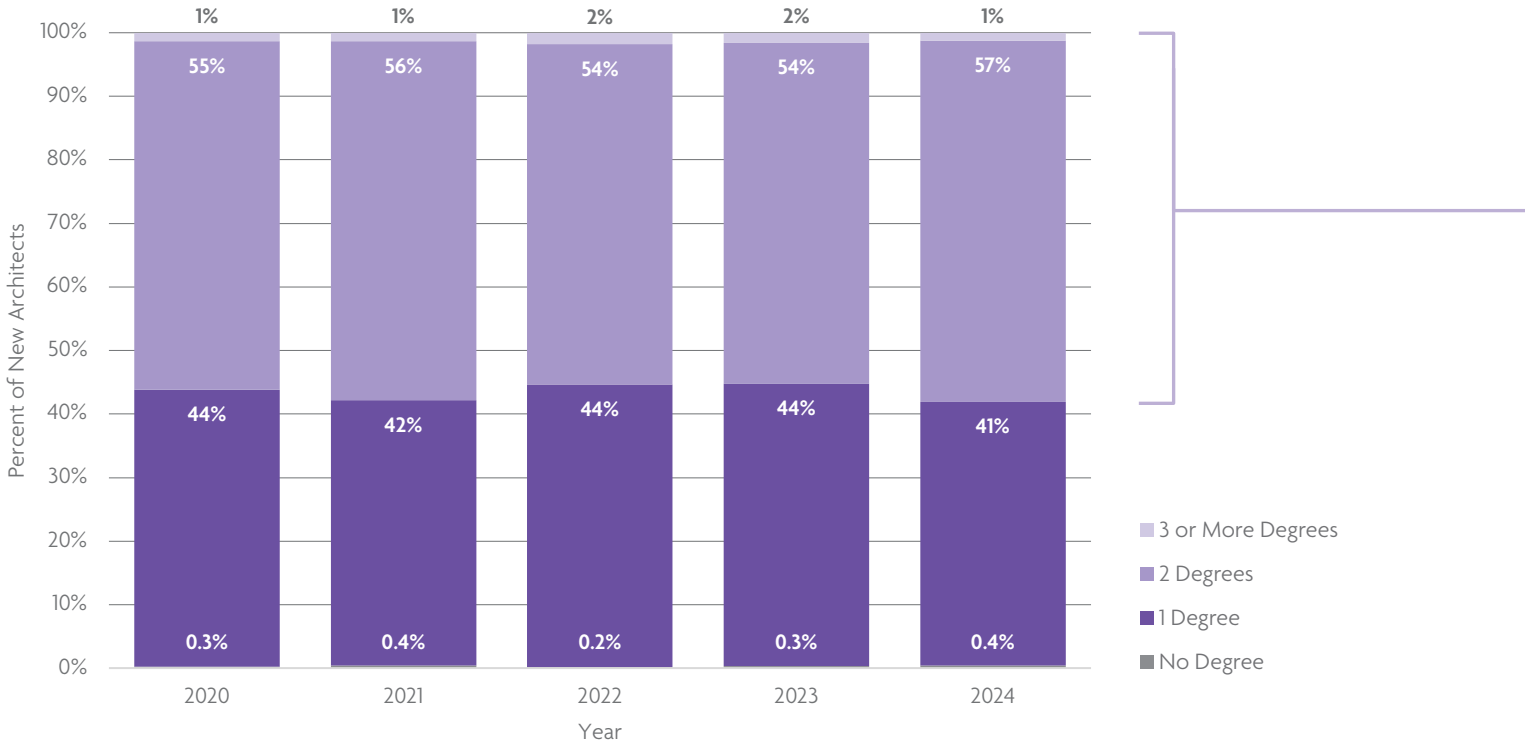
- Cal Poly (2.8%)
- Virginia Tech (2.5%)
- The University of Oregon (2.5%)
- The University of Michigan (2.1%)
- The University of Texas at Austin (2.0%)



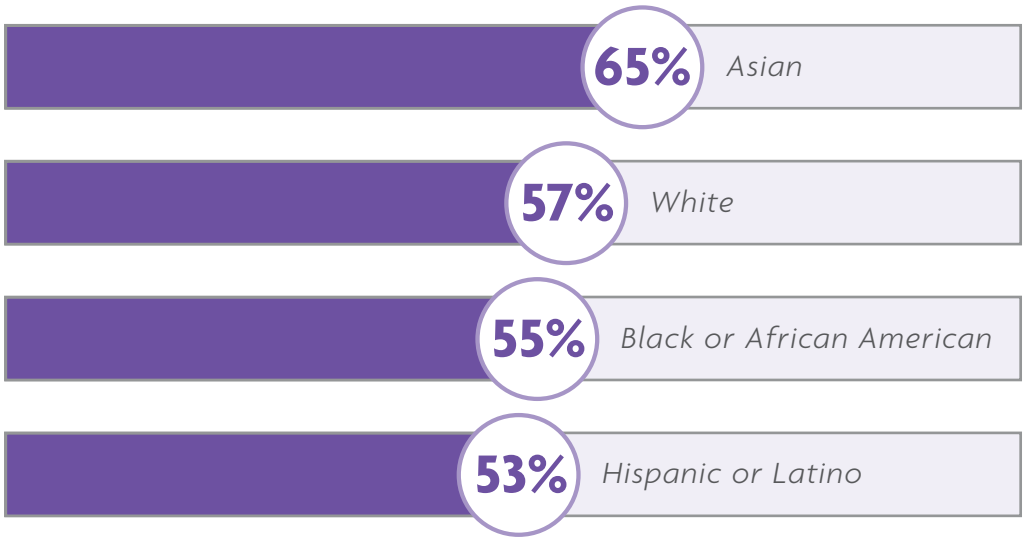
Nearly 60% of new architects have more than 1 degree.

The majority of new architects hold more than one post-secondary degree. **Of the roughly 3,600 architects licensed in 2024, 57% held 2 degrees**, and an additional 1% held 3 or more degrees.

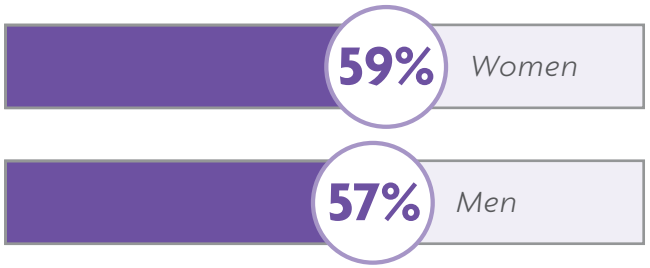
This data aligns with NCARB's data regarding the *types* of degrees held by new architects. Approximately 58% of new architects hold both a degree from a NAAB-accredited program and a degree from a program not accredited by the NAAB. For some, this approach is planned: Many candidates intentionally attend a non-accredited bachelor's program first and then complete their education at a NAAB-accredited Master of Architecture program. But for others, holding multiple degrees stems from low awareness of the education requirements for licensure. Because many candidates don't know they'll need a degree from a NAAB-accredited program, they must eventually return to school for an additional degree in order to earn a license in their chosen jurisdiction.



ASIAN ARCHITECTS ARE MORE LIKELY THAN ANY OTHER DEMOGRAPHIC GROUP TO **HOLD MULTIPLE DEGREES**



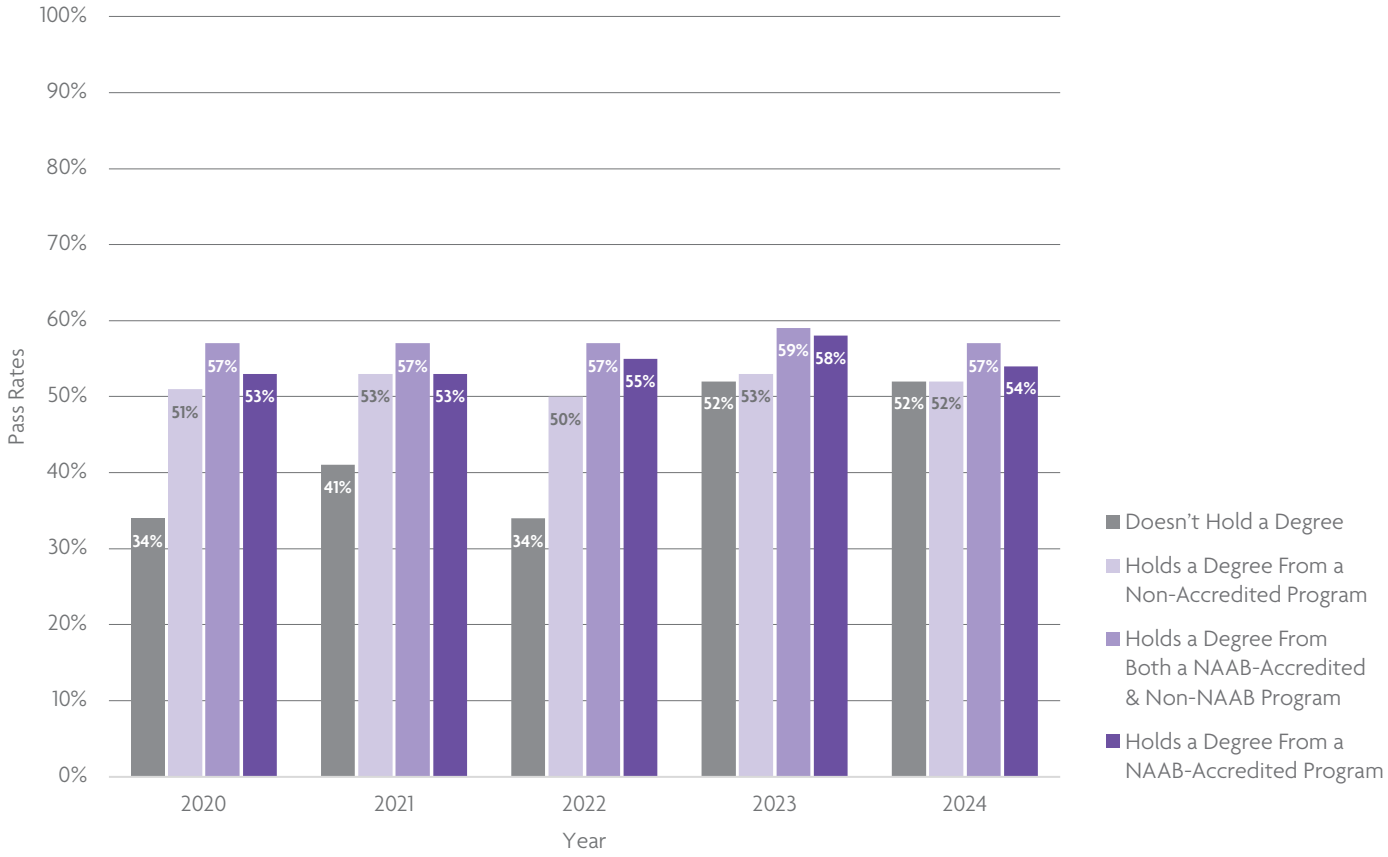
WOMEN are also more likely than men to hold multiple degrees



Candidates with multiple degrees consistently perform better on the exam.

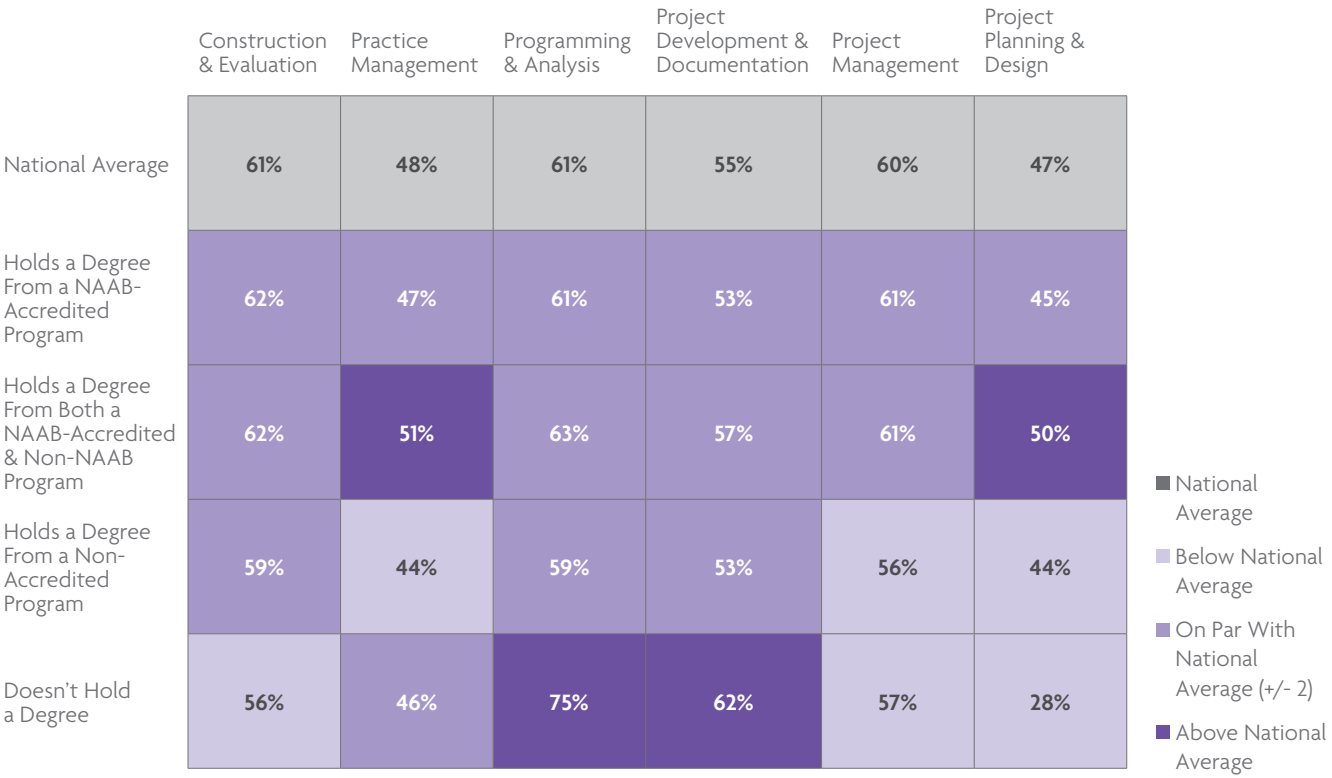
Historically, candidates who hold a degree from a NAAB-accredited program have been more likely to pass the exam than their peers who don't hold a degree from an accredited program. **Licensure candidates who hold both a degree from a program accredited by the NAAB and from a non-accredited program are even more likely to pass the exam than those who only hold an accredited degree**—performing 2 percentage points above the national average overall.

Candidates with multiple degrees tended to perform slightly better (1 or 2 percentage points above the national average) across all divisions, rather than significantly better on a single division.



Comparatively, candidates who only hold a degree from a non-accredited program perform slightly below the national average across most divisions, with the exception of the Project Development & Documentation division in 2024, where they performed on par with the national average.

Candidates who don't hold any degrees consistently receive the lowest overall ARE pass rates. However, there are far fewer candidates in this cohort, leading to larger fluctuations in pass rates (for example, the jump from 34% in 2022 to 52% in 2023, or the high pass rate on the Programming & Analysis division in 2024).



NCARB's Integrated Path to Architectural Licensure (IPAL) initiative expands.

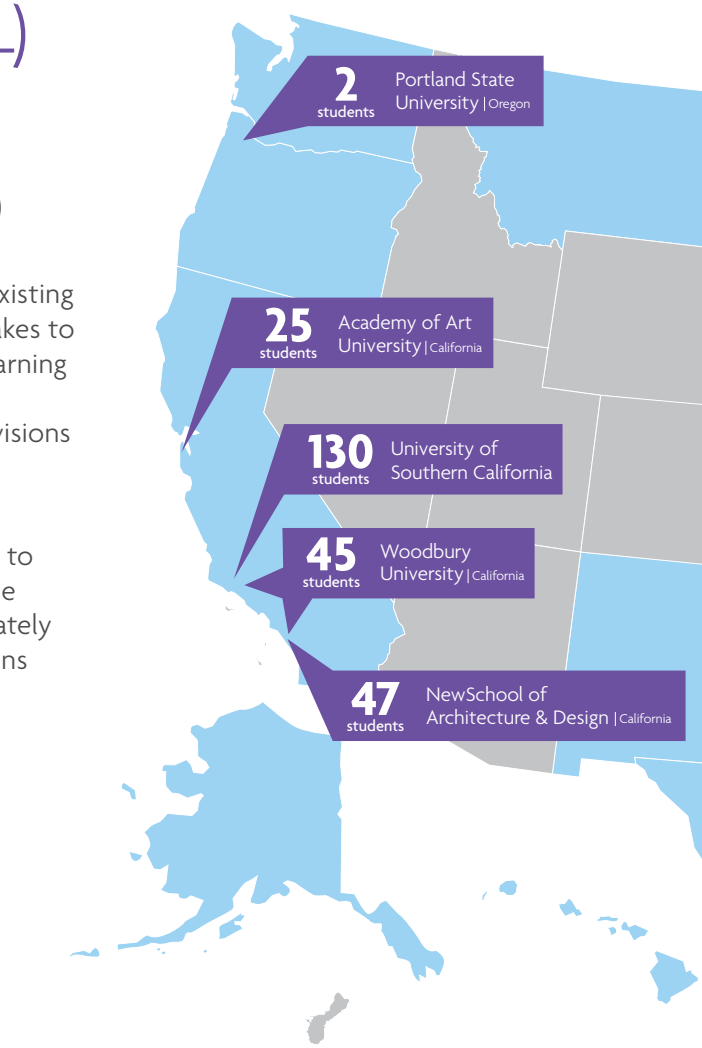
There are currently 33 programs at 28 colleges participating in NCARB's Integrated Path to Architectural Licensure (IPAL) initiative, including 1 that joined in 2024.

The IPAL option—offered as an additional path within an existing NAAB-accredited program—seeks to shorten the time it takes to become an architect for students who are committed to earning a license. Participating programs provide students with the opportunity to complete the AXP and take all 6 ARE 5.0 divisions prior to graduation.

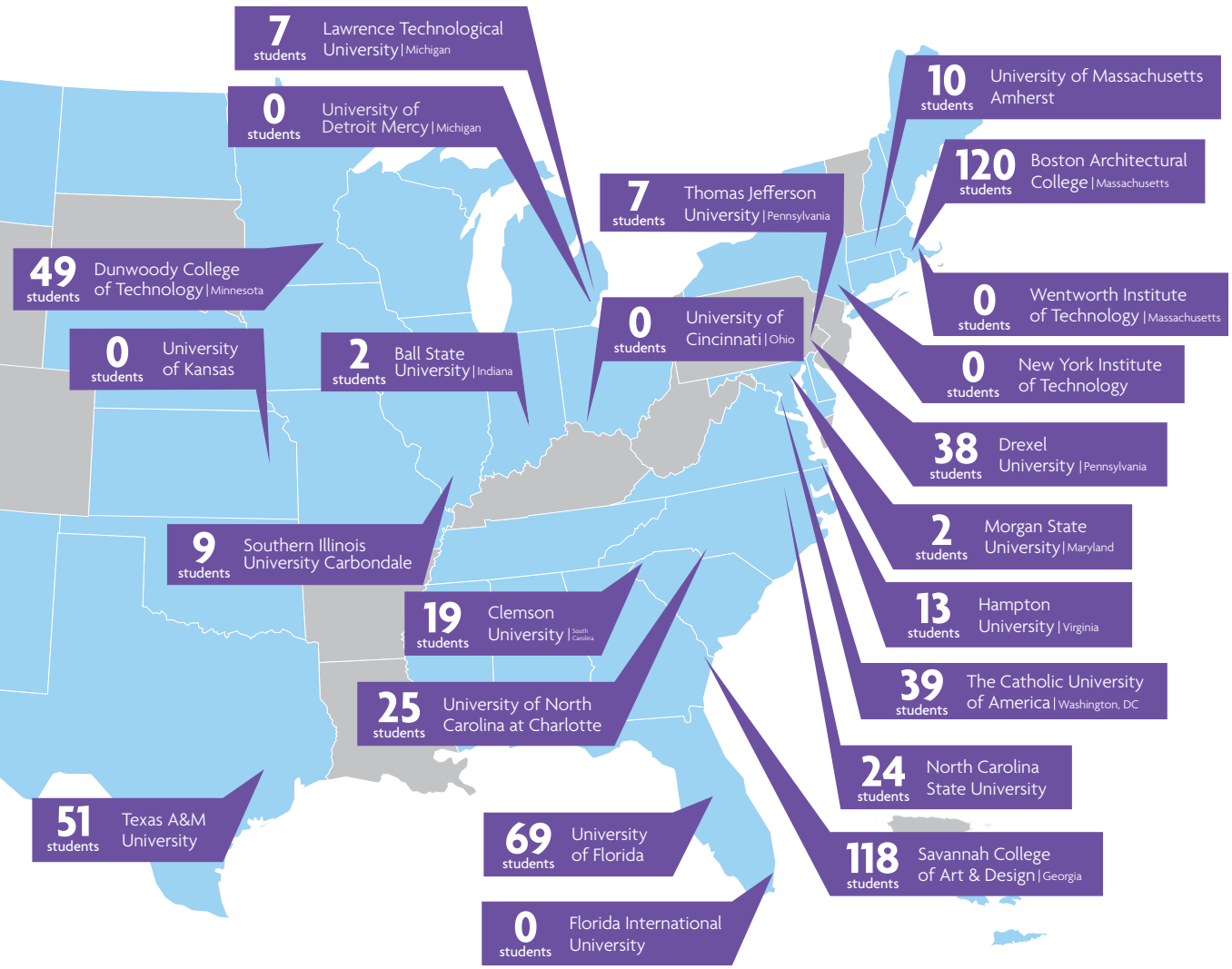
Over the past several years, NCARB has been collaborating with schools to encourage greater participation in IPAL and to identify potential impediments for IPAL students. During the 2023-2024 school year, participation increased by approximately 200 students, with over 850 students enrolled in IPAL options across the United States.

DID YOU KNOW?

Over **850 students** are enrolled in IPAL options across the U.S.



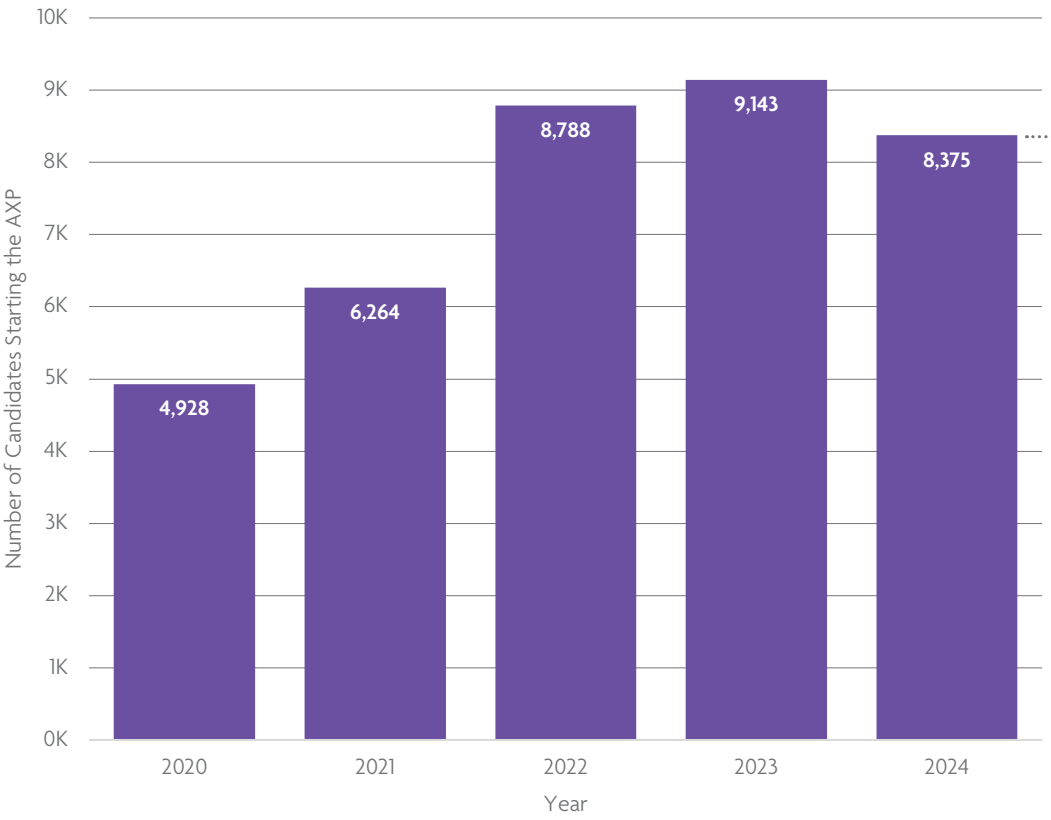
- Active IPAL Program *(including number of current students)*
- Board Accepts ARE Passed Prior to Graduation
- Board Does Not Accept ARE Passed Prior to Graduation


7 students Lawrence Technological University | Michigan
0 students University of Detroit Mercy | Michigan
49 students Dunwoody College of Technology | Minnesota
0 students University of Kansas
2 students Ball State University | Indiana
9 students Southern Illinois University Carbondale
19 students Clemson University | South Carolina
25 students University of North Carolina at Charlotte
51 students Texas A&M University
69 students University of Florida
0 students Florida International University
7 students Thomas Jefferson University | Pennsylvania
0 students University of Cincinnati | Ohio
10 students University of Massachusetts Amherst
120 students Boston Architectural College | Massachusetts
0 students Wentworth Institute of Technology | Massachusetts
0 students New York Institute of Technology
38 students Drexel University | Pennsylvania
2 students Morgan State University | Maryland
13 students Hampton University | Virginia
39 students The Catholic University of America | Washington, DC
24 students North Carolina State University
118 students Savannah College of Art & Design | Georgia

The number of candidates beginning the AXP decreased slightly compared to 2023.

Following a drop in 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the number of candidates who begin the experience program each year has returned to normal levels. **More than 8,300 candidates started earning experience that counts toward the AXP in 2024.**

Because candidates can report experience up to 5 years in the past, these numbers typically shift upward (sometimes dramatically) over time. When NCARB published the 2024 edition of *NCARB by the Numbers*, the number of candidates who had started the AXP in 2023 was 4,809. Now, just one year later, that number has risen to over 9,143 as candidates submit backdated experience. NCARB anticipates that the number reported for 2024 will also increase over the next year.



OVER
8,300
CANDIDATES STARTED REPORTING EXPERIENCE IN 2024

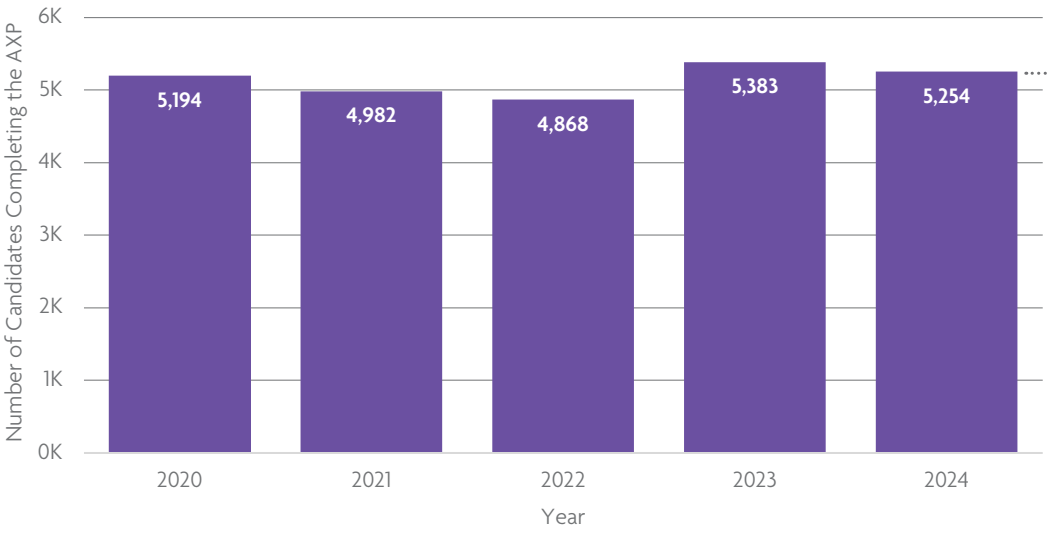
The number of candidates finishing the AXP decreased by 2% in 2024.

Unlike AXP beginnings, AXP completions are likely still showing the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. On average, candidates take between 4-5 years to complete the experience program—meaning that candidates finishing in 2024 likely began the program in 2020. Since fewer candidates began the experience program between 2020-2021, NCARB doesn't expect to see the number of AXP completions rise significantly until 2026.

But just like AXP beginnings, the number of candidates who complete the AXP in a given year shifts upward over time. Based on current data, **over 5,254 candidates finished gaining the professional experience needed to complete the AXP in 2024**—approximately 2% fewer than in 2023.

DID YOU KNOW?

NCARB measures experience start and end dates based on when the work was performed. For example, if a candidate submitted their final experience report in 2025 for work performed in 2022, their AXP end date would be counted as 2022.



5,254

CANDIDATES FINISHED REPORTING EXPERIENCE IN 2024, DOWN 2%

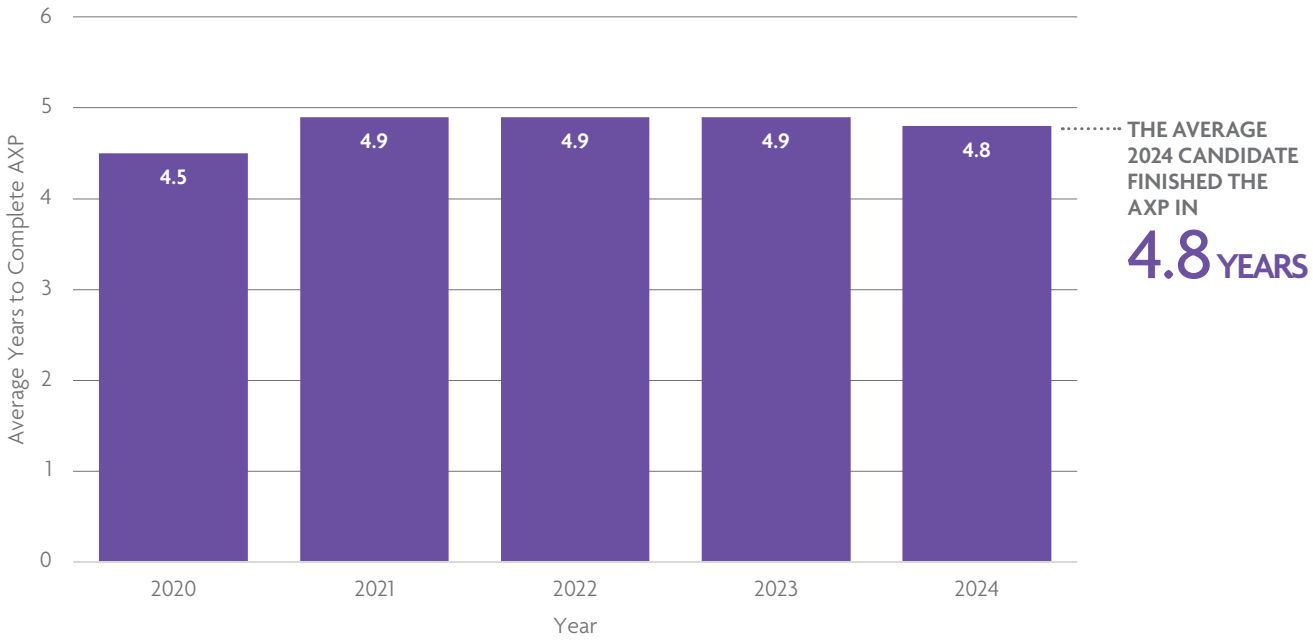
Time to complete the AXP begins to fall.

In 2024, the average time to complete the experience program fell for the first time since the onset of the pandemic. **Candidates who completed the AXP in 2024 took an average of 4.8 years to complete the program, 1 month faster than those who completed in 2023.** While not a significant decrease, this could signal that the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic is beginning to fade from the experience program.

Because the AXP typically takes between 4 and 5 years to complete, NCARB expects to see the pandemic's impact continue to fade over the next several years. Many candidates who completed the program in 2024 would have started earning and reporting professional experience in 2020 and are likely to have had their career trajectories altered by the pandemic—see the COVID-19 & AXP chapter of this publication for more insights into the pandemic's impact on candidates navigating the experience program.

DID YOU KNOW?

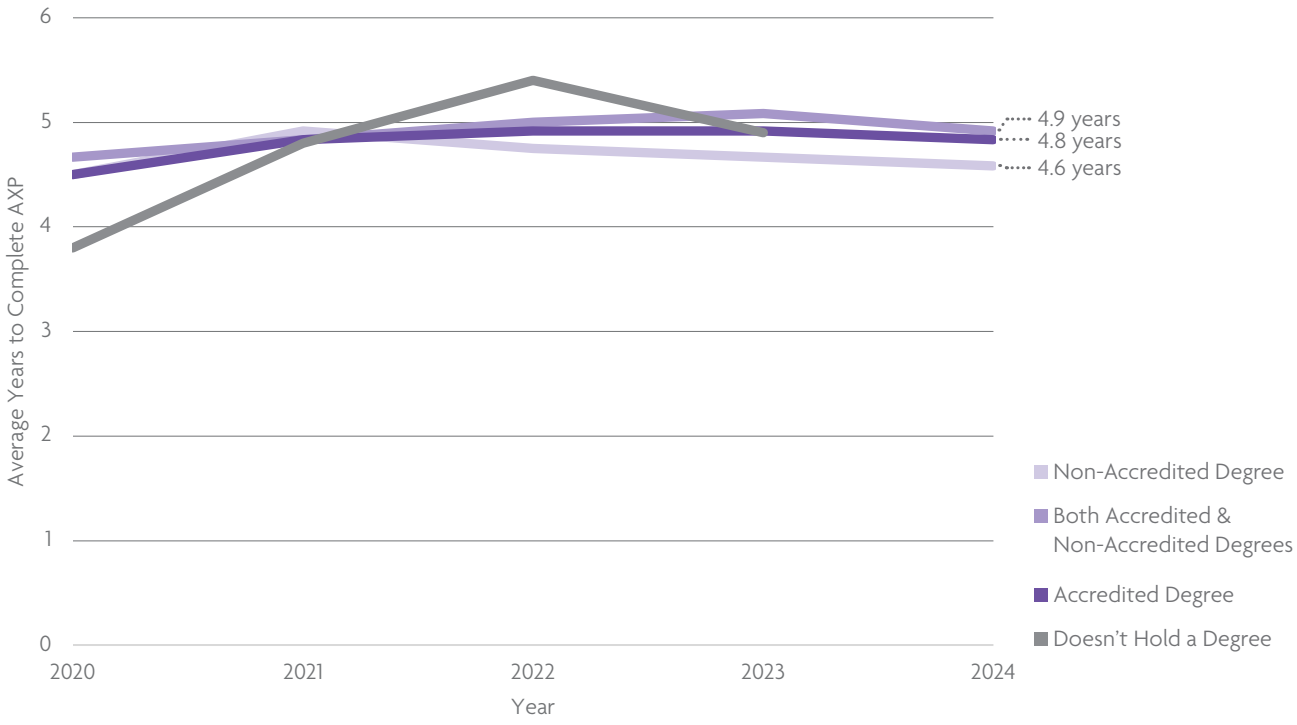
Averages can be measured in several ways. NCARB uses **median** to measure averages throughout *NCARB by the Numbers*, which allows us to avoid skewing the average with outlier data points.



Candidates without a degree from an accredited program complete the AXP faster than their peers.

For the past several years, licensure candidates without a degree from a program accredited by the NAAB have consistently completed the AXP several months faster than their peers. **In 2024, graduates of non-accredited programs completed the AXP in an average 4.6 years**, approximately 4 months faster than candidates who hold degrees from both accredited and non-accredited programs.

However, it's important to keep in mind that most licensure candidates hold a degree from a NAAB-accredited program. The pool of candidates without a degree from an accredited program is much smaller, and therefore more likely to fluctuate over short periods of time. Note: There were fewer than 30 candidates (NCARB's minimum sample size) in the "doesn't hold a degree" cohort in 2024.

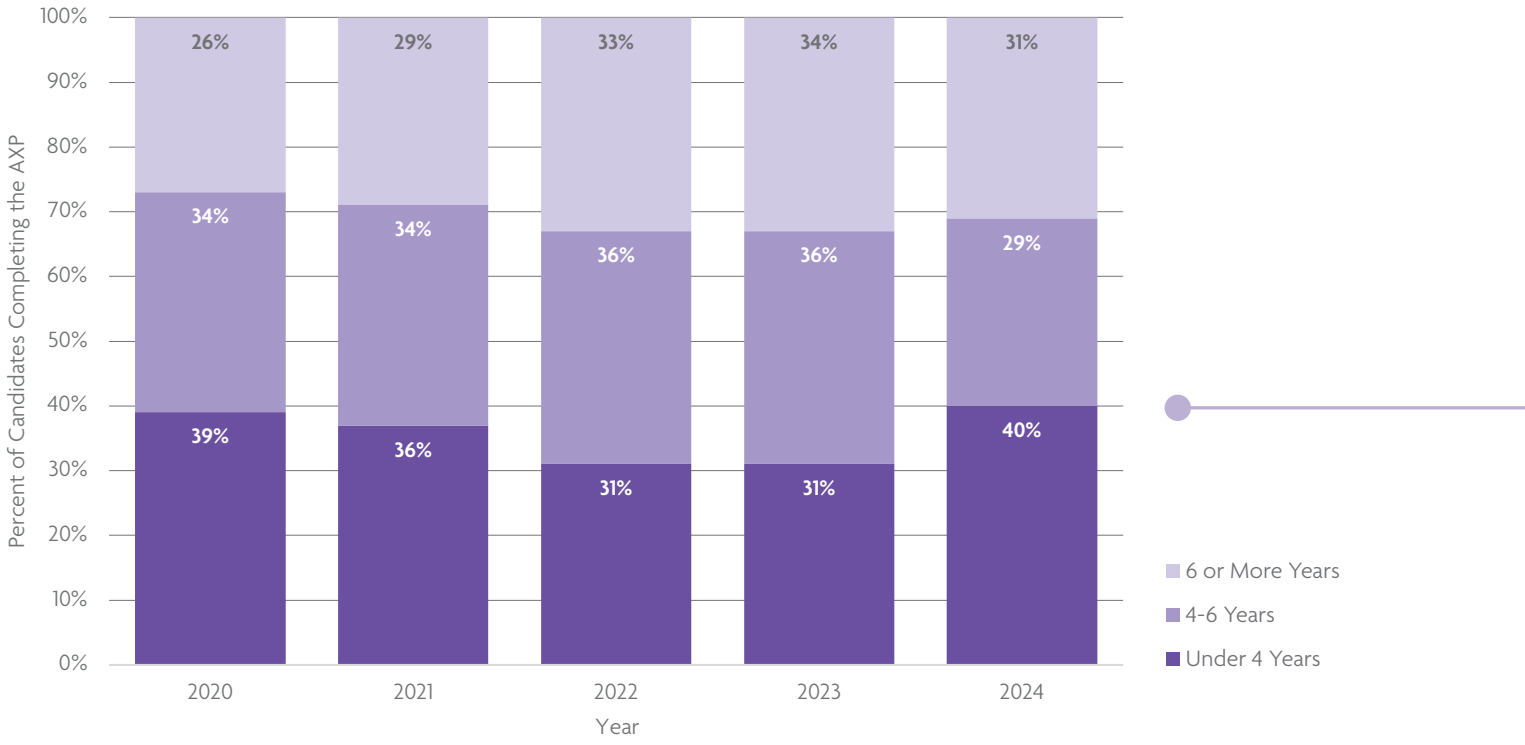


Over a third of candidates complete the AXP in less than 4 years.

In 2024, the percent of candidates who finished the experience program in less than 4 years increased by 9 percentage points: **2 in every 5 candidates completed the AXP in less than 4 years.** This aligns with AXP completion data that NCARB saw prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, when a larger proportion of candidates completed the program in a shorter time frame.

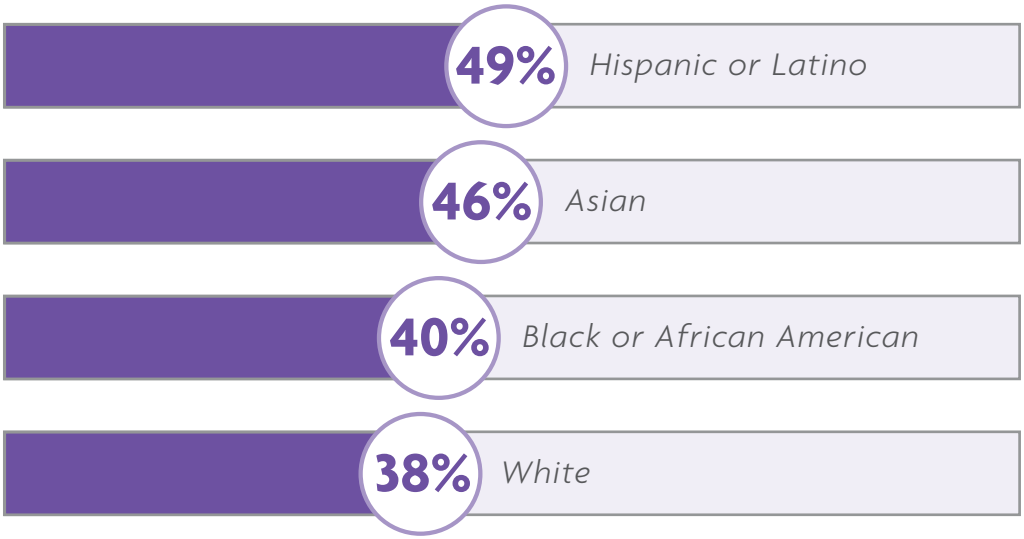
However, nearly a third of candidates (31%) continue to take more than 6 years to finish earning and reporting their experience.

Typically, women and people of color are more likely to complete the AXP in a shorter time frame compared to their peers. Men and white candidates are more likely to begin reporting experience younger (often while in school), which creates a period of slow progress because they aren't working full-time.



2 IN 5 CANDIDATES COMPLETE THE AXP IN UNDER 4 YEARS

Some candidates are more likely to complete the AXP in under 4 years:

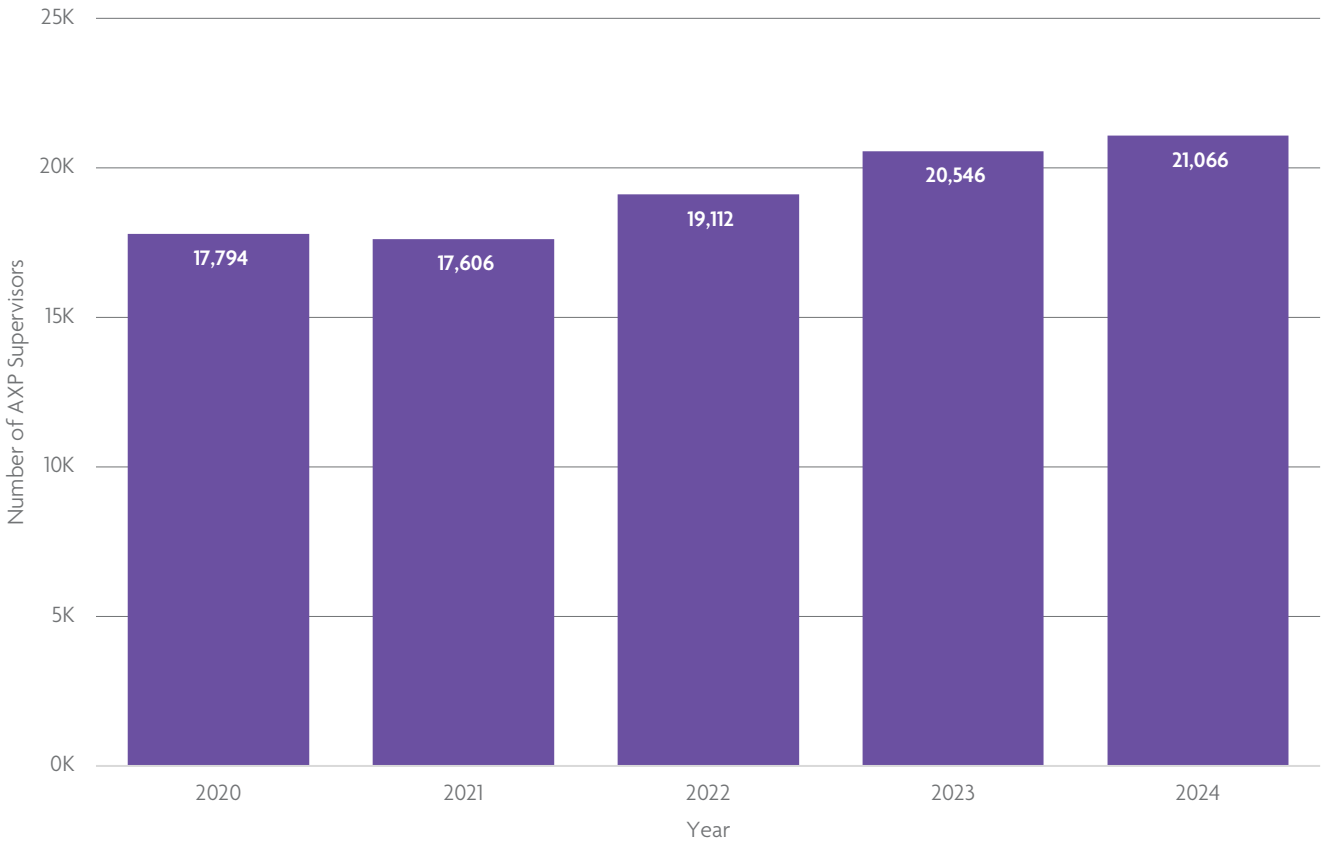


- **Women** are 3 percentage points more likely than men to complete the AXP in under 4 years
- Half of candidates **under 30** complete the AXP in under 4 years

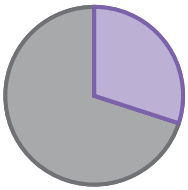
The number of AXP supervisors rose by 3% in 2024.

Licensure candidates are required to have an AXP supervisor who is responsible for guiding them through the process of gaining professional experience. **Over 27,000 candidates submitted experience reports in 2024 to over 21,000 supervisors**—a 3% increase in the total number of supervisors.

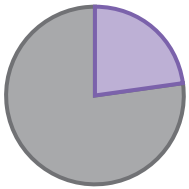
Many candidates report experience to more than 1 supervisor within a given year, whether because they are changing roles or because they are gaining experience outside of their main job through one of the AXP's setting O opportunities.



MORE THAN **21,000**
SUPERVISORS REVIEWED EXPERIENCE IN 2024



30%
OF SUPERVISORS ARE PEOPLE OF COLOR



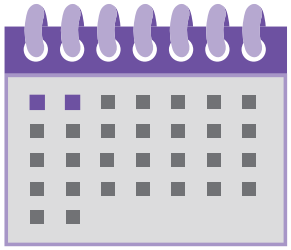
23%
OF SUPERVISORS ARE WOMEN

2



AVERAGE NUMBER OF CANDIDATES PER SUPERVISOR

2 DAYS
AVERAGE NUMBER OF DAYS TO REVIEW AN EXPERIENCE REPORT



COVID-19 & AXP

COVID-19 had a profound impact on candidates navigating the experience program. Between slowed or canceled projects, economic uncertainty, and the physical and mental toll of a global pandemic, many candidates faced reduced work hours, layoffs, and even rescinded job or internship offers.

Since 2020, NCARB has been closely monitoring the pandemic's ongoing impact on candidates navigating the path to licensure. In September 2024, NCARB launched a survey designed to better understand how candidates were affected by the COVID-19 pandemic.

More than 2,300 candidates and architects licensed within the past 3 years completed the survey and shared their experiences in architecture from February 2020 through the present day. Of those who were navigating the experience program at the time of the survey, nearly 39% are now AXP complete, and 31% are more than halfway done with the program.

More than a third (37%) of participants reported that the pandemic significantly slowed their experience progress, often due to reduced project team sizes, cut projects, or layoffs. While NCARB has begun to see the direct impact of the pandemic fade, some candidates who were significantly impacted may feel the pandemic's effects for years—or even decades—to come.



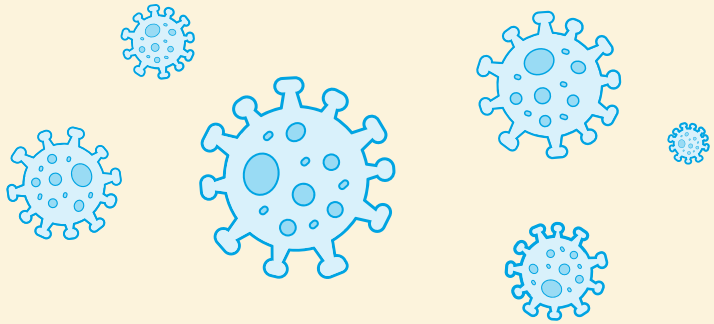
2,379
SURVEY RESPONDENTS

OF RESPONDENTS NAVIGATING THE AXP

39%
are now AXP complete

37%
reported their experience progress was significantly impacted

40%
reported reduced exposure to a variety of experience



19%
were laid off as a result of the pandemic, and **25% had trouble** finding employment

63%
believe they would have become licensed sooner if not for the pandemic

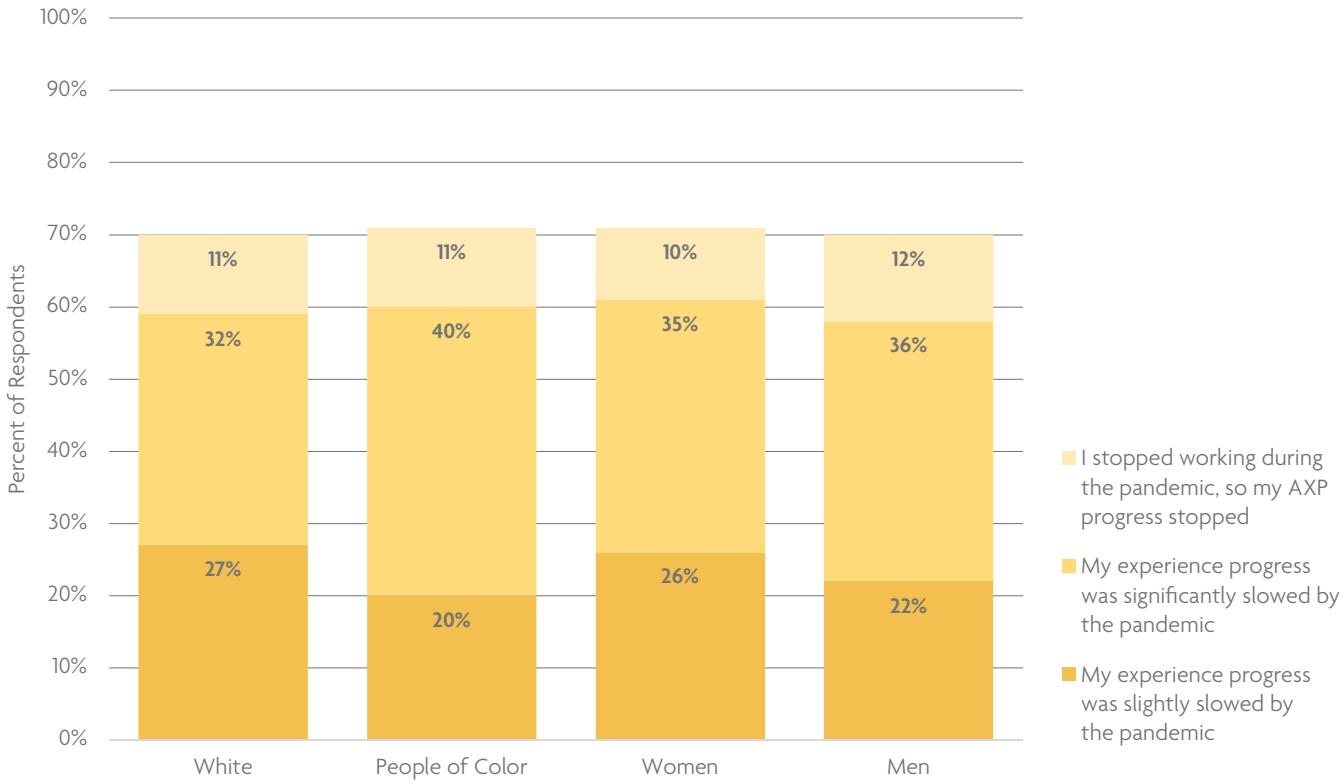
38%
said their work was impacted by their physical health

64%
said their work was impacted by their mental health

People of color are most likely to say their experience progress was significantly slowed by the pandemic.

When asked how they would describe the COVID-19 pandemic's impact on their ability to earn and report AXP experience, 37% said it had significantly impacted their experience progress. **People of color were 8 percentage points more likely than white respondents to say they had been significantly impacted**, while men and women were relatively equal.

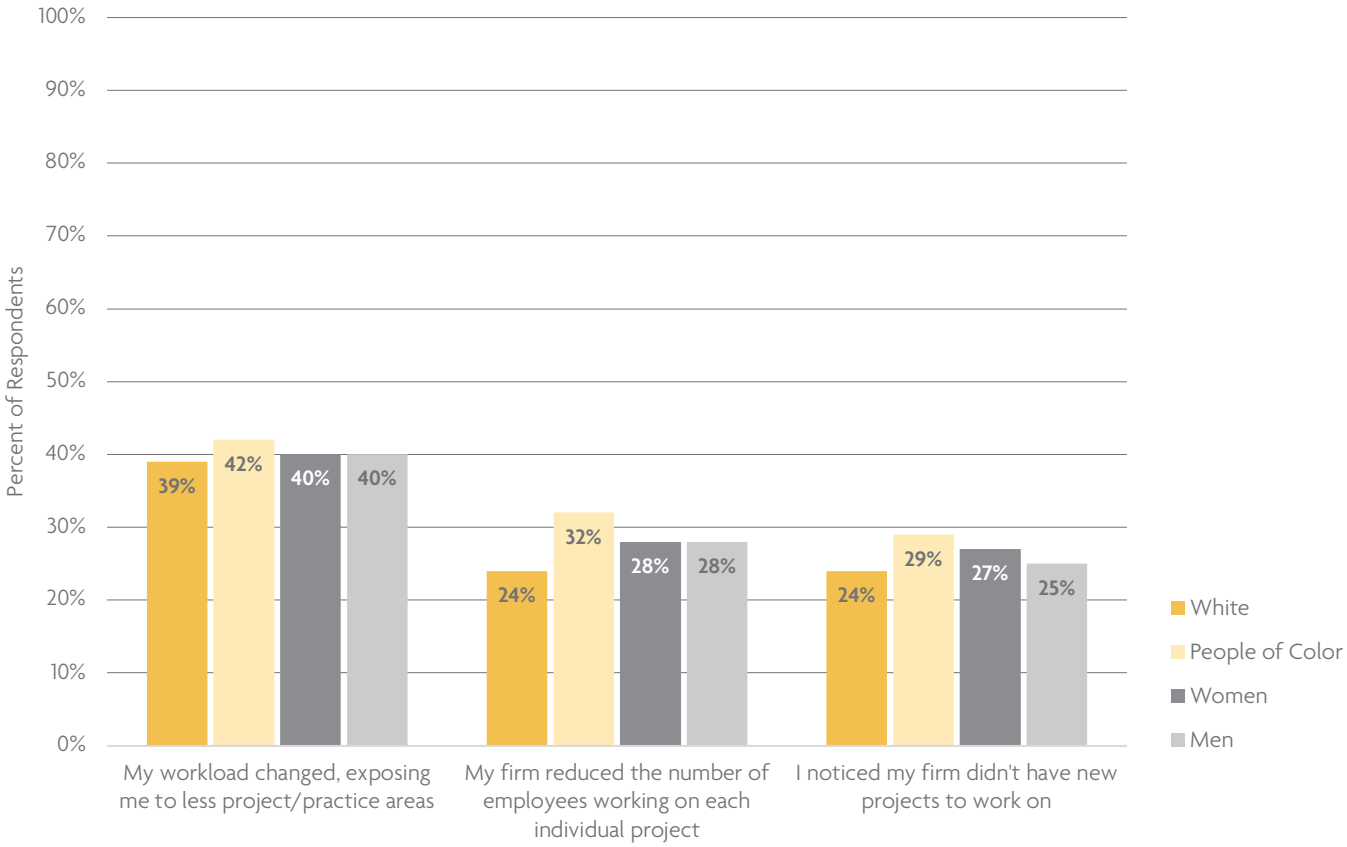
In addition, approximately 20% of respondents reported that their AXP progress was not impacted by the pandemic, and another 2% reported that the pandemic helped speed up their AXP progress.



2 in 5 respondents indicated their workload exposed them to fewer practice areas.

Gaining experience in a variety of practice areas is essential to completing the AXP. When asked to indicate which types of project-related situations impacted their AXP progress as a result of the pandemic, **40% of respondents stated that their workload changed, exposing them to fewer project or practice areas.** People of color were 3 percentage points more likely to select this option than white respondents, while men and women were equally as likely.

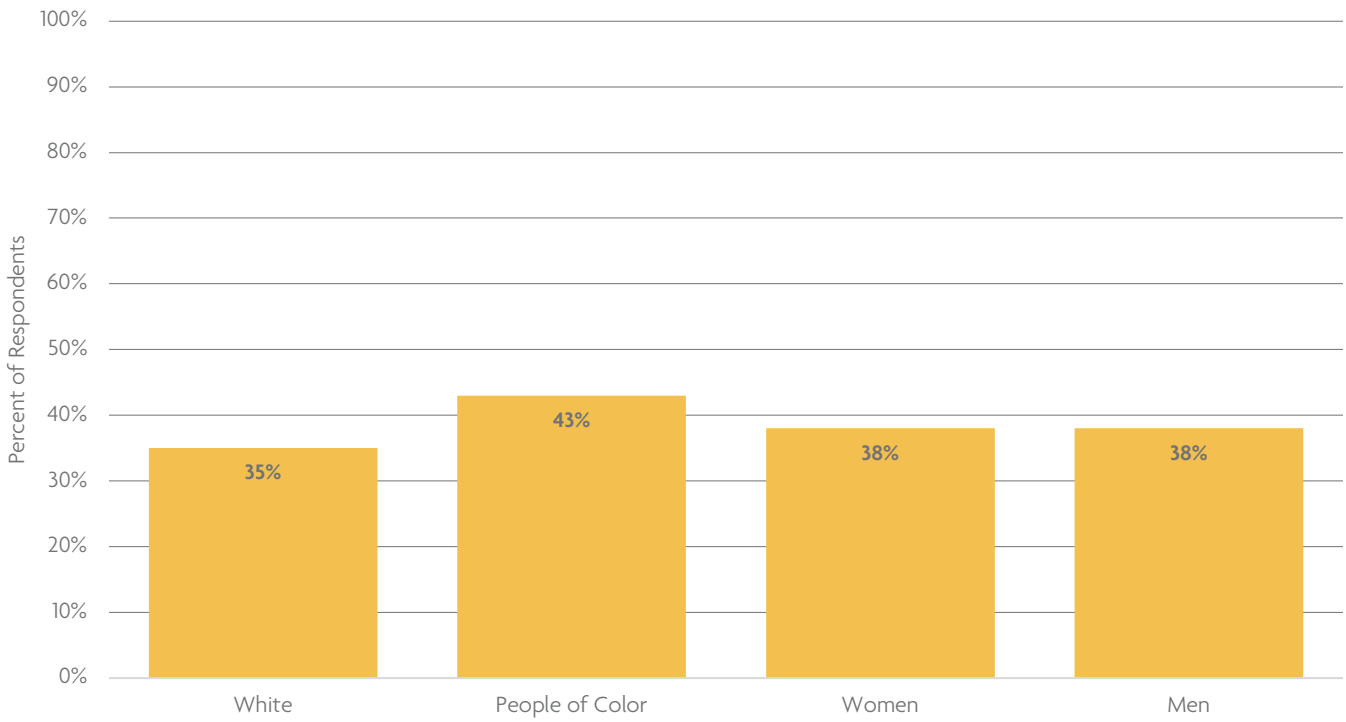
In addition, people of color were 8 percentage points more likely to report that their firm reduced the number of employees working on each project, and 5 percentage points more likely to report that their firm didn't have new projects to work on than white respondents.



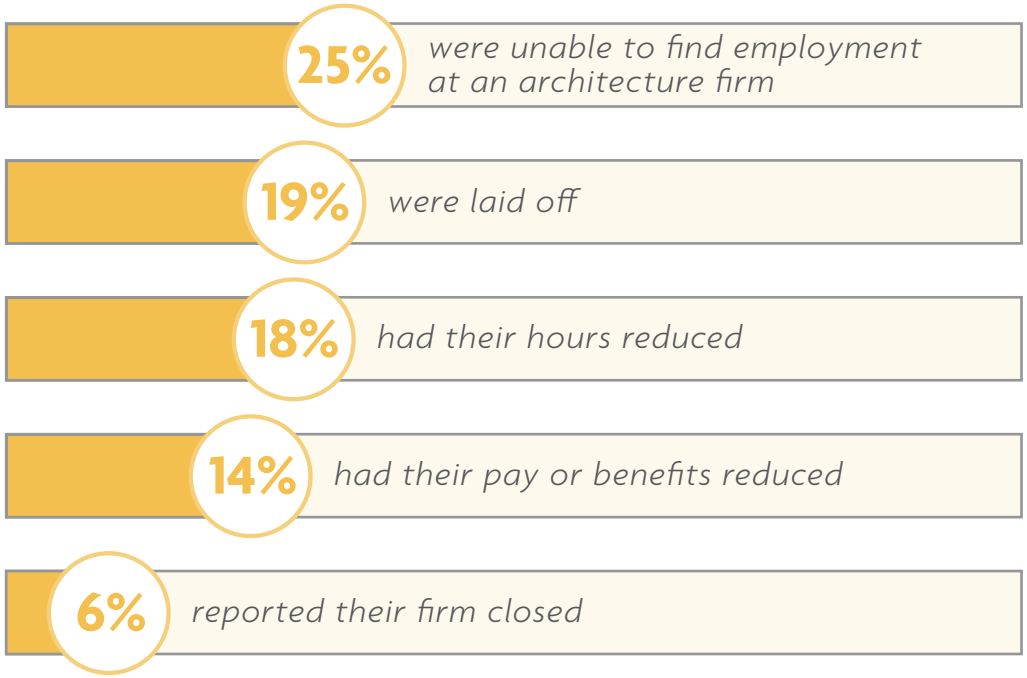
Nearly 40% of respondents reported their supervisor relationship was impacted by the pandemic.

When asked if their relationship with their AXP supervisor changed as a result of the pandemic, 38% of respondents indicated it had changed in some way. **More than 19% reported that their supervisor became less available and less engaged**, and 12% said their supervisor struggled to monitor their progress remotely.

As with other areas of the survey, people of color were more likely than white respondents to indicate that their relationship with their supervisor was negatively impacted by the pandemic. People of color were especially more likely to report that their supervisor took longer to approve their experience reports: 15% of respondents of color and 9% of white respondents selected this option.



MANY RESPONDENTS ALSO REPORTED CHANGES IN THEIR EMPLOYMENT STATUS AS A RESULT OF THE PANDEMIC



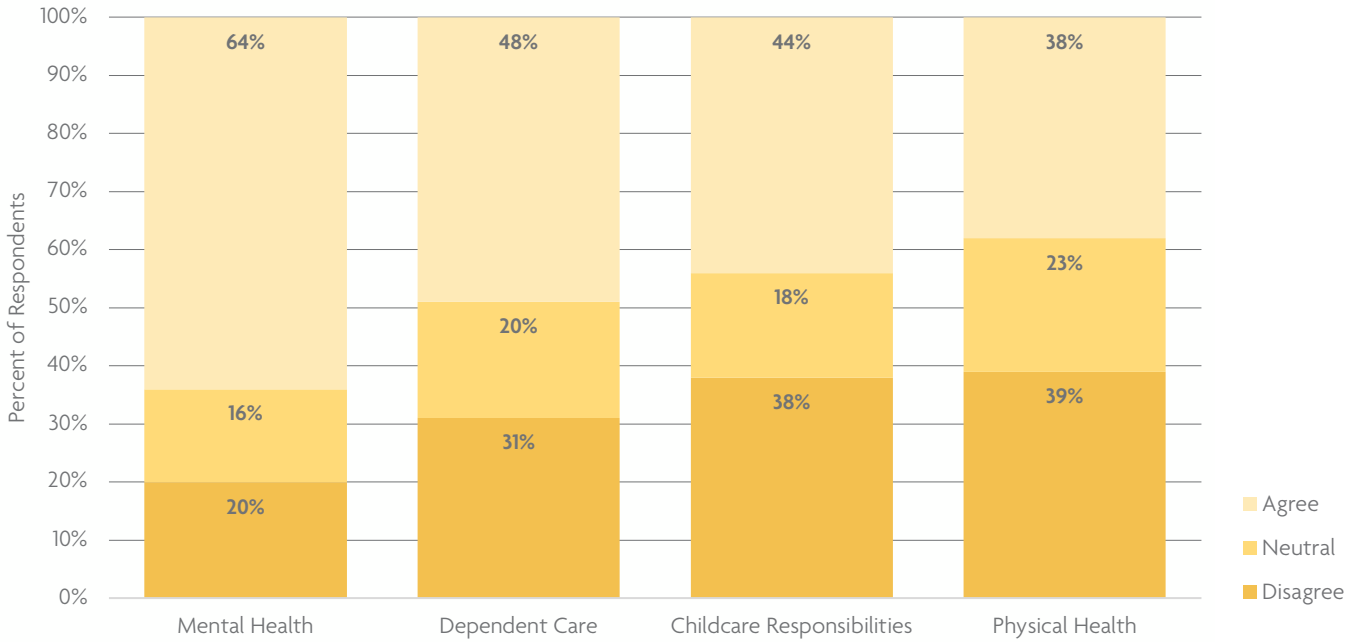
PEOPLE OF COLOR

were 6 percentage points more likely than white respondents to have been laid off

Nearly two thirds of respondents indicated their work was impacted by their mental health.

As part of this study, NCARB asked respondents if their ability to work during the pandemic—including their presence and work performance—was impacted by several factors. **Nearly two thirds (64%) of respondents said their ability to work was impacted by their mental health**, and 38% reported that their ability to work was impacted by their physical health.

Additionally, nearly half of respondents were impacted by childcare (44%) and other dependent care (48%) responsibilities. While NCARB saw some disparities by race and ethnicity, men and women were nearly equally likely to indicate that their work performance was impacted by childcare responsibilities.

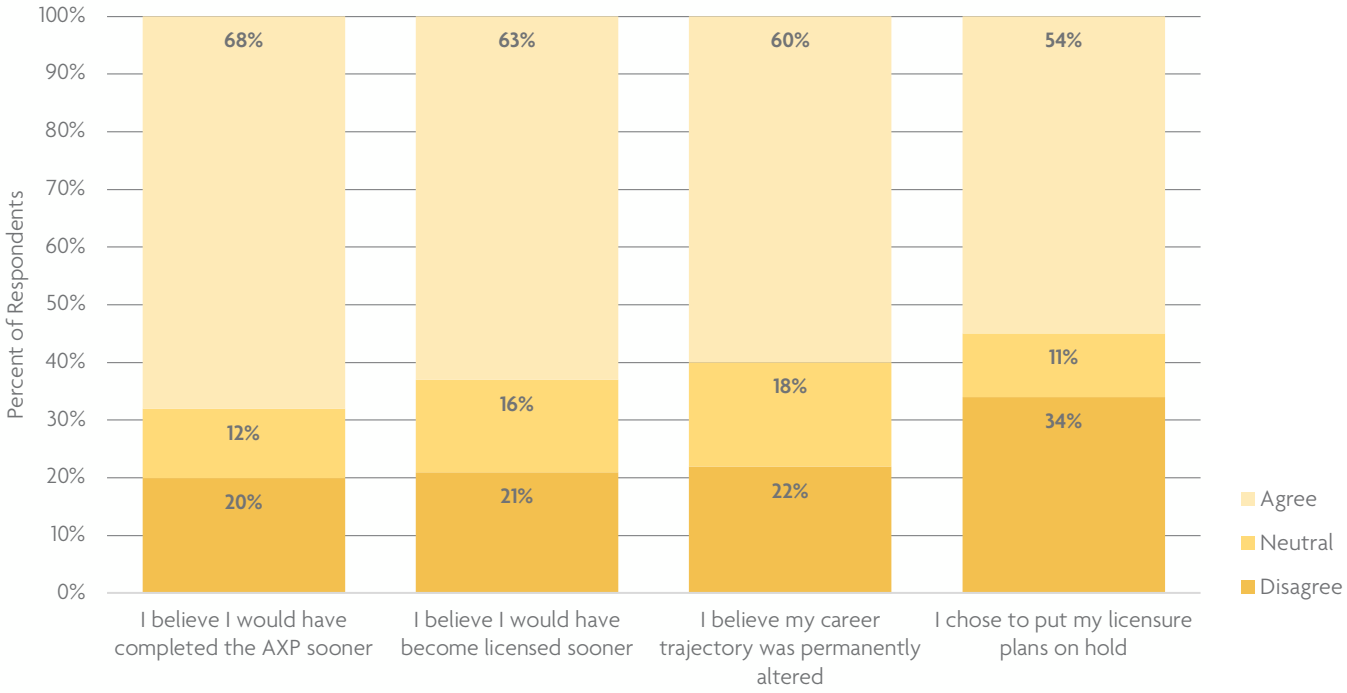


Most respondents believe the pandemic permanently altered their career trajectory.

In addition, NCARB asked respondents to indicate ways in which they believe the pandemic affected their overall licensure and career progress. Just over half (54%) of respondents indicated they chose to put their licensure plans on hold as a result of the pandemic, which corresponds with reduced licensure progress seen across NCARB's programs from 2020-2022.

Additionally, **60% of respondents believe that the pandemic has permanently altered their career trajectory, whether by delaying promotions, reducing licensure support, or impacting their employment.** More than two thirds of respondents believe that they would have completed the experience program sooner if not for the COVID-19 pandemic.

Over the next several years, NCARB will continue to monitor candidates' progress on the path to licensure to better understand the long-term impacts of the pandemic. Like the 2008 recession, the COVID-19 pandemic's effects may linger in reduced job opportunities, firm resources, and construction projects for years to come.



Examination

NCARB's Architect Registration Examination® (ARE®) is a 6-part exam required to become an architect in the United States. For most candidates, taking the ARE is the final step on the path to licensure.

In 2024, the exam saw an increase in candidates testing, but a decrease in exam pass rates. Over 5,800 candidates started the ARE in 2024, a 15% increase compared to the prior year. However, the number of candidates completing the exam held steady at just over 3,500. This stability aligns with the decrease in pass rates, which fell by 3 percentage points to 55%. In addition, the average time to complete the program fell by 2 months, with candidates now taking 2.3 years to pass all 6 divisions.

Over the past several years, NCARB has been implementing changes to improve the equity and accessibility of the ARE: creating free practice exams for candidates, retiring ineffective item types, offering accommodations for candidates who speak English as a Second Language (ESL), and replacing the ARE's rolling clock policy. Going forward, NCARB will continue to monitor the impact of these changes and explore opportunities for additional exam improvements.

Nearly 80% of candidates are now using NCARB's free practice exams prior to testing—and the results are positive. Candidates who use NCARB's practice exams perform 16 percentage points better than those who don't. While NCARB continues to see a disparity in pass rates between white candidates and candidates of color, recent changes are helping to close the gap over time.

17,497

CANDIDATES TOOK THE ARE IN 2024

+10% CHANGE

5,828

CANDIDATES STARTED THE EXAM

+15% CHANGE

3,548

CANDIDATES COMPLETED THE EXAM

NO CHANGE

PASS RATES FELL BY 3 PERCENTAGE POINTS

TAKING 2.3 YEARS ON AVERAGE

(-2 months)

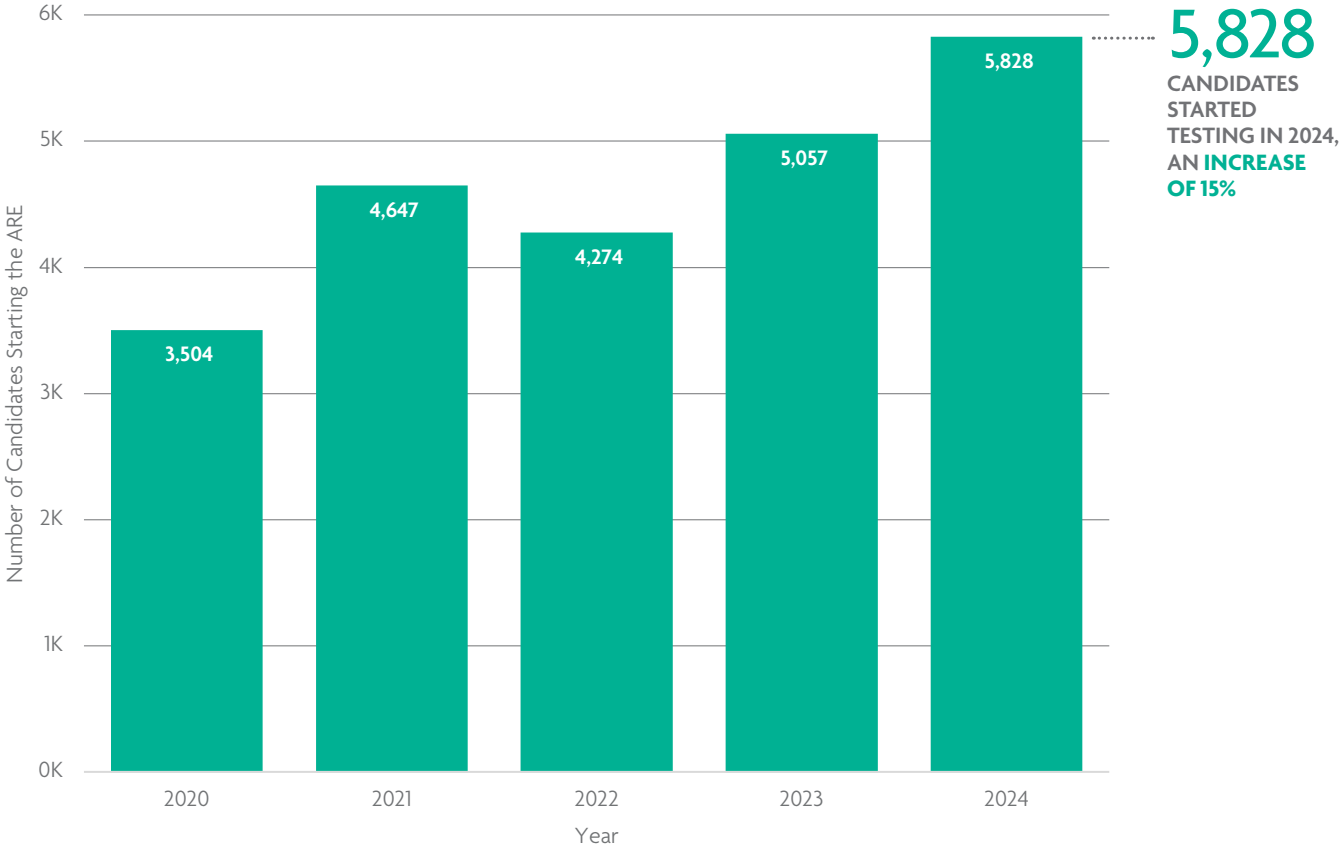
However, candidates using NCARB's free practice exams were

16 PERCENTAGE POINTS MORE LIKELY TO PASS

Nearly 6,000 candidates started taking the ARE in 2024.

The number of candidates starting to take the ARE fell significantly in 2020, a result of test center closures and limited appointment availability during the COVID-19 pandemic. Since then, NCARB has seen a gradual return toward normal levels of new test-takers. **In 2024, nearly 6,000 candidates took their first ARE division, a 15% increase compared to 2023.**

Over the past several years, NCARB has seen high numbers of candidates starting the path to licensure. As those new candidates make their way through the licensure process, we expect the number of candidates starting the ARE to increase in the near future.



5,828

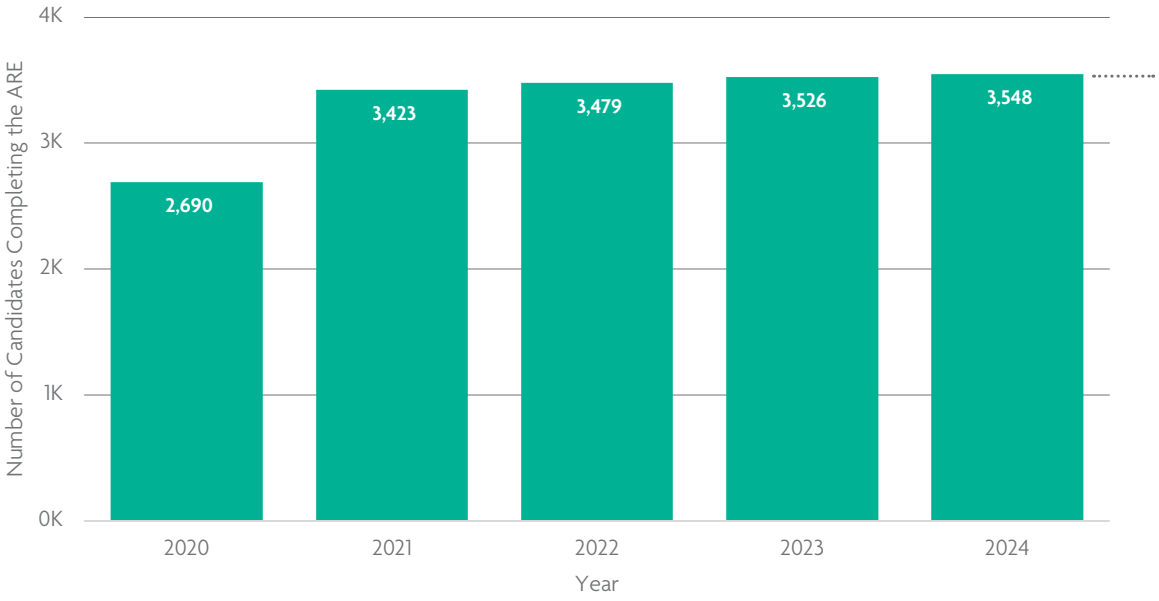
CANDIDATES STARTED TESTING IN 2024, AN INCREASE OF 15%

The number of candidates finishing the ARE holds steady.

The number of individuals completing the ARE has held relatively steady since 2021, with 3,400-3,500 candidates passing their final exam division each year. As with the number of candidates starting the exam, the dip seen in 2020 is a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Since most candidates take roughly 2-3 years to finish the exam, NCARB expects that more candidates will finish the ARE in the years ahead to correspond with a recent increase in exam starts.

However, NCARB is still uncertain how the 2023 retirement of the rolling clock policy will impact ARE completions going forward—while some candidates might slow their testing progress without a time restriction, candidates who were previously at risk for losing exam credits due to the policy might now be more likely to finish the ARE.

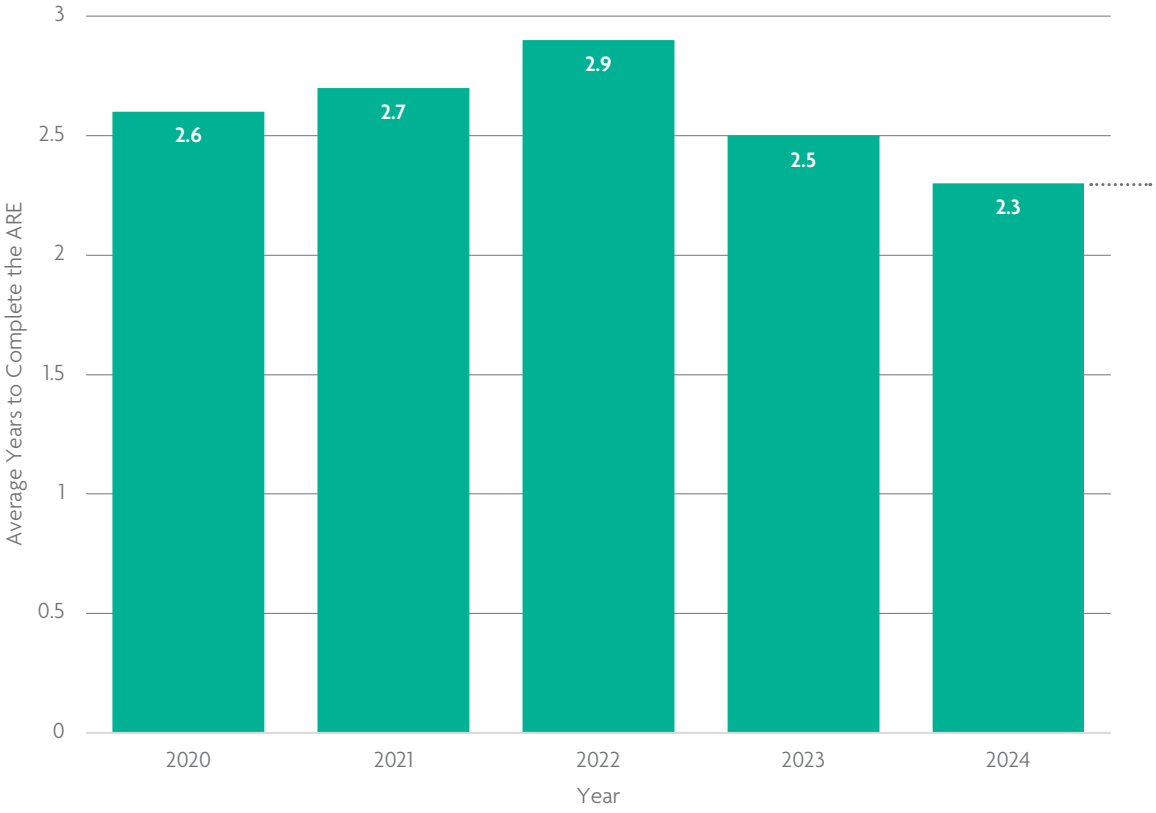


3,548
CANDIDATES FINISHED TESTING IN 2024—NO CHANGE FROM THE PREVIOUS YEAR

Time to complete the ARE continues to fall.

On average, candidates who completed the ARE in 2024 took 2.3 years—6 months faster than the spike seen in 2022, which was likely a delayed result of the COVID-19 pandemic. Candidates who finished the exam in 2022 would have started testing in 2019-2020. With 2.3 years between the first and last test, the typical candidate who finished the exam in 2024 would have started testing in 2021-2022, after the brunt of the pandemic's impact on the exam had passed.

Plus, candidates are completing ARE 5.0 in less time than the exam's previous version, ARE 4.0. Candidates who only tested in ARE 5.0 finished the exam in just 2.0 years. For comparison, the average candidate who only tested in ARE 4.0 (before 4.0's retirement in 2018) took 2.5 years to complete the exam.



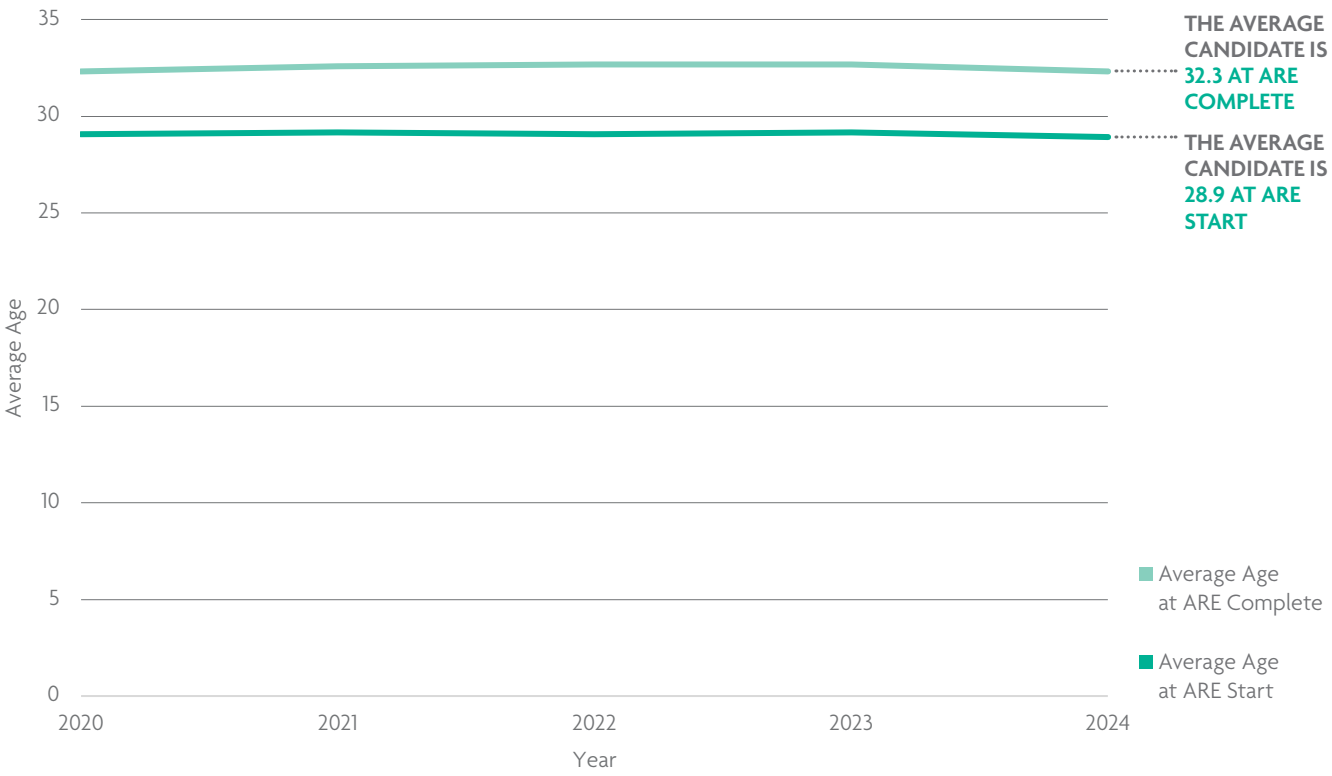
THE AVERAGE 2024 CANDIDATE FINISHED THE ARE IN **2.3 YEARS**

Candidates are slightly younger when starting—and finishing—the exam.

While the average age of candidates starting and finishing the ARE has not changed significantly over the past 5 years, it has been trending slightly downward. **The average candidate who started the ARE in 2024 was 28.9 years old, and the average candidate who finished the ARE in 2024 was 32.3 years old.** This is 4 months younger at ARE start than in 2023, and 5 months younger at ARE complete.

DID YOU KNOW?

Averages can be measured in several ways. NCARB uses **median** to measure averages throughout NBTN, which allows us to avoid skewing the average with outlier data points.



Nearly half of candidates complete the exam in less than 2 years.

In 2024, the percent of candidates who finished the exam in a below-average time frame increased by 5 percentage points: **Now, nearly 50% of candidates finish the exam in under 2 years.**

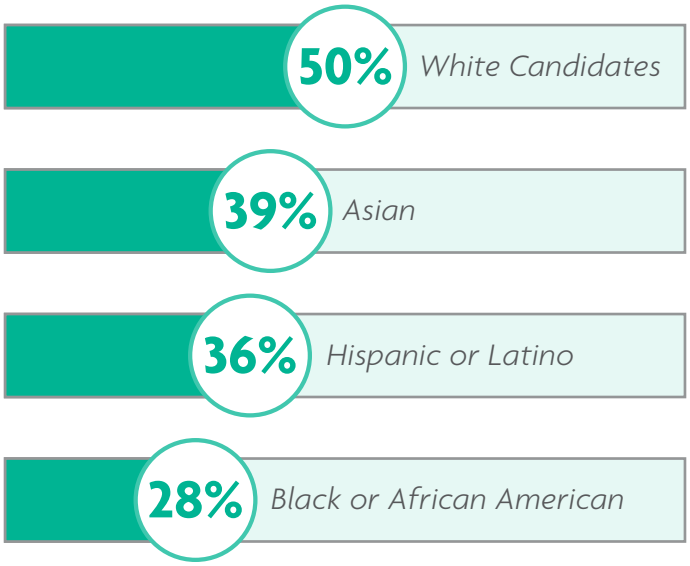
The proportion of candidates taking 4 or more years to complete the exam fell by 4%. However, more candidates may take longer to complete the ARE in the coming years as individuals impacted by the retirement of the exam's 5-year rolling clock policy return to the licensure path and finish testing.





OVER 2 IN 5
CANDIDATES COMPLETE THE EXAM IN LESS THAN 2 YEARS

Some demographic groups see a larger proportion of candidates finishing in under 2 years:



- **Men** are 4 percentage points more likely than women to complete the ARE in under 2 years
- More than half of **candidates under 30** complete the ARE in under 2 years

Candidates' exam activity continues to climb.

The number of exam divisions taken in 2024 rose to the highest number seen post-pandemic: **Candidates took over 43,000 divisions of the ARE, an increase of nearly 10% compared to 2023.** This is close to the number of divisions taken in 2019 (just prior to the COVID-19 pandemic), but still below the record high of over 56,000 divisions taken in 2017 as candidates pushed to complete the exam before the retirement of ARE 4.0.

Approximately 65% of all exams administered in 2024 were first attempts, while the remaining 35% were retakes of previously failed divisions. Over the past 5 years, first attempts have consistently made up 63%-65% of all exam attempts.



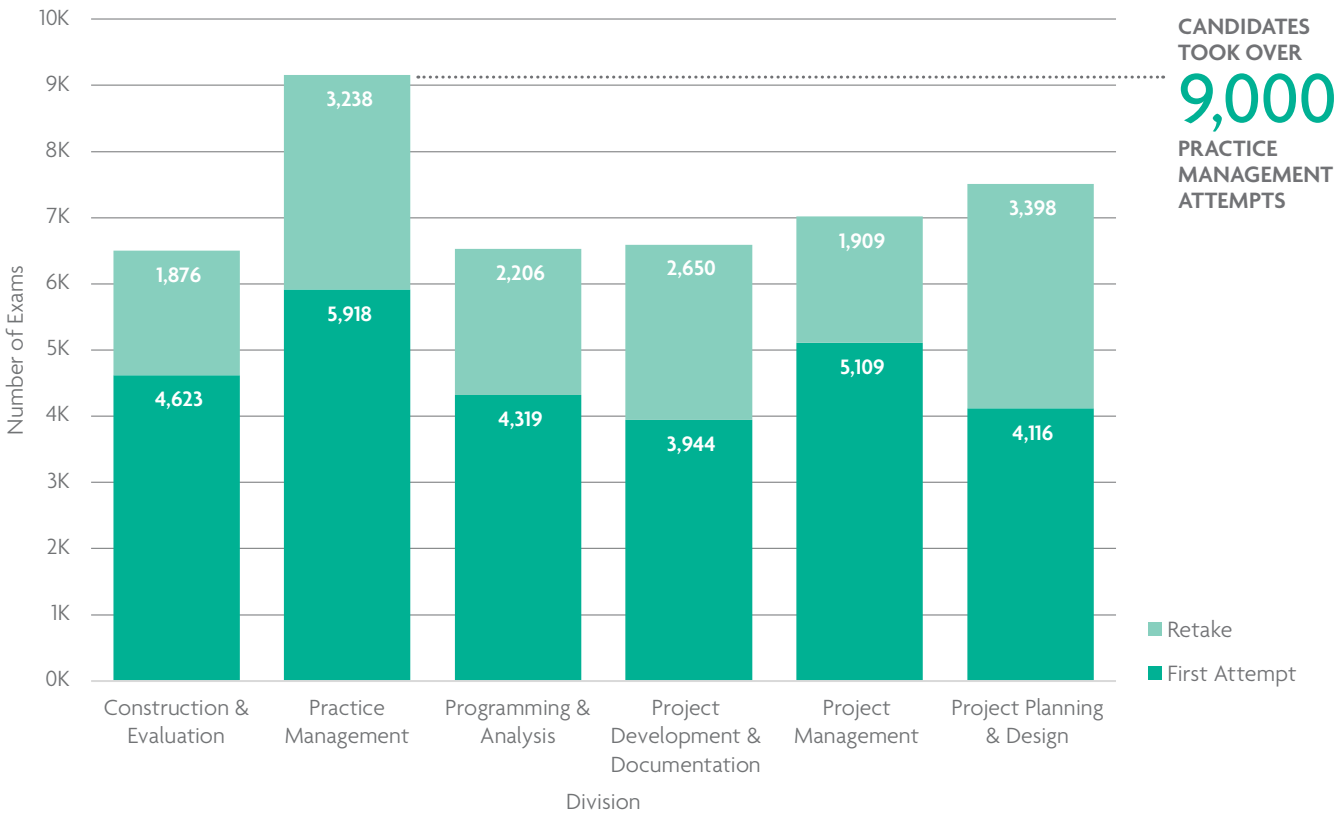
More than 20% of all exam attempts were for the Practice Management division.

Of the 43,306 ARE divisions taken in 2024, more than 9,000 were in the Practice Management division—over 21% of all exam attempts.

Though candidates can take the divisions in any order, many candidates start their exam journey with Practice Management, which is typically listed first in NCARB's materials. The next most-taken division was Project Planning & Design, which also has the highest number of retakes out of the 6 divisions.

DID YOU KNOW?

Although most candidates start with the Practice Management division, NCARB's data suggests that candidates who start with **Project Management** have higher overall pass rates.

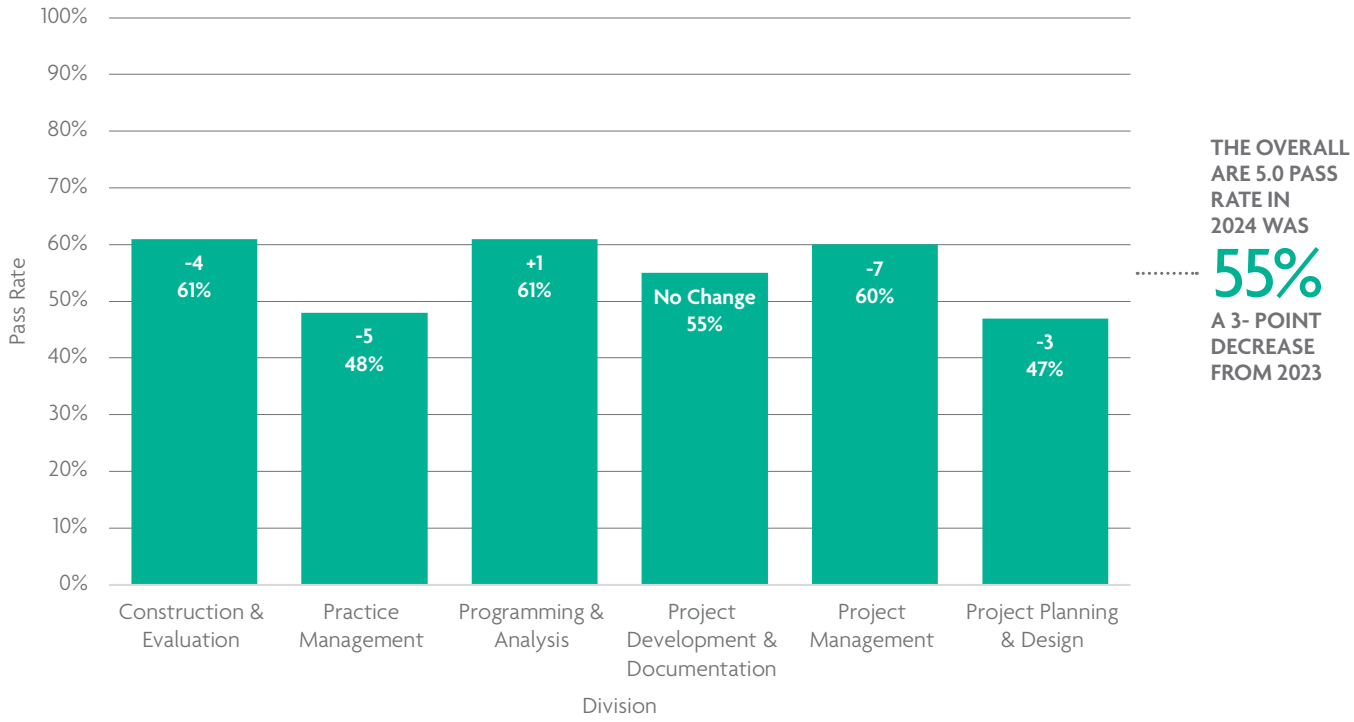


Exam pass rates fall across most ARE 5.0 divisions.

After a brief spike in 2023 to 58%, ARE 5.0 pass rates fell back to 55% in 2024. This included pass rate decreases across 4 of the 6 ARE 5.0 divisions: Construction & Evaluation, Practice Management, Project Management, and Project Planning & Design.

Pass rates for the Programming & Analysis division increased by 1 percentage point, the only division to see a pass rate increase compared to 2023. Meanwhile, pass rates for Project Development & Documentation held steady at 55%.

Over the past several years, NCARB has made several updates to the exam to align with current testing best practices and ensure greater accessibility, including expanding Americans With Disabilities Act (ADA) and English as a Second Language (ESL) accommodations, launching free practice exams, replacing the 5-year rolling clock policy, and retiring certain item types. Going forward, NCARB will continue to monitor the impact of these changes and explore opportunities for additional exam improvements.



THE OVERALL ARE 5.0 PASS RATE IN 2024 WAS

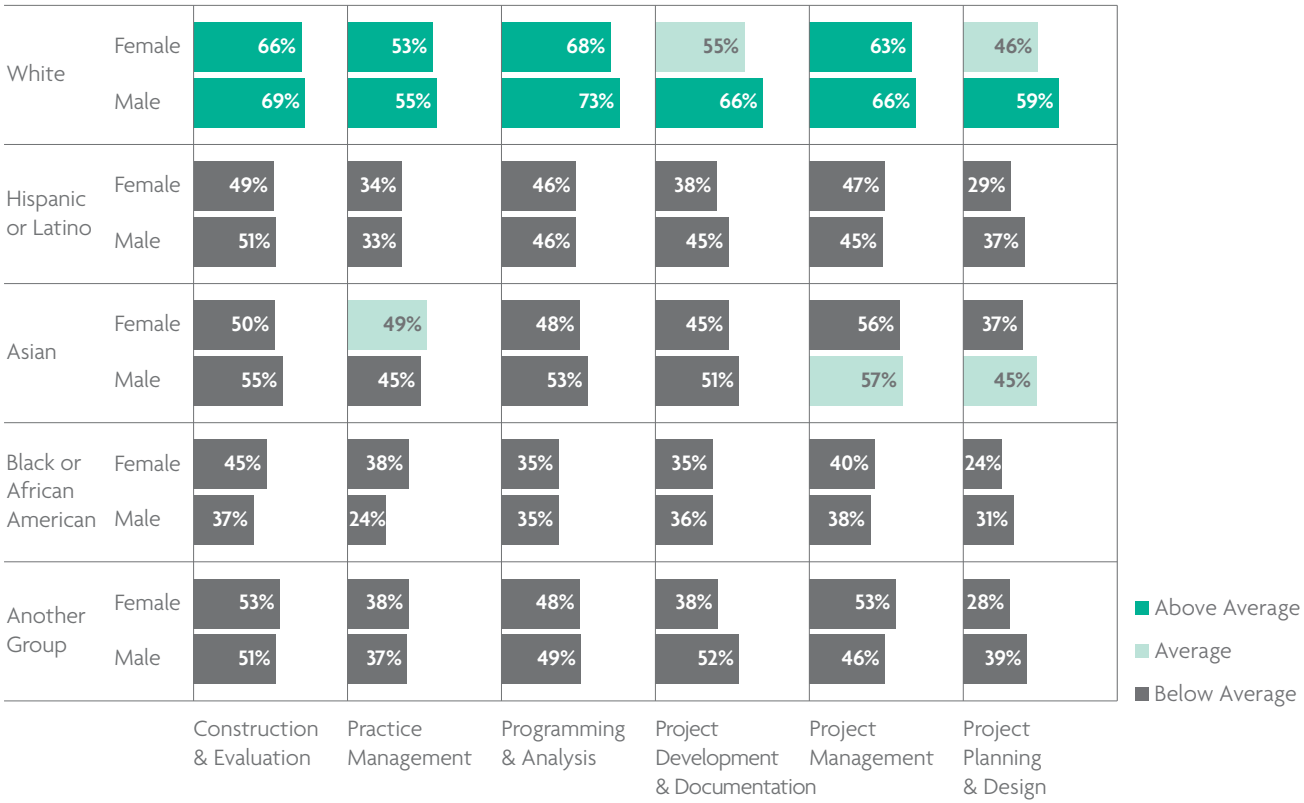
55%

A 3- POINT DECREASE FROM 2023

White men have the highest pass rate on all exam divisions.

While NCARB has implemented updates to make the exam more accessible for candidates of all backgrounds, pass rates remain higher for white candidates than for candidates of color. White men continued to have the highest pass rate on all ARE 5.0 divisions in 2024, while Black or African American men generally had the lowest.

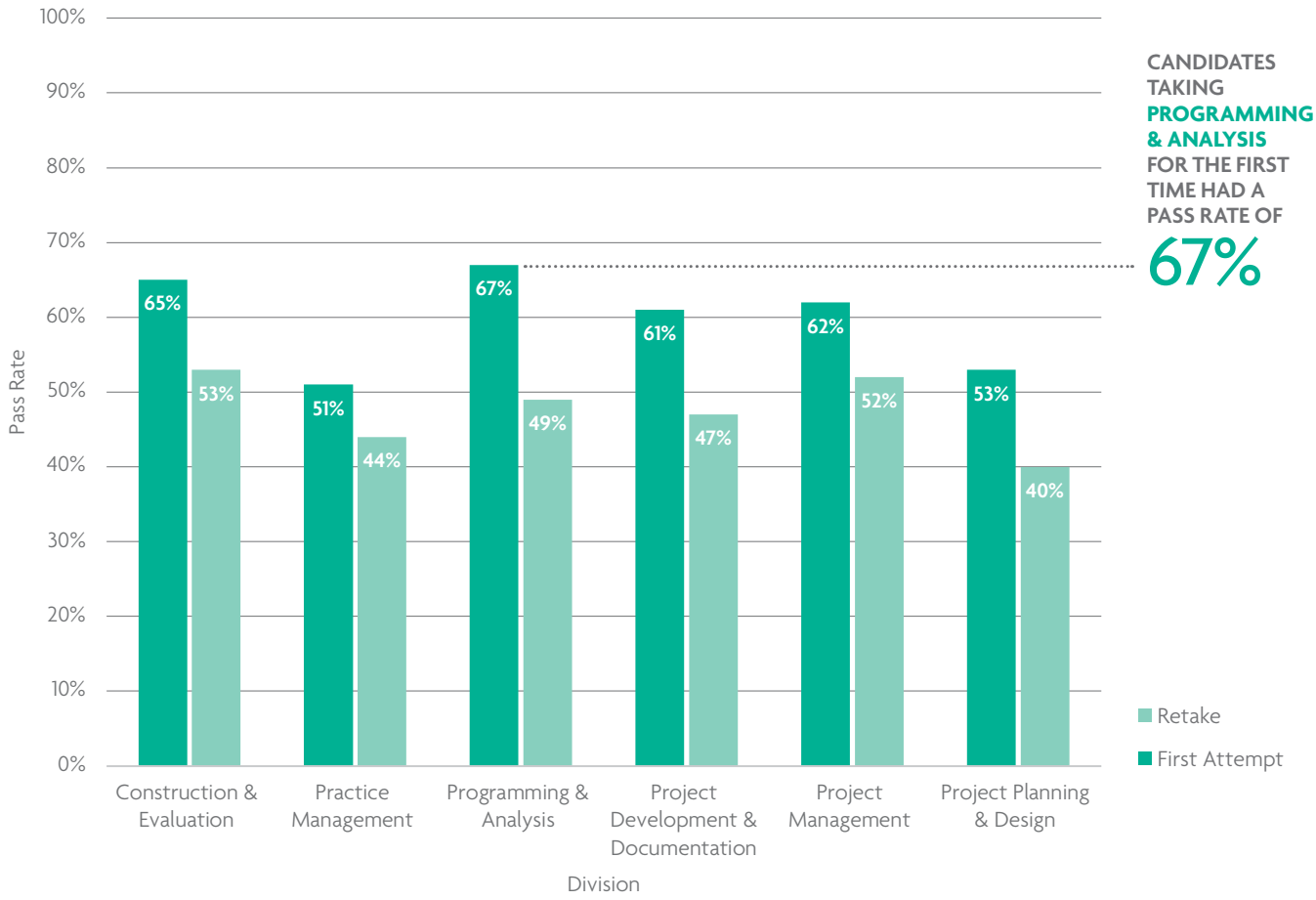
Aside from white candidates, Asian candidates are the only other race or ethnicity to score average pass rates on some (but not all) ARE divisions. Additionally, women tend to receive lower pass rates than men of the same racial or ethnic group on most ARE divisions, with the exception of Black or African American women, who typically perform better than their male peers.



Pass rates are significantly higher for first attempts.

Across all exam divisions, pass rates are higher for candidates attempting any division for the first time compared to those retaking after failing that division at least once. **At 67%, pass rates were highest for candidates attempting the Programming & Analysis division for the first time**—6 percentage points higher than the national average pass rate for that division.

Pass rates were lowest for candidates retaking the Project Planning & Design division, which saw an average pass rate of 40%—7 percentage points lower than the national average for that division.



CANDIDATES TAKING PROGRAMMING & ANALYSIS FOR THE FIRST TIME HAD A PASS RATE OF

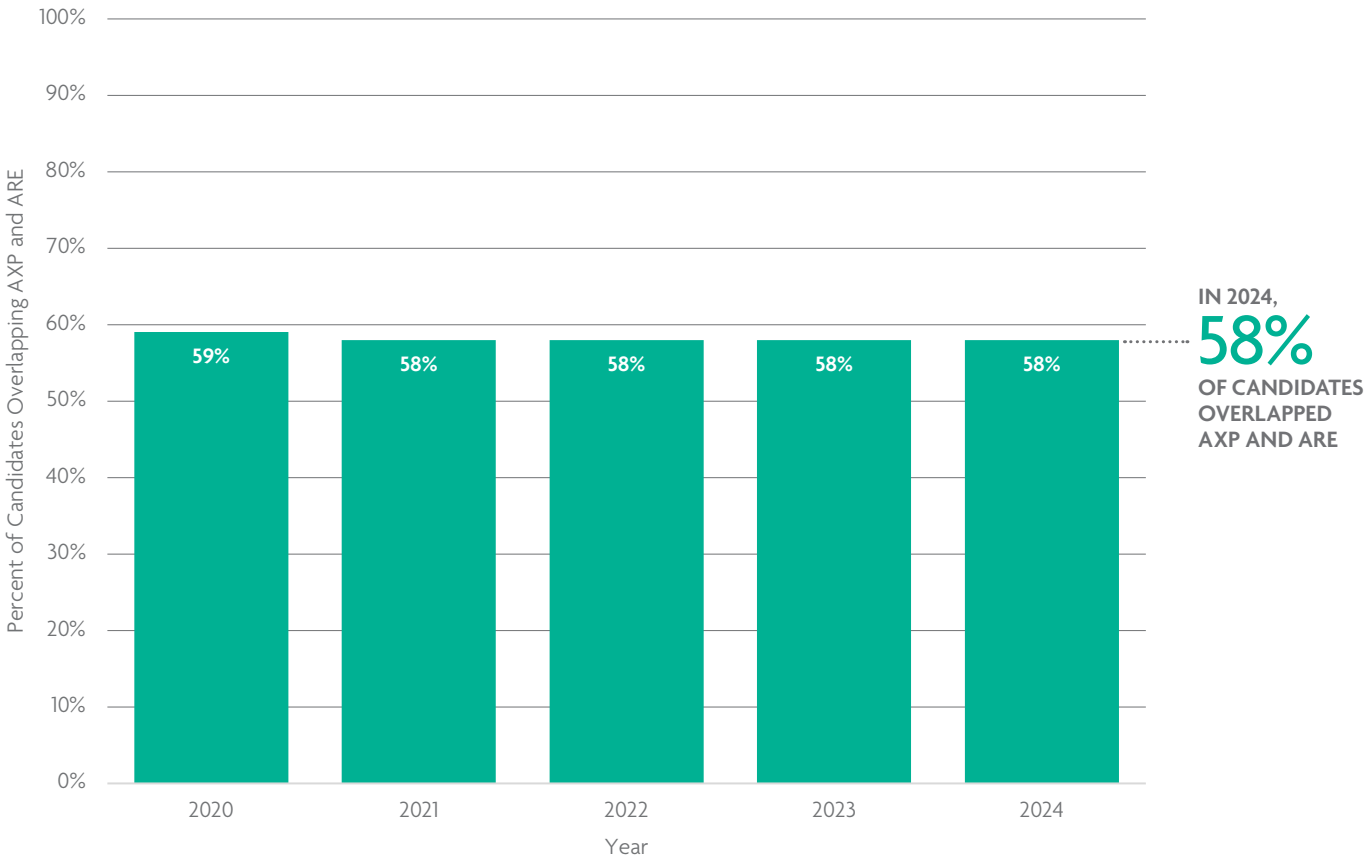
67%

The proportion of candidates overlapping the AXP and ARE holds steady.

Although AXP experience areas and ARE 5.0 divisions were intentionally designed to align with each other, less than 60% of candidates take the exam while working to complete the experience program.

In 2024, 58% of candidates took at least 1 ARE division while they were still working toward completing the AXP—roughly the same proportion seen over the last 5 years.

Note: Because candidates can backdate experience up to 5 years, AXP data can shift over time.



IN 2024,

58%

OF CANDIDATES OVERLAPPED AXP AND ARE

The best time to take an exam division is within 3 months of completing the related experience area.

Candidates preparing to take the ARE should plan to test at the time that best meets their needs—whether that's based on finances, bandwidth, preparation, or other factors. But one more element candidates might consider is AXP experience: **NCARB's data indicates that candidates perform better on the exam when they take an ARE division right before or immediately after finishing the related AXP experience area.**

What does this mean for candidates? Currently, most candidates wait a year or more after finishing an AXP area before taking its related ARE division. However, pass rates at that point are typically 10-20 percentage points lower.

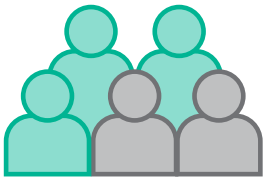
The ARE is designed to reflect day-to-day practice, so testing while related experience is fresh might help candidates connect the exam to the real world.

	National Average	Area Incomplete: Less than 33% Complete	Area Incomplete: 33%-66% Complete	Area Incomplete: 67-99% Complete	Area Complete: 0-3 Months	Area Complete: 4-12 Months	Area Complete: 1+ Year
Construction & Evaluation	61%	58%	65%	67%	67%	61%	60%
Practice Management	48%	43%	52%	58%	55%	48%	46%
Programming & Analysis	61%	52%	64%	70%	73%	63%	57%
Project Development & Documentation	55%	49%	55%	62%	71%	57%	52%
Project Management	60%	54%	60%	65%	68%	61%	58%
Project Planning & Design	47%	36%	52%	56%	65%	51%	43%

Pass Rate

- Pass Rate Below National Average
- On Par With National Average (+/- 2)
- Above National Average

Overlapping the AXP and ARE is proven to lead to higher exam performance—but less than 60% of candidates start testing before completing the experience requirement.



3 IN 5 CANDIDATES
OVERLAP THE AXP AND ARE



0-3 MONTHS

Pass rates are highest right after completing the related experience area

A YEAR OR MORE

Most candidates test a year or more after completing the related experience area

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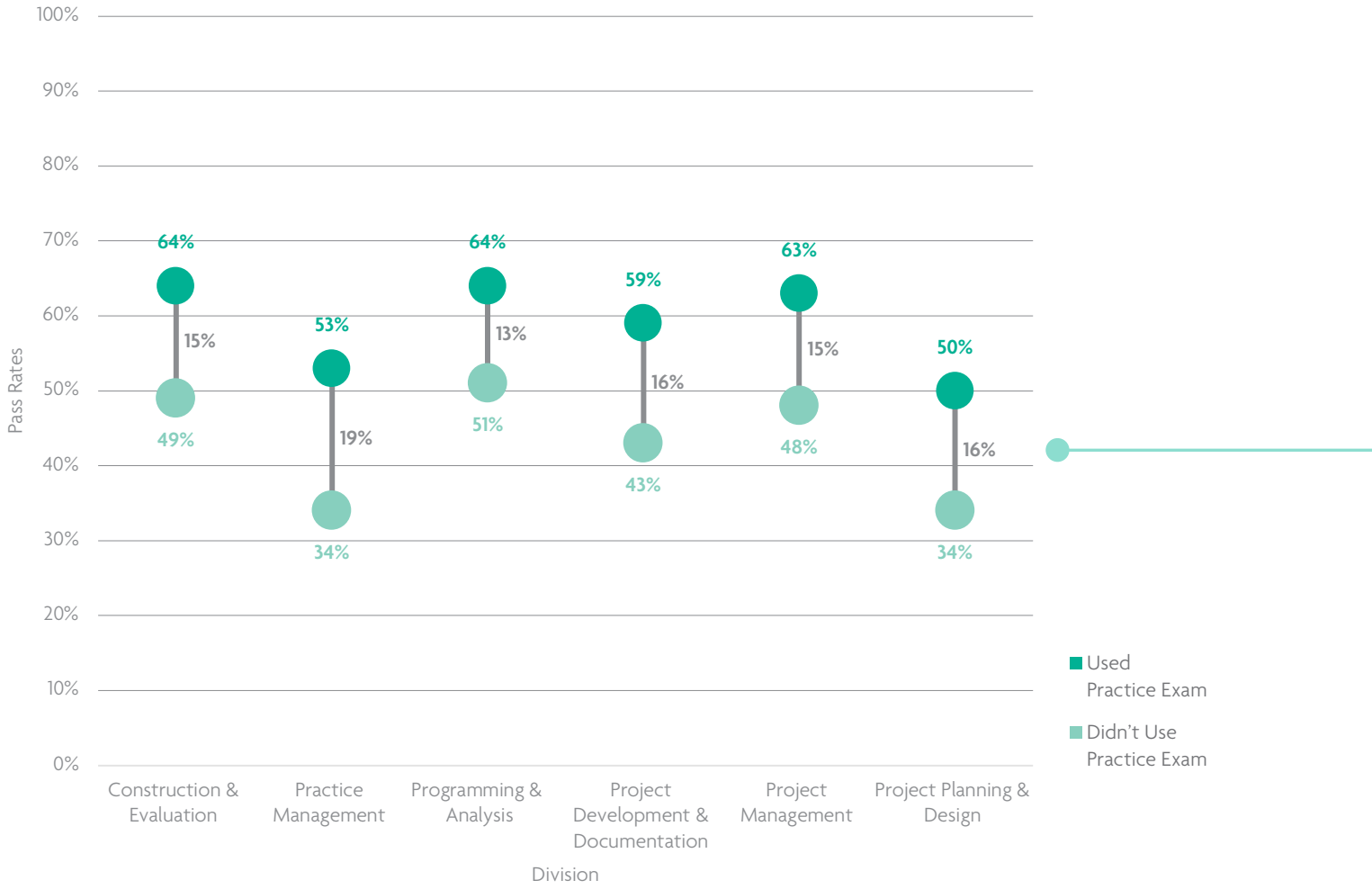
Candidates who took **Project Planning & Design within 3 months of completing the experience area** performed 18 percentage points higher than the national average

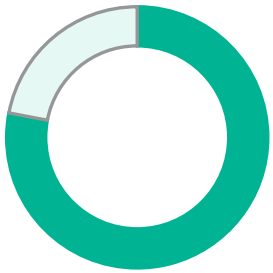


+18 POINTS

Candidates who use NCARB's practice exams perform 13-19 points better on the ARE.

Overall, candidates who take a free NCARB practice exam before attempting the related division are 16 percentage points more likely to succeed. Higher pass rates range anywhere from 13-19 percentage points, depending on the division. Performance improved most (19 percentage points) for candidates taking the Practice Management division, and least (13 percentage points) for candidates taking the Programming & Analysis division.





78% OF CANDIDATES USE NCARB'S FREE PRACTICE EXAMS BEFORE TESTING

CANDIDATES WHO TAKE AN NCARB PRACTICE EXAM BEFORE ATTEMPTING THE RELATED DIVISION ARE

16 PERCENTAGE POINTS MORE LIKELY TO PASS

- **PEOPLE OF COLOR SAW A LARGER PASS RATE IMPROVEMENT THAN WHITE CANDIDATES**
  (17 VS 15 PERCENTAGE POINTS)



***Women** are 7 percentage points more likely than men to use NCARB's practice exams*

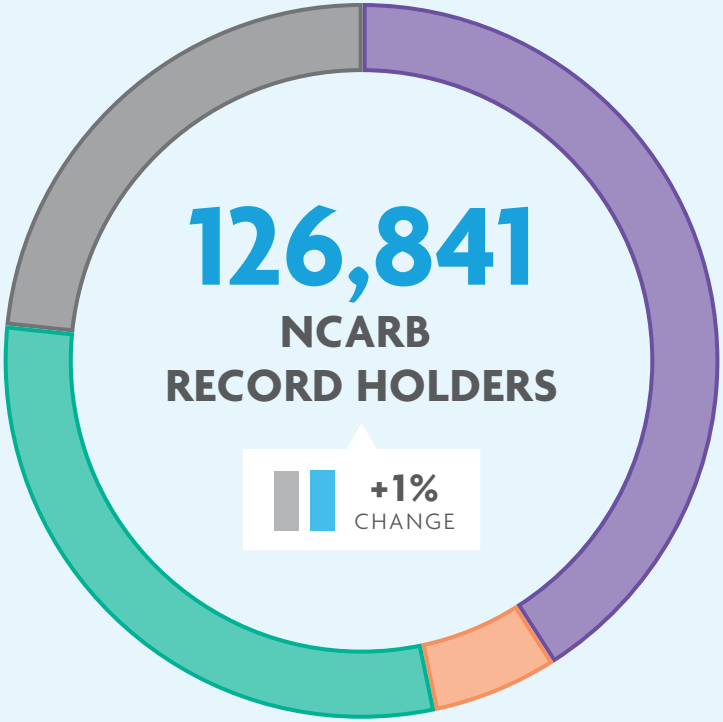


Women and men saw nearly equal pass rate improvement when using the practice exams

Inside NCARB

With 55 architectural licensing boards in the United States, NCARB works to provide board support, encourage program alignment, and assist individuals seeking licensure.

NCARB's community continued growing in 2024, with over 126,800 Record holders, more than 350 volunteers, and over 450 licensing board members. Our volunteer community—made up of architects, licensure candidates, educators, and experts from other professions—worked together across 20 committees to develop resources for licensing boards, explore challenges in the field of architecture, and more.



28,708
CANDIDATES NOT ACTIVELY PURSUING LICENSURE

51,541
NCARB CERTIFICATE HOLDERS

126,841
NCARB RECORD HOLDERS

+1% CHANGE

39,499
CANDIDATES ACTIVELY PURSUING LICENSURE

7,093
NON-CERTIFIED ARCHITECTS

9,651
NEW RECORD HOLDERS

-5% CHANGE

49%
NEW ARCHITECTS STARTED RECORD WHILE IN SCHOOL

+3% CHANGE

15,802
LICENSURE APPLICATIONS

-1% CHANGE



24% New Licenses

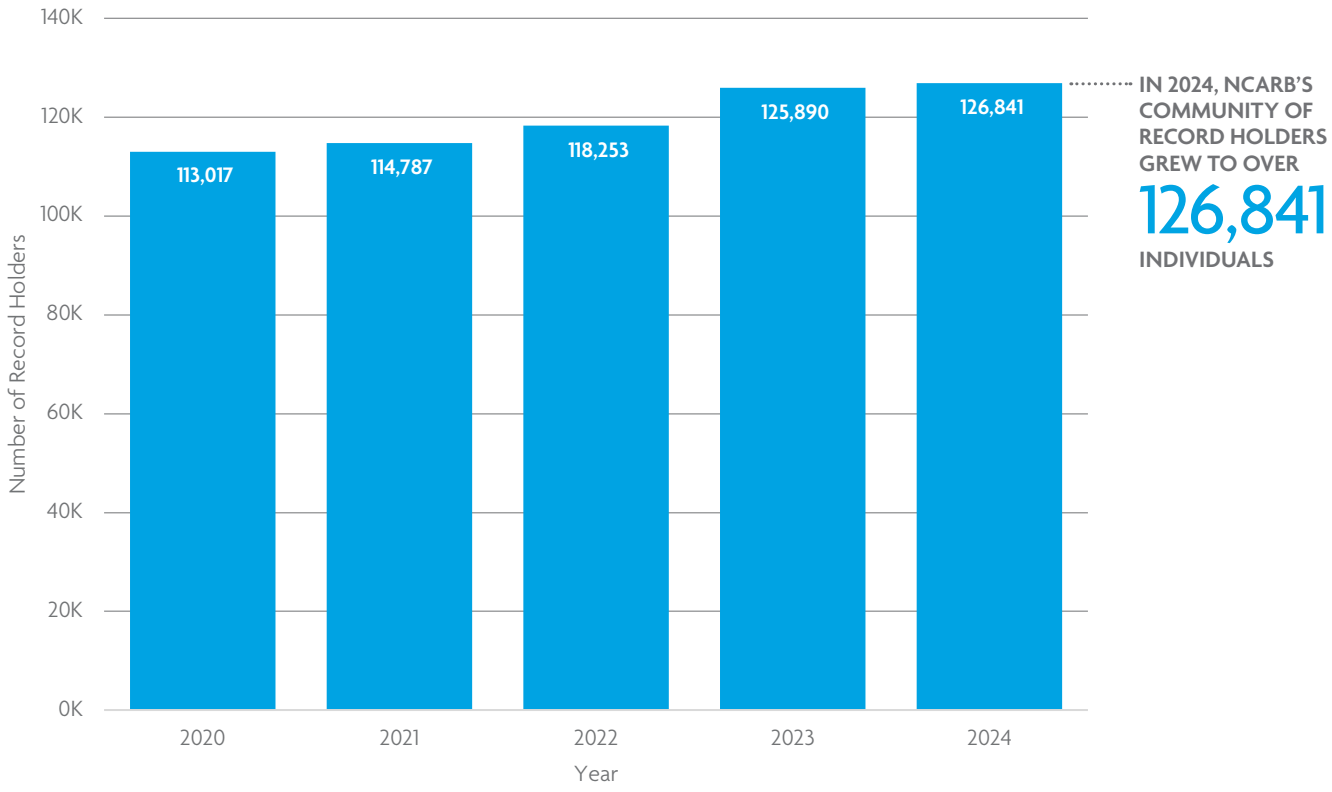
76% Reciprocal

NCARB's Record holder community continues to grow.

Over 126,800 individuals held an NCARB Record in 2024, a 1% increase compared to 2023. **NCARB's Record holder community has grown by more than 12% since 2020**, a sign that the architecture profession is recovering from the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. The increase seen in 2024 was primarily due to growth in the number of candidates actively pursuing licensure, which rose by 5%.

WHO ARE NCARB RECORD HOLDERS?

An NCARB Record holder is anyone who holds an active NCARB Record. This includes individuals from a variety of career stages, from students to emerging professionals to practicing architects.



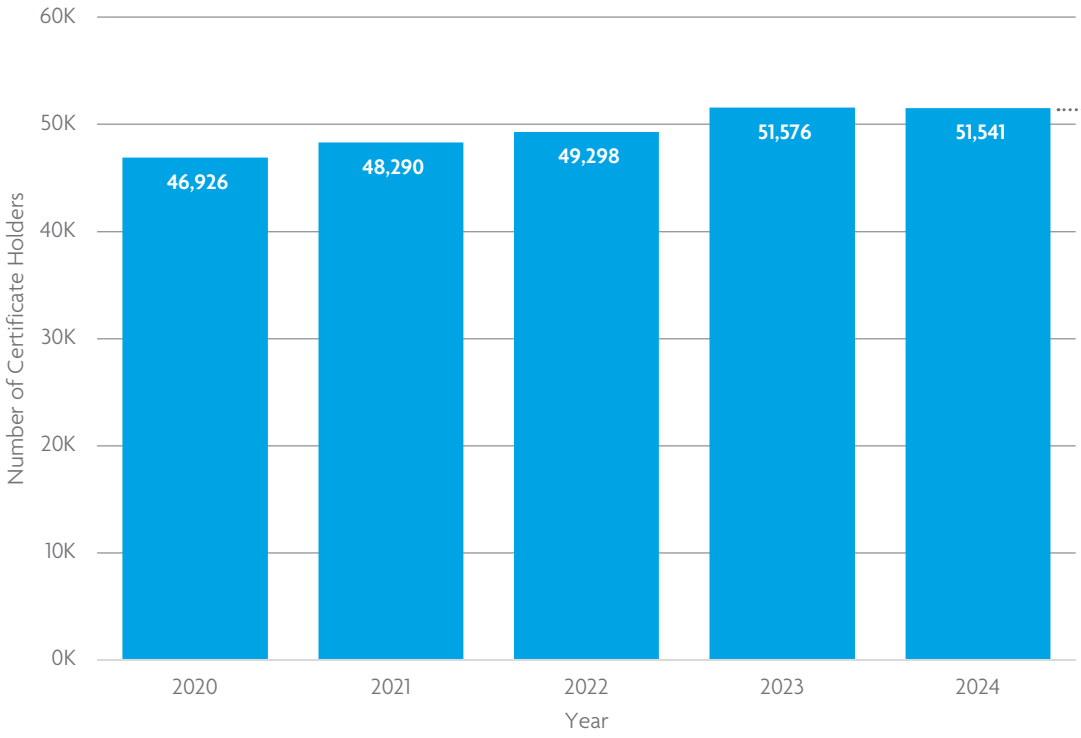
Over 51,000 architects held an NCARB Certificate in 2024.

The number of NCARB Certificate holders remained relatively unchanged in 2024, with just over 51,500 architects holding an active NCARB Certificate. This lack of growth is likely due to the overall decrease in the number of U.S. architects in 2024.

Over the past several years, NCARB has continued to enhance the value of the NCARB Certificate, regularly releasing new continuing education courses on cutting-edge topics and expanding our mutual recognition agreements (MRAs) with countries outside of the United States.

DID YOU KNOW?

The NCARB Certificate simplifies the process of earning additional licenses in U.S. jurisdictions and can also be used to support licensure in Australia, Canada, New Zealand, and the United Kingdom.

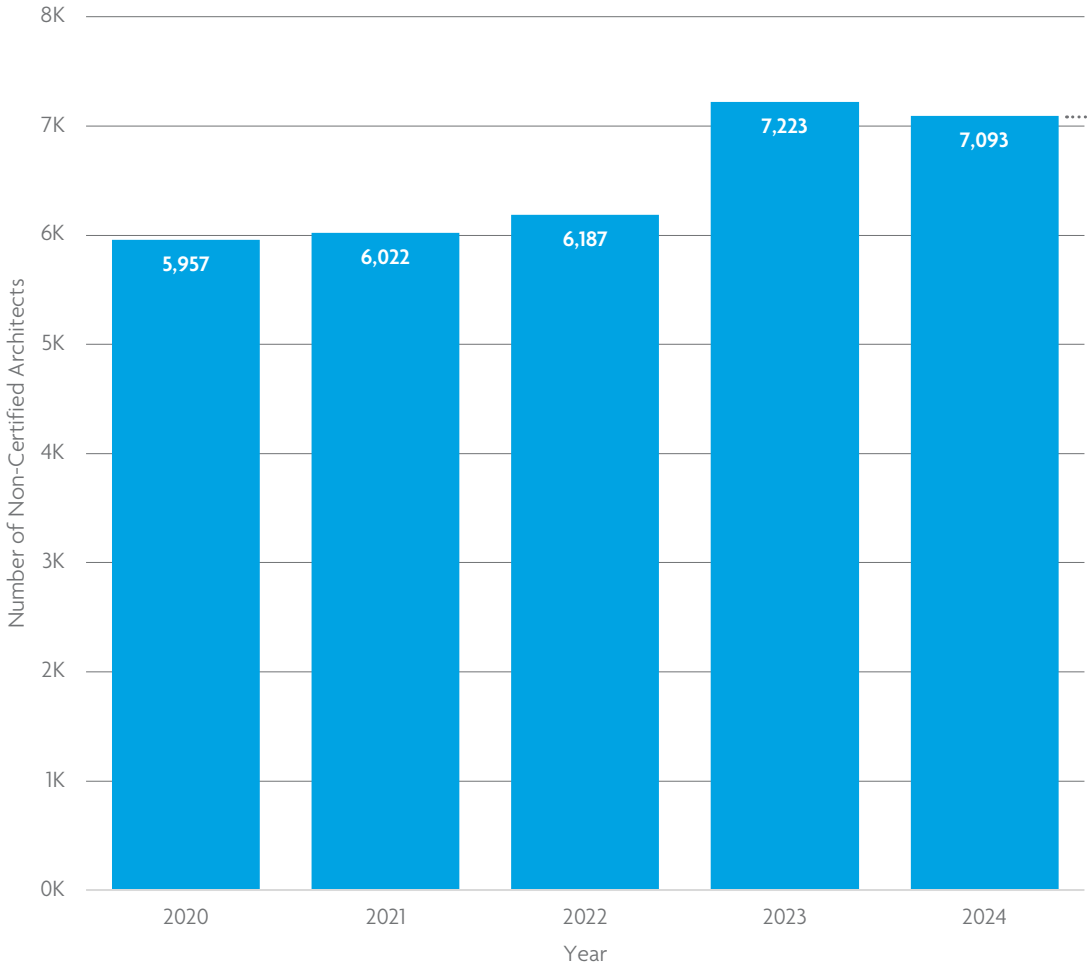


51,541

ARCHITECTS HELD AN NCARB CERTIFICATE IN 2024—ROUGHLY THE SAME NUMBER SEEN IN 2023

The number of non-certified architects fell slightly.

The number of non-certified architects with an NCARB Record fell by 2% in 2024—a slight drop following the 17% growth seen between 2022 and 2023. The sharp increase seen in 2023 was most likely a result of NCARB's amnesty campaign in the summer of 2023, which waived reactivation fees for architects with lapsed NCARB Records.



THE NUMBER OF NON-CERTIFIED ARCHITECTS WITH AN NCARB RECORD FELL BY

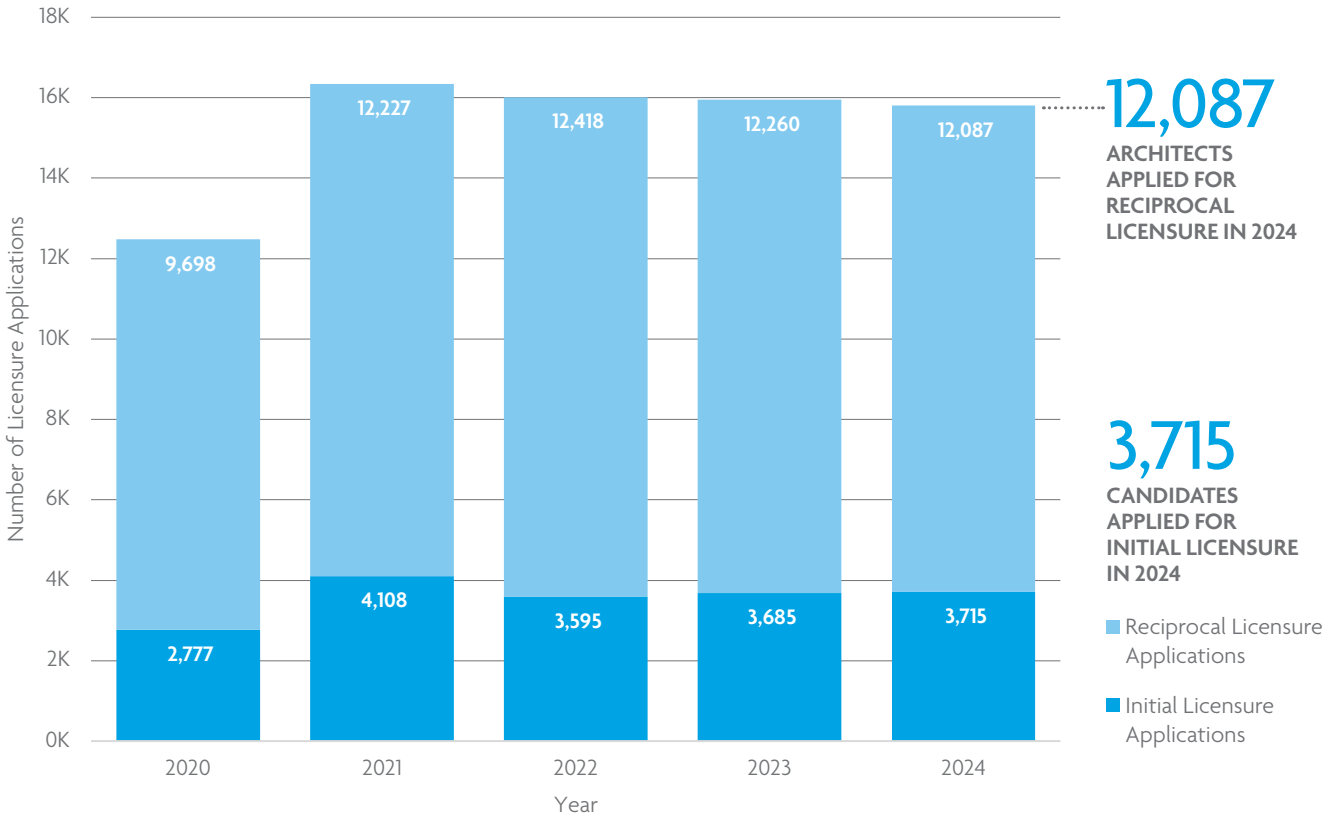
2%

IN 2024

Initial licensure applications return to pre-pandemic levels.

When candidates apply for an initial license or architects apply for a reciprocal (out-of-state) license, NCARB transmits their Records to the jurisdiction's licensing board in support of their application.

The total number of transmittals fell by less than 1% in 2024, which was caused by a slight decrease in reciprocal licensure transmittals. Of the nearly 16,000 transmittals, more than 12,000 were in support of reciprocal licensure applications—approximately 200 less than 2023. Despite this decrease in reciprocal licensure applications, NCARB's member licensing boards reported an overall increase in the number of out-of-state licensees, likely a result of some architects applying directly to their state licensing board.

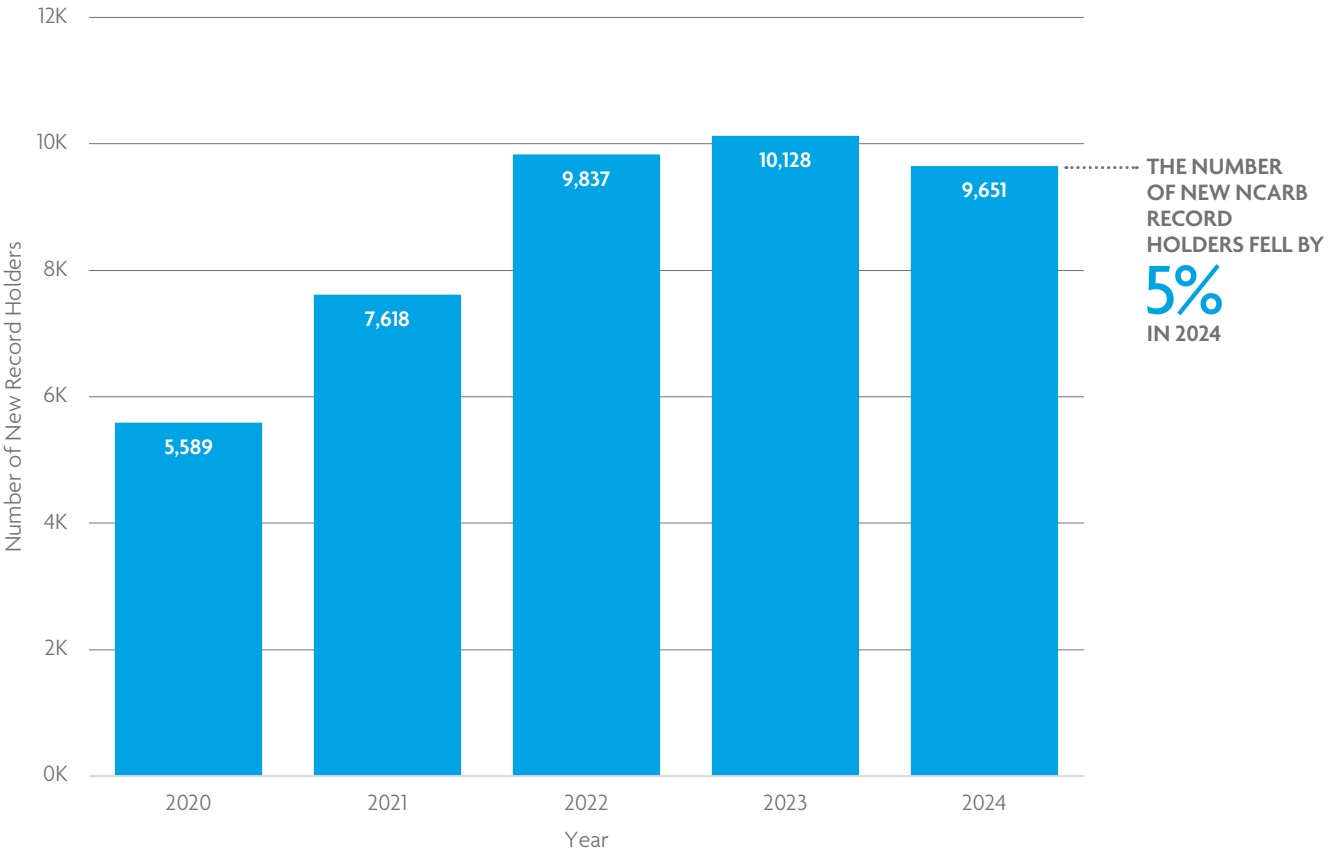


The number of new Record holders returns to normal.

After a spike in 2023, the number of new Record holders fell by 5% in 2024. **Still, more than 9,600 candidates opened an NCARB Record in 2024**—higher than the roughly 8,500 new Records per year seen just before the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic. This year's decrease is likely a sign that the rush of new Record creations seen after the pandemic is beginning to fade as the licensure pipeline returns to a new level of normal.

DID YOU KNOW?

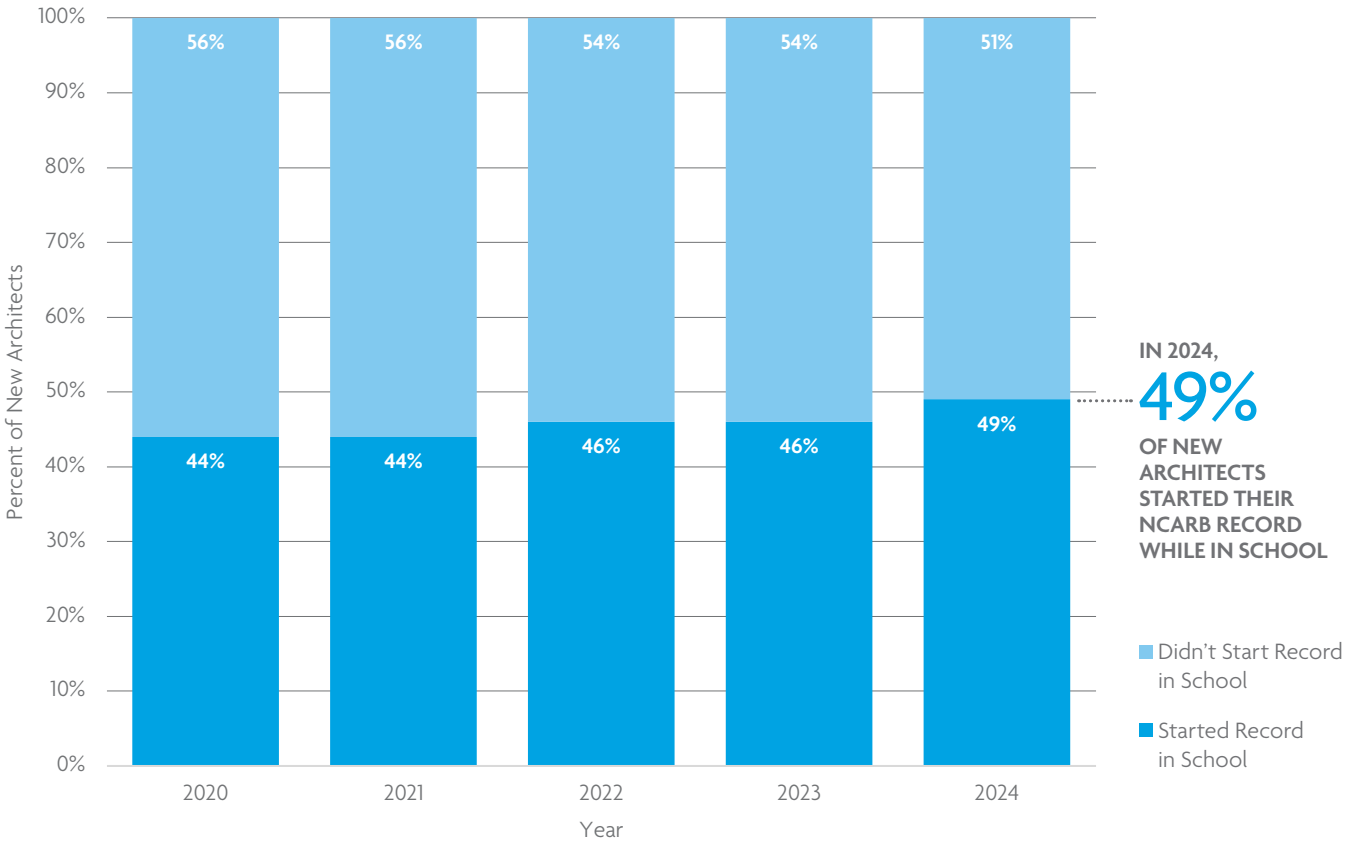
NCARB considers creating an NCARB Record the first step on the path to licensure.



The proportion of architects starting an NCARB Record in school is on the rise.

Nearly half of all new architects licensed in 2024 started their NCARB Record while in school, the highest proportion seen in recent years. The remaining 51% waited to start their NCARB Record until after graduating college—a common choice for those who don't have significant AXP experience to report while in school.

Because NCARB considers starting a Record the first step to earning an architecture license, an increase in the proportion of new architects starting their Record earlier could signal that more candidates are starting the path to licensure earlier in life.



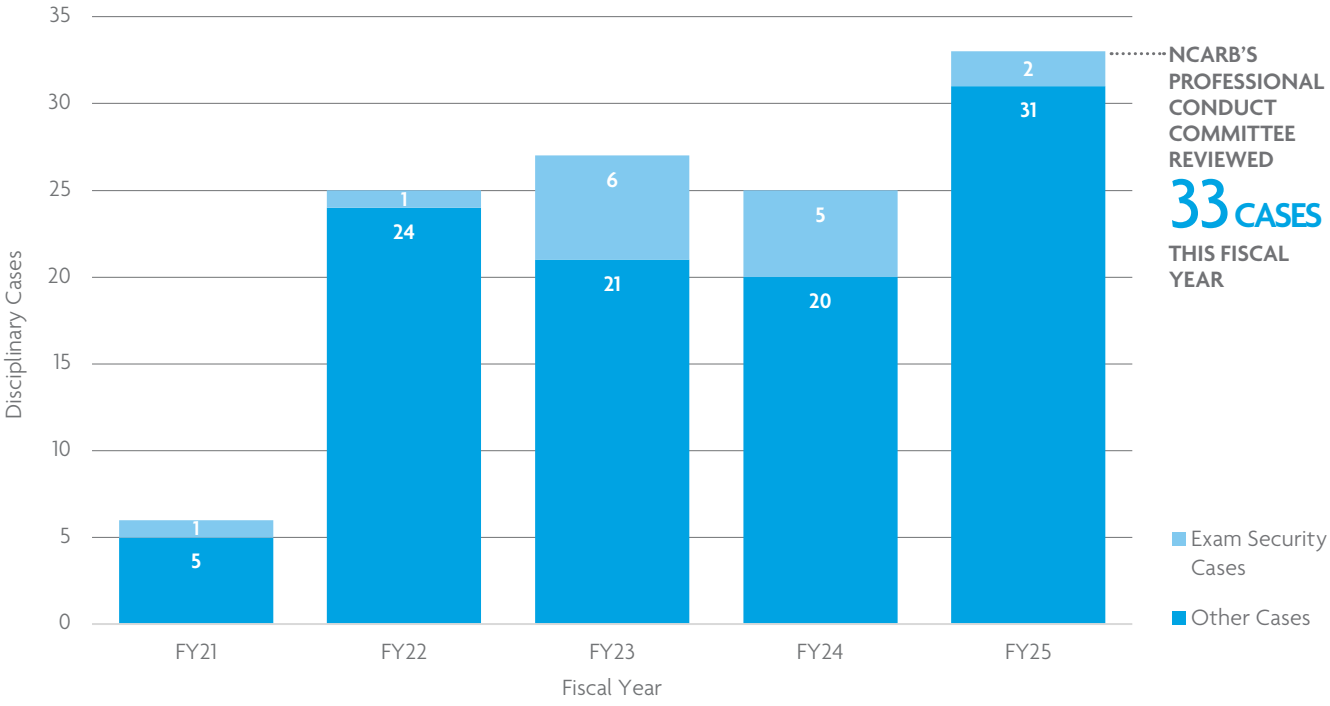
NCARB's Professional Conduct Committee reviews and recommends disciplinary action.

NCARB's Professional Conduct Committee is responsible for overseeing NCARB's policies and practices regarding the professional conduct of NCARB's Record holders and customers. Each year, the committee reviews any cases where an individual may have violated NCARB's professional conduct standards.

Typically, these cases involve reviewing findings from or actions taken by a jurisdictional licensing board, but they can also involve the violation of NCARB's ARE Candidate Agreement.

In FY25 (July 2024 – June 2025), NCARB's Professional Conduct Committee reviewed 33 cases, including 2 cases related to breaches of the exam's content or security.

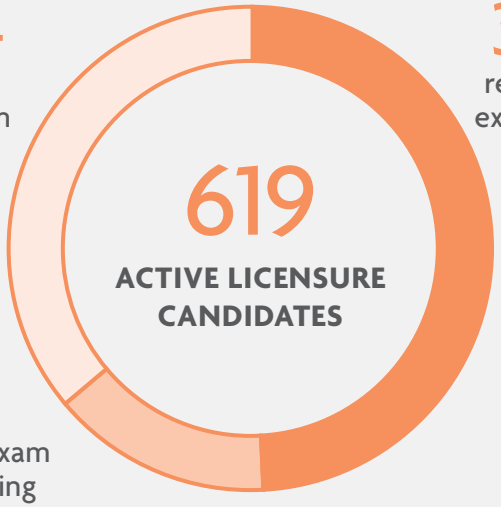
Note: The drop in cases in FY21 was due to a temporary pause on case review while the committee updated its policies and procedures.



Jurisdictions

The following section includes baseline comparisons for NCARB's 55 Member Boards, which include all 50 states, the District of Columbia, Guam, the Northern Mariana Islands, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands. Each page includes a 2024 snapshot of the jurisdiction's licensure candidate activity, exam pass rate, number of architects, and reciprocity data.

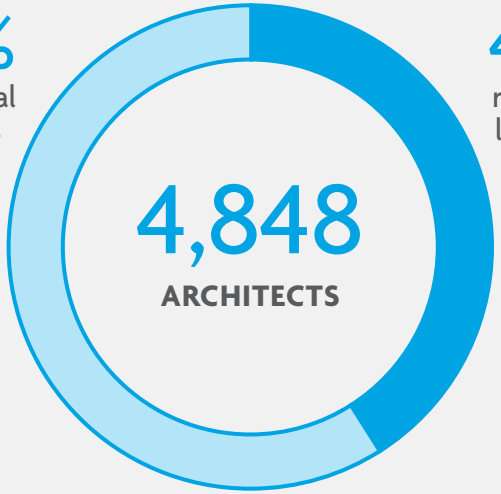
ON AVERAGE, EACH JURISDICTION IN 2024 HAD:



69

CANDIDATES WHO FINISHED THE PATH TO LICENSURE

55%
exam pass rate

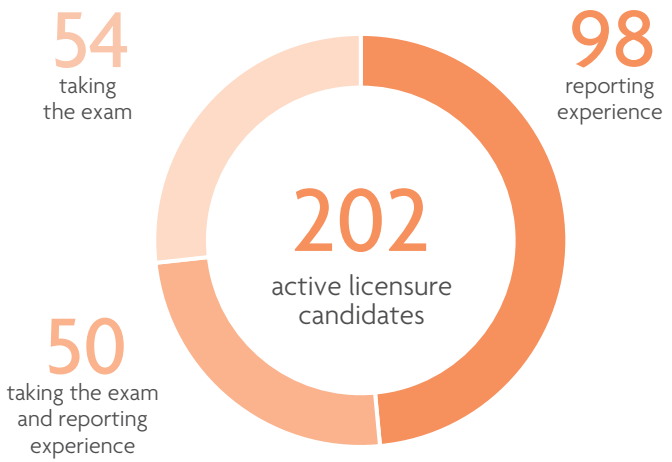


937

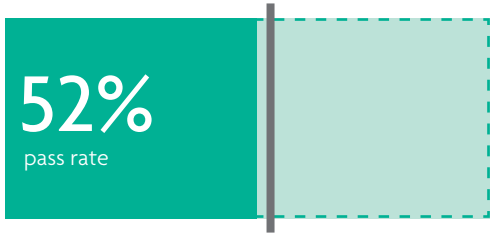
NCARB CERTIFICATE HOLDERS

Alabama

PATH TO LICENSURE

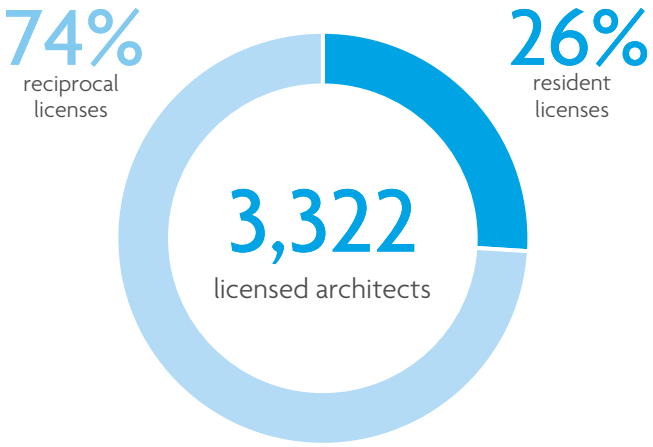


19
candidates finished the path to licensure



-3% compared to the national average

LICENSED ARCHITECTS



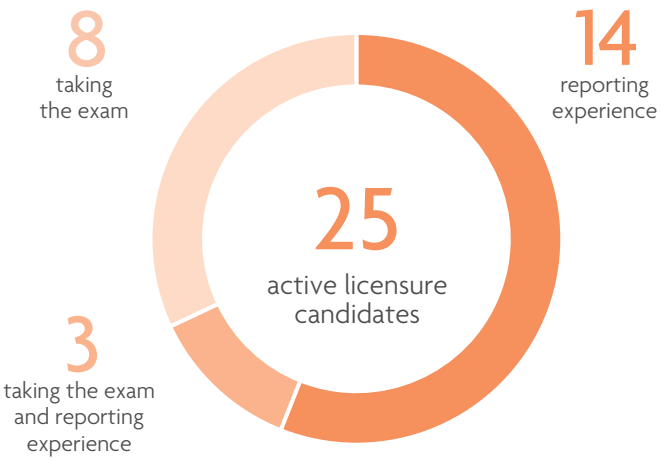
541
NCARB Certificate holders

Architects in Alabama are most frequently also licensed in:

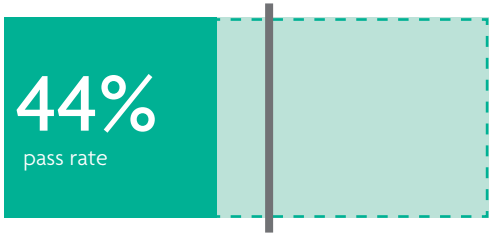
- Georgia
- Florida
- Tennessee

Alaska

PATH TO LICENSURE

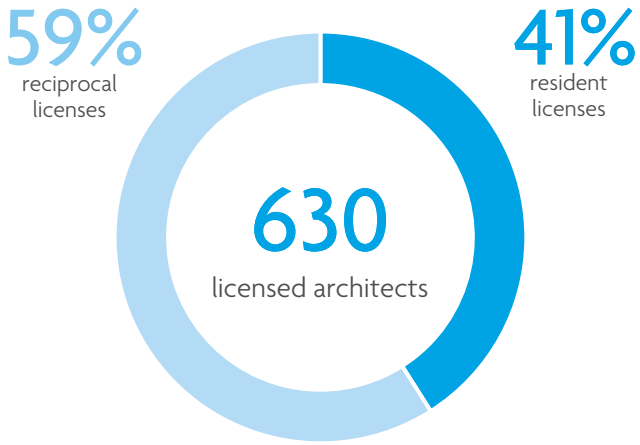


2
candidates finished the path to licensure



-11% compared to the national average

LICENSED ARCHITECTS



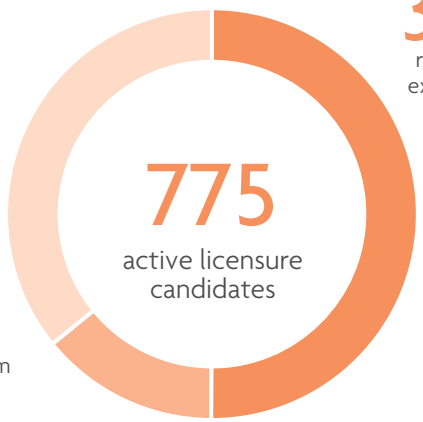
115
NCARB Certificate holders

Architects in Alaska are most frequently also licensed in:

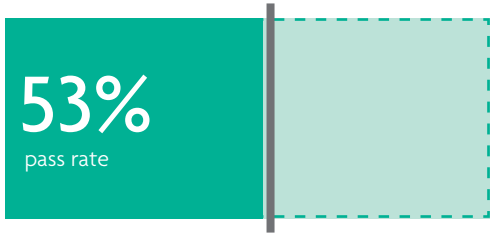
- Washington
- California
- Oregon

Arizona

PATH TO LICENSURE

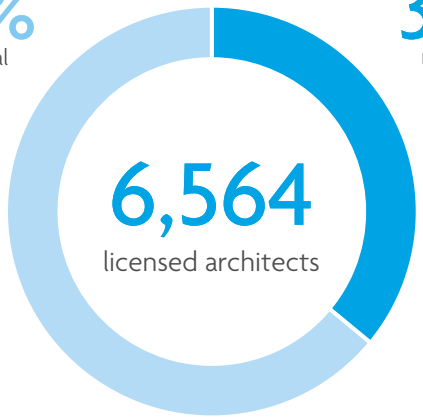


84
candidates finished the path to licensure



-2% compared to the national average

LICENSED ARCHITECTS



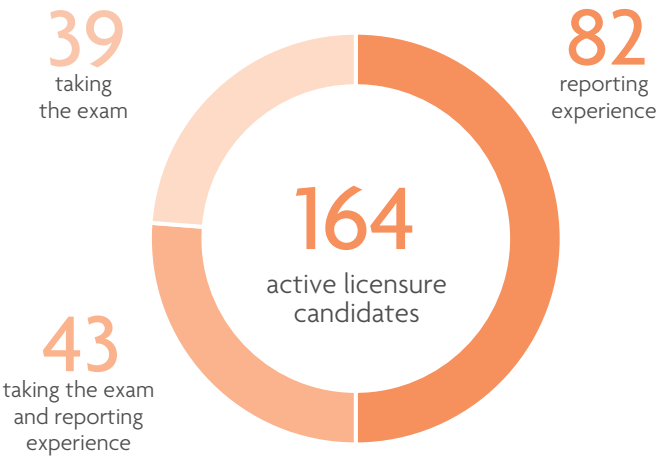
816
NCARB Certificate holders

Architects in Arizona are most frequently also licensed in:

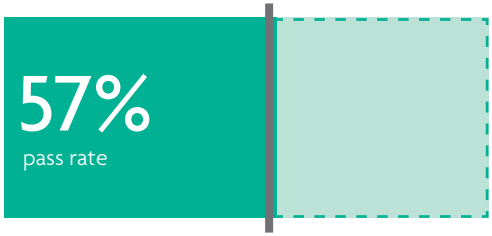
- California
- Texas
- Colorado

Arkansas

PATH TO LICENSURE

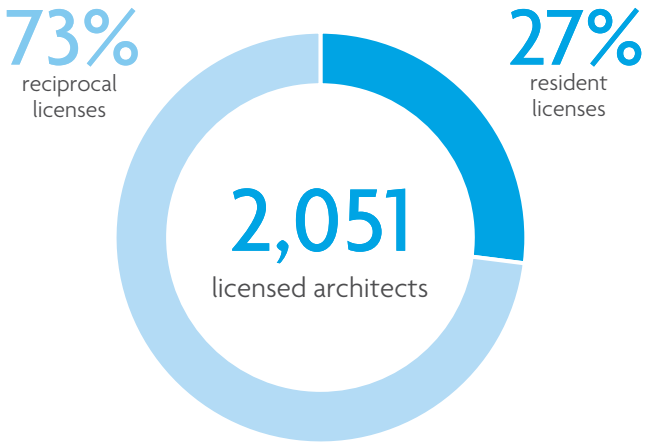


19
candidates finished the path to licensure



+2% compared to the national average

LICENSED ARCHITECTS



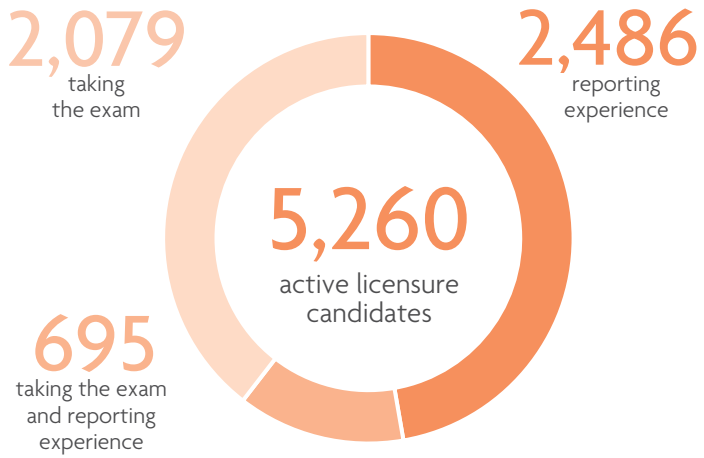
348
NCARB Certificate holders

Architects in Arkansas are most frequently also licensed in:

- Texas
- Missouri
- Tennessee

California

PATH TO LICENSURE

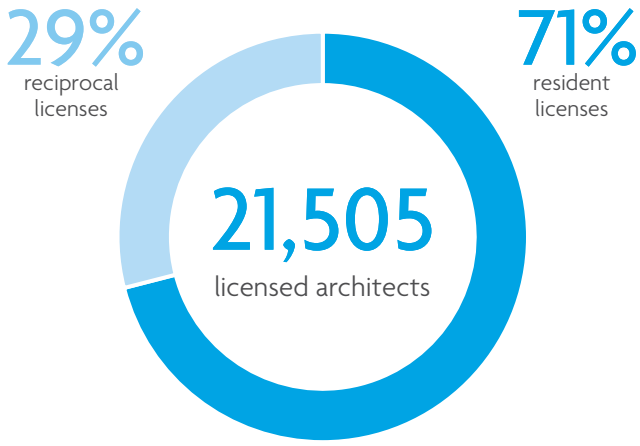


541
candidates finished the path to licensure



-4% compared to the national average

LICENSED ARCHITECTS



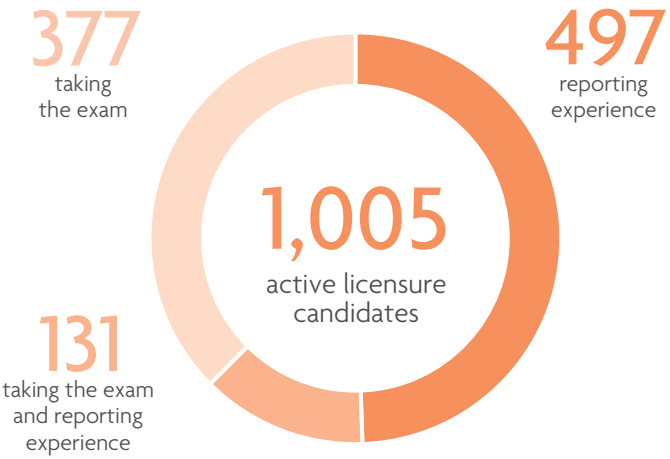
4,616
NCARB Certificate holders

Architects in California are most frequently also licensed in:

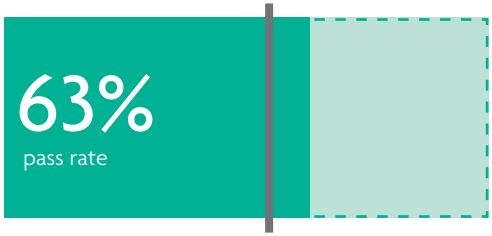
- Texas
- Nevada
- New York

Colorado

PATH TO LICENSURE

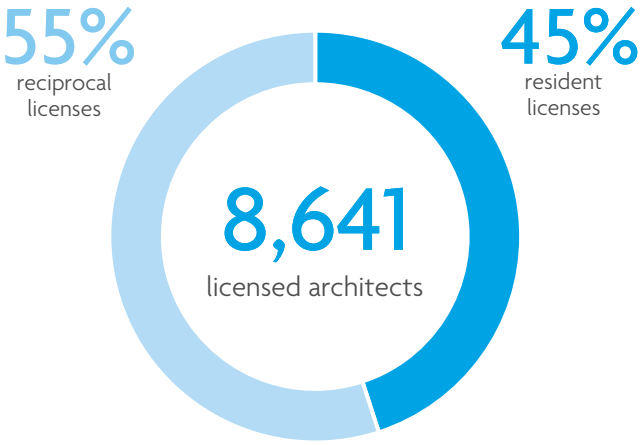


147
candidates finished the path to licensure



+8% compared to the national average

LICENSED ARCHITECTS



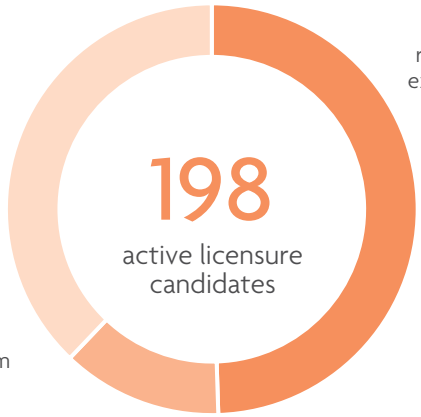
1,628
NCARB Certificate holders

Architects in Colorado are most frequently also licensed in:

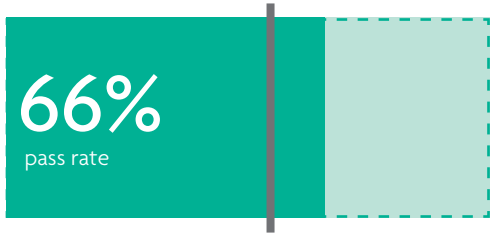
- Texas
- California
- Arizona

Connecticut

PATH TO LICENSURE

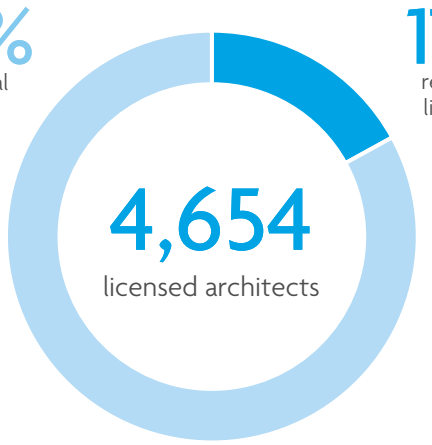


29
candidates finished the path to licensure



+11% compared to the national average

LICENSED ARCHITECTS



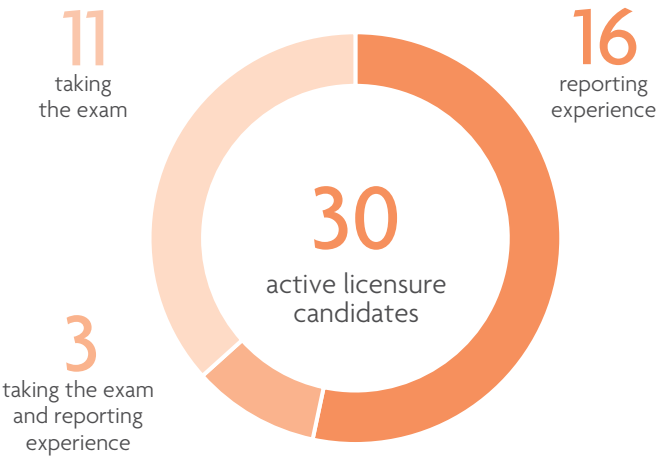
686
NCARB Certificate holders

Architects in Connecticut are most frequently also licensed in:

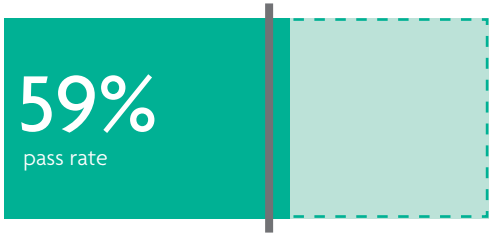
- New York
- Massachusetts
- New Jersey

Delaware

PATH TO LICENSURE

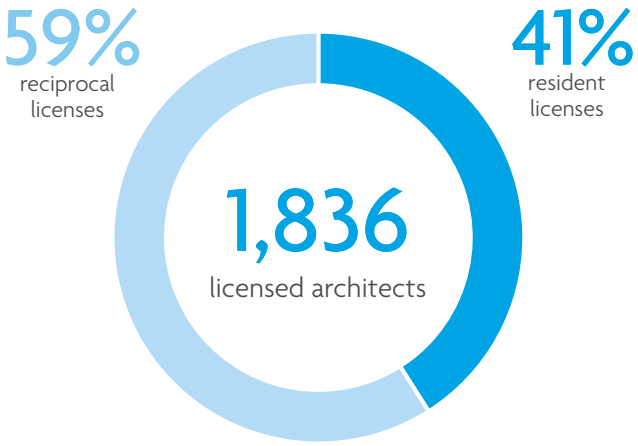


4
candidates finished the path to licensure



+4% compared to the national average

LICENSED ARCHITECTS



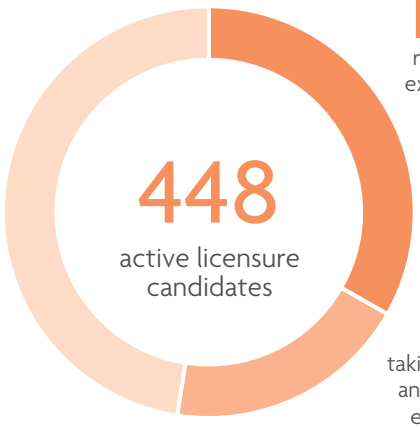
88
NCARB Certificate holders

Architects in Delaware are most frequently also licensed in:

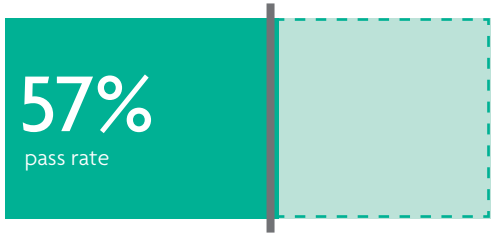
- Pennsylvania
- Maryland
- New Jersey

District of Columbia

PATH TO LICENSURE

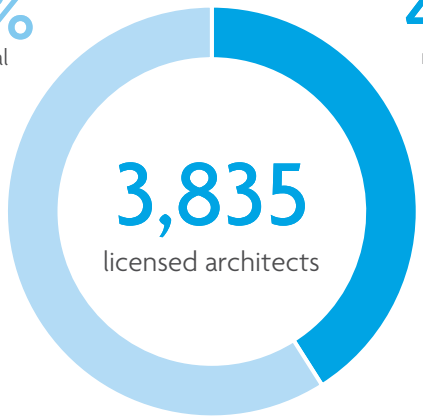


66
candidates finished the path to licensure



+2% compared to the national average

LICENSED ARCHITECTS



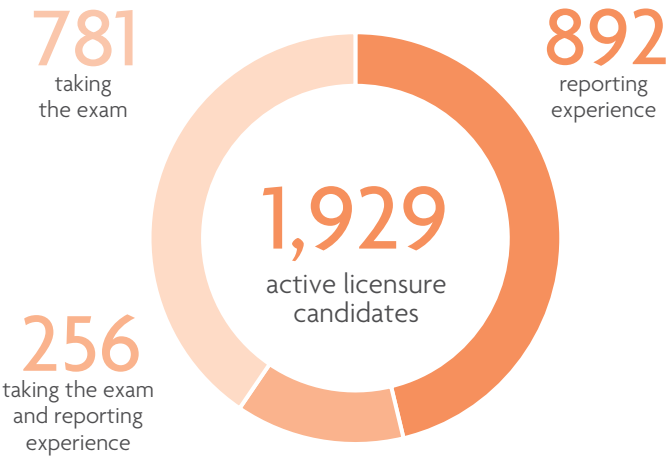
495
NCARB Certificate holders

Architects in the District of Columbia are most frequently also licensed in:

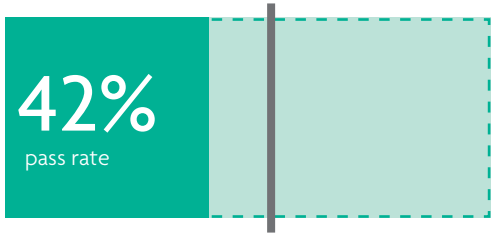
- Maryland
- Virginia
- New York

Florida

PATH TO LICENSURE

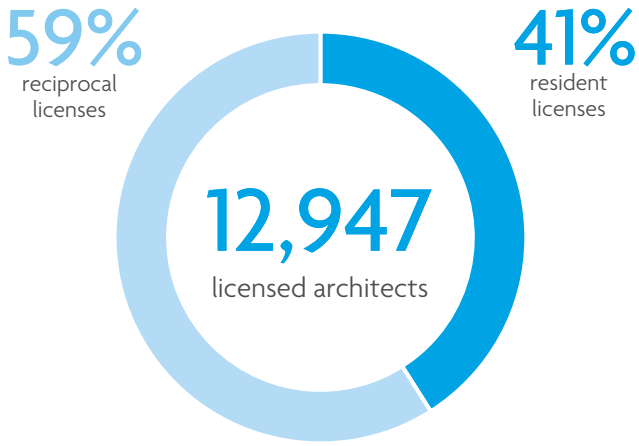


133
candidates finished the path to licensure



-13% compared to the national average

LICENSED ARCHITECTS



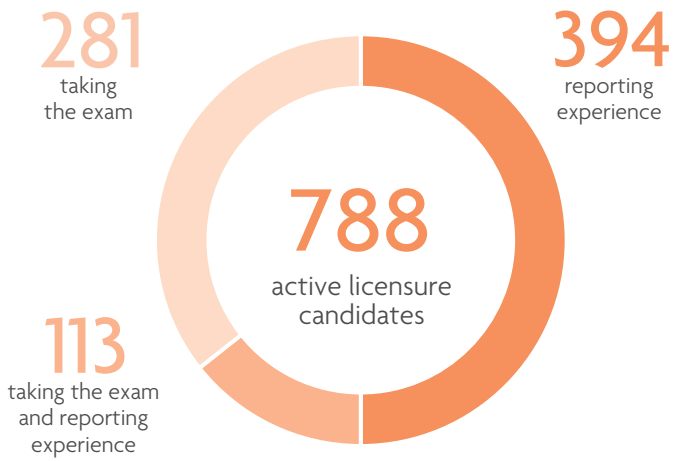
3,009
NCARB Certificate holders

Architects in Florida are most frequently also licensed in:

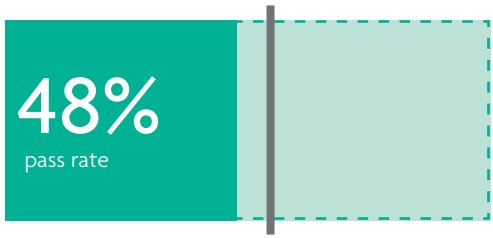
- Georgia
- New York
- Texas

Georgia

PATH TO LICENSURE

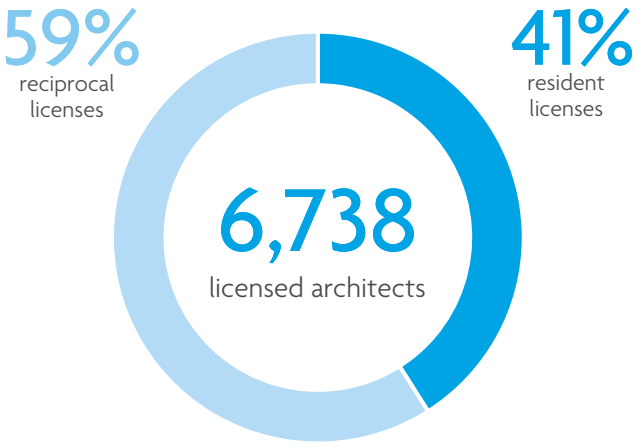


70
candidates finished the path to licensure



-7% compared to the national average

LICENSED ARCHITECTS



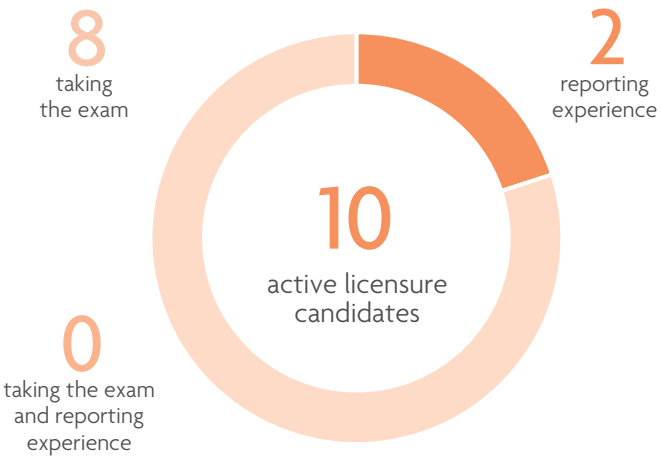
1,637
NCARB Certificate holders

Architects in Georgia are most frequently also licensed in:

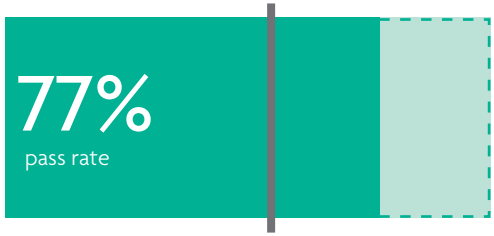
- Florida
- North Carolina
- South Carolina

Guam

PATH TO LICENSURE

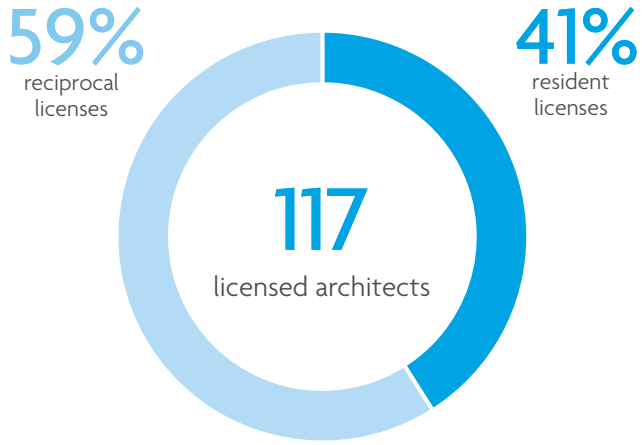


2
candidates finished the path to licensure



+22% compared to the national average

LICENSED ARCHITECTS



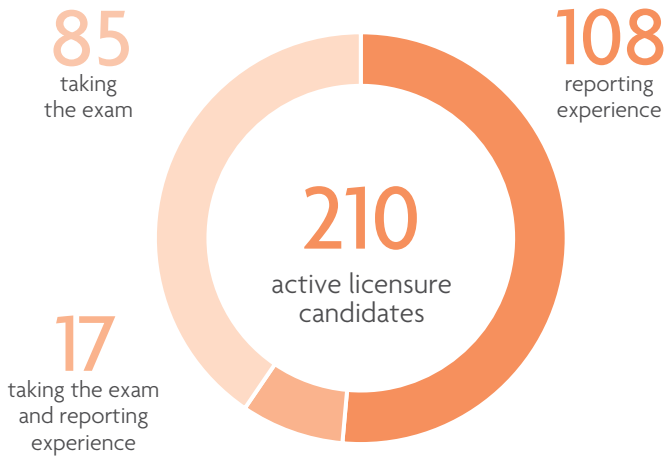
12
NCARB Certificate holders

Architects in Guam are most frequently also licensed in:

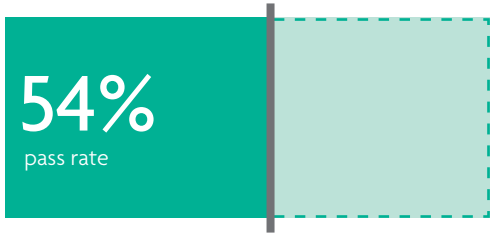
- California
- Hawaii
- Illinois

Hawaii

PATH TO LICENSURE

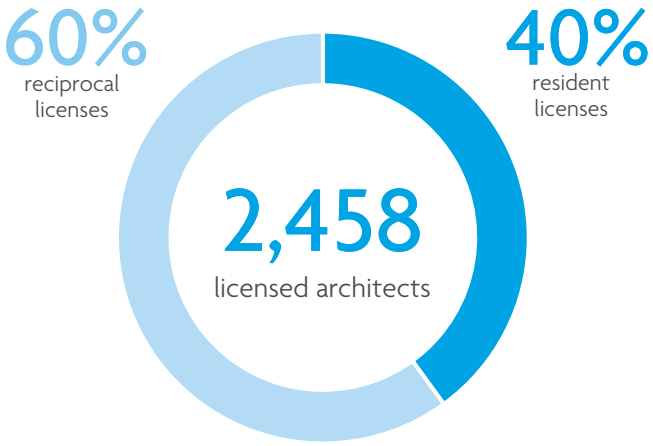


22
candidates finished the path to licensure



-1% compared to the national average

LICENSED ARCHITECTS



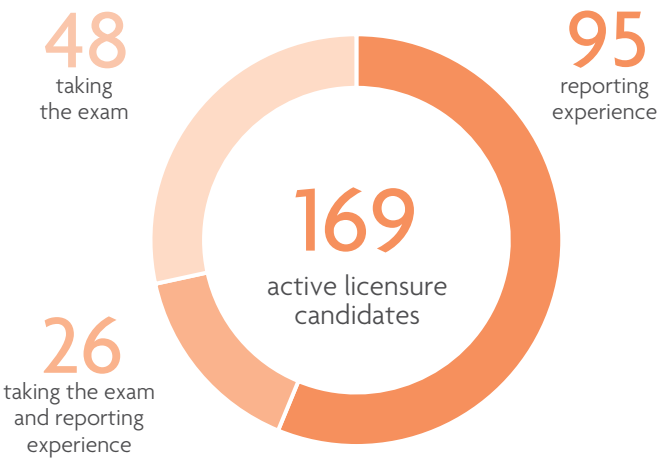
170
NCARB Certificate holders

Architects in Hawaii are most frequently also licensed in:

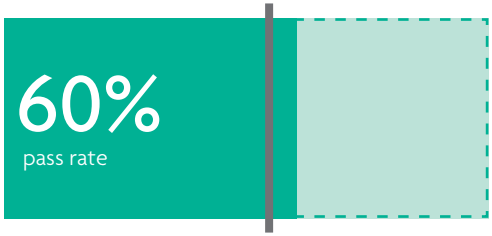
- California
- Washington
- Texas

Idaho

PATH TO LICENSURE

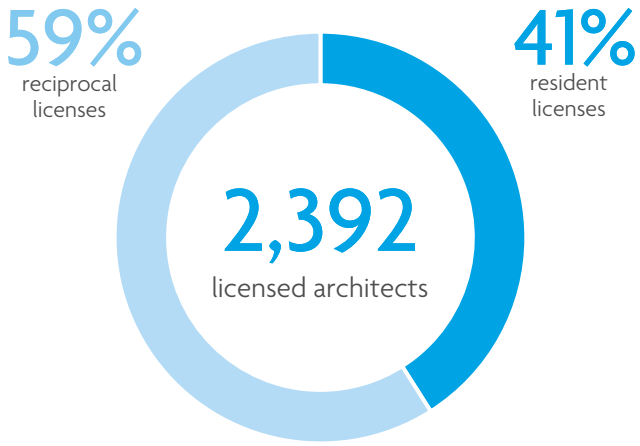


22
candidates finished the path to licensure



+5% compared to the national average

LICENSED ARCHITECTS



314
NCARB Certificate holders

Architects in Idaho are most frequently also licensed in:

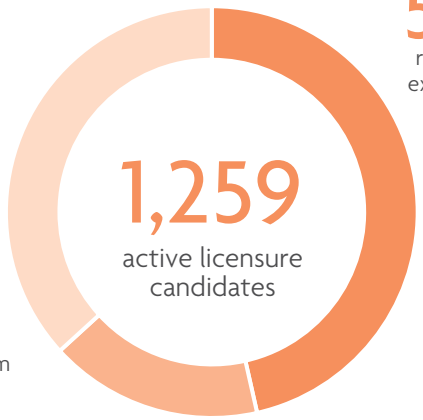
- Washington
- California
- Utah

Illinois

PATH TO LICENSURE

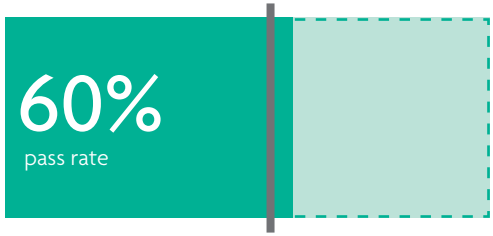
463
taking the exam

585
reporting experience



211
taking the exam and reporting experience

168
candidates finished the path to licensure

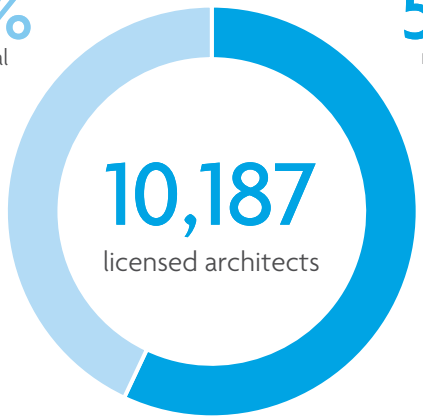


+5% compared to the national average

LICENSED ARCHITECTS

43%
reciprocal licenses

57%
resident licenses



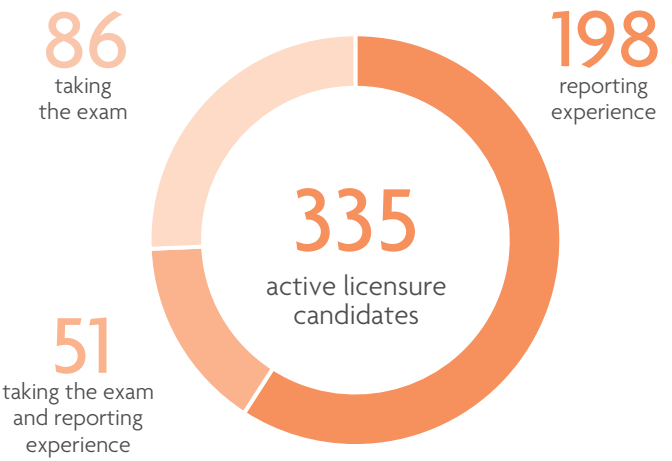
2,333
NCARB Certificate holders

Architects in Illinois are most frequently also licensed in:

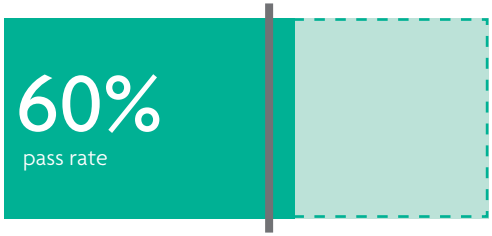
- Wisconsin
- Michigan
- Indiana

Indiana

PATH TO LICENSURE

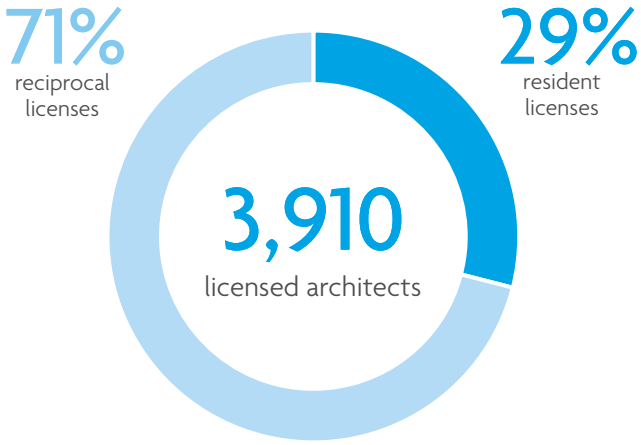


36
candidates finished the path to licensure



+5% compared to the national average

LICENSED ARCHITECTS



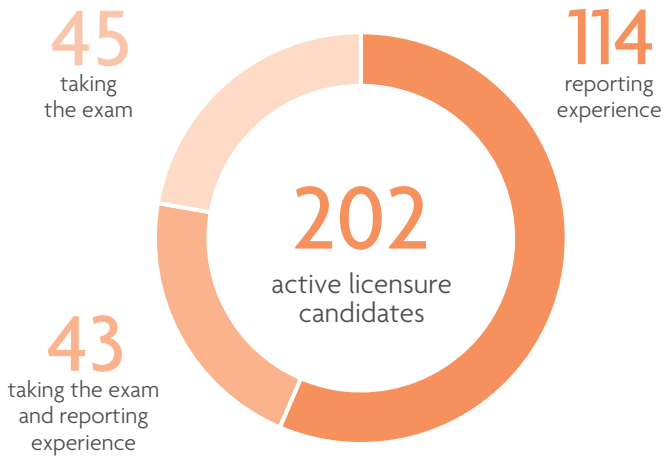
637
NCARB Certificate holders

Architects in Indiana are most frequently also licensed in:

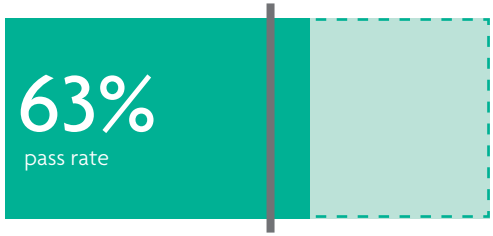
- Illinois
- Ohio
- Michigan

Iowa

PATH TO LICENSURE

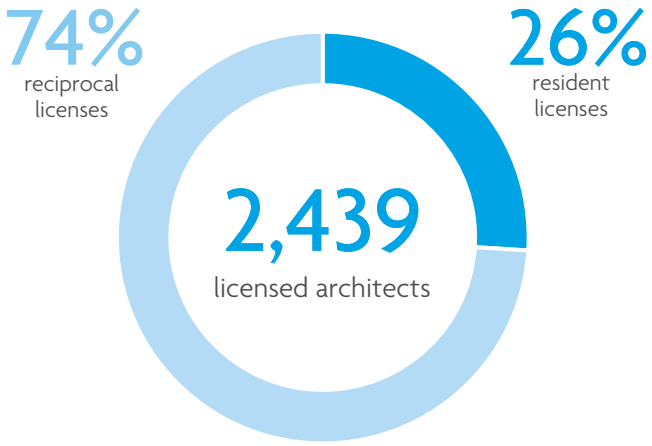


21
candidates finished the path to licensure



+8% compared to the national average

LICENSED ARCHITECTS



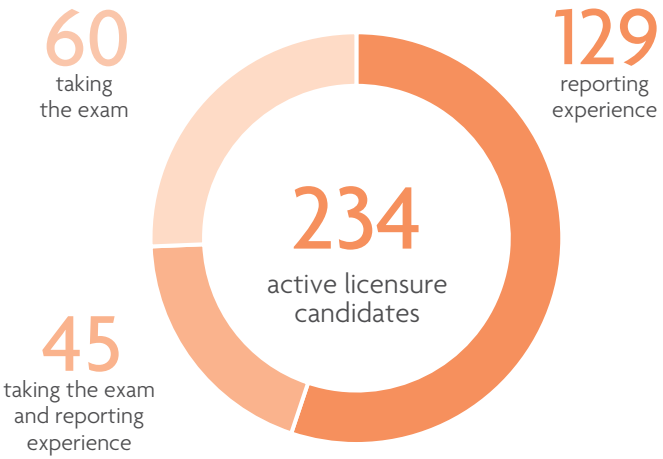
395
NCARB Certificate holders

Architects in Iowa are most frequently also licensed in:

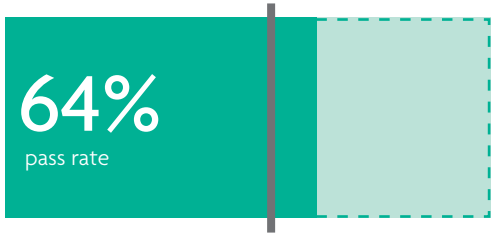
- Illinois
- Minnesota
- Missouri

Kansas

PATH TO LICENSURE

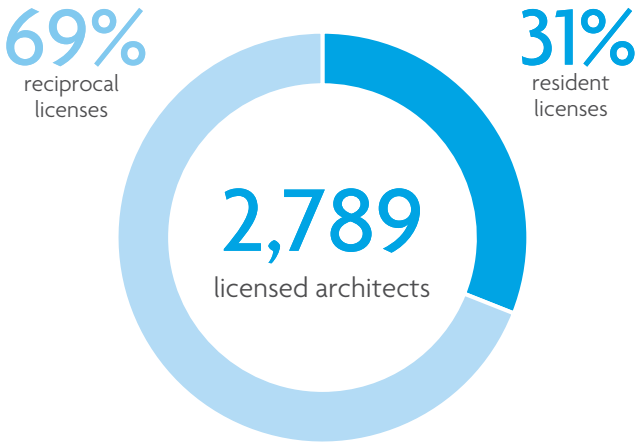


37
candidates finished the path to licensure



+9% compared to the national average

LICENSED ARCHITECTS



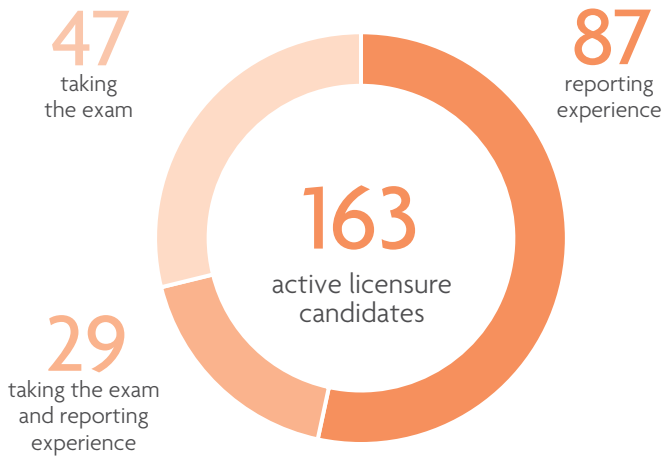
658
NCARB Certificate holders

Architects in Kansas are most frequently also licensed in:

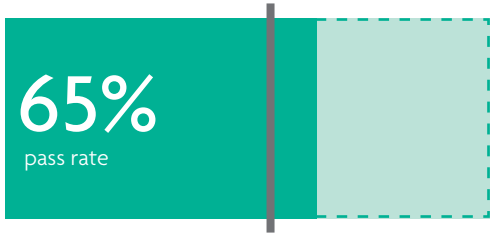
- Missouri
- Texas
- Illinois

Kentucky

PATH TO LICENSURE

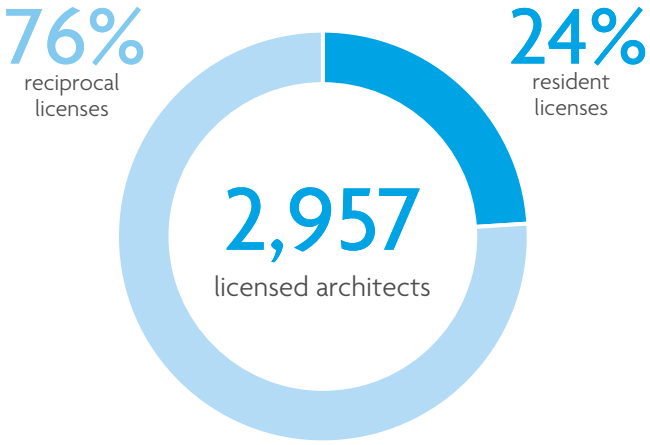


21
candidates finished the path to licensure



+10% compared to the national average

LICENSED ARCHITECTS



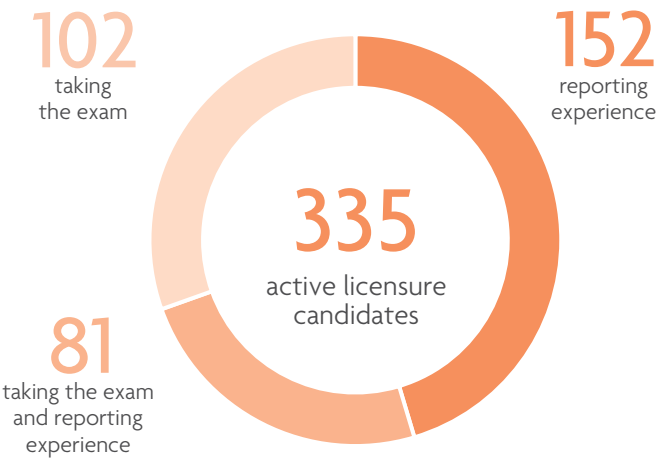
411
NCARB Certificate holders

Architects in Kentucky are most frequently also licensed in:

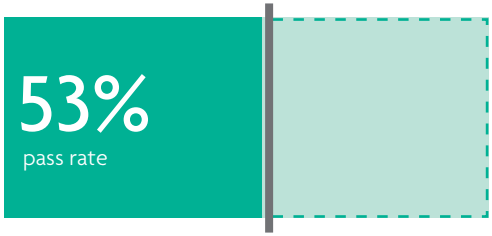
- Ohio
- Tennessee
- Indiana

Louisiana

PATH TO LICENSURE

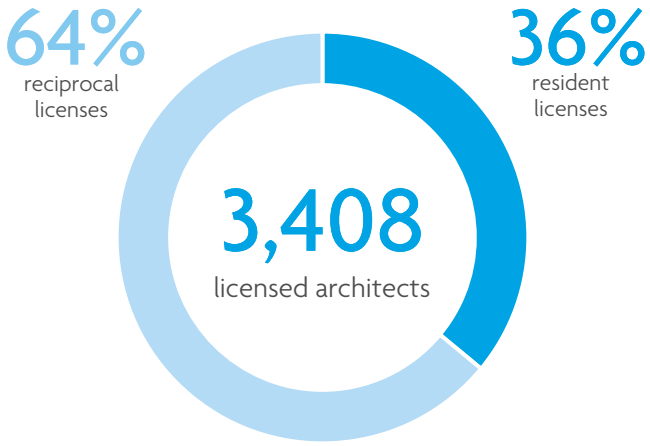


27
candidates finished the path to licensure



-2% compared to the national average

LICENSED ARCHITECTS



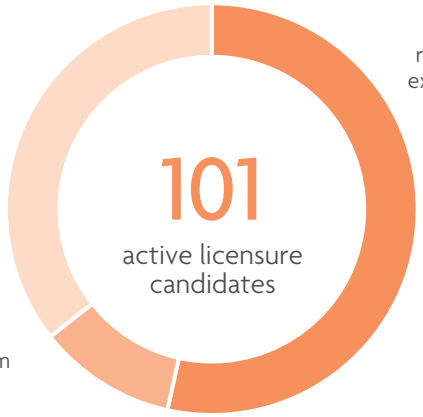
729
NCARB Certificate holders

Architects in Louisiana are most frequently also licensed in:

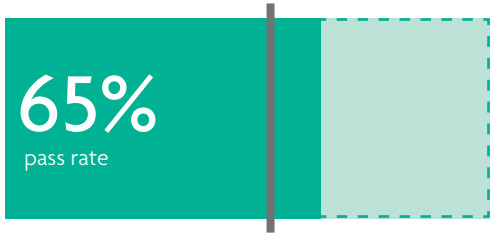
- Texas
- Florida
- Georgia

Maine

PATH TO LICENSURE

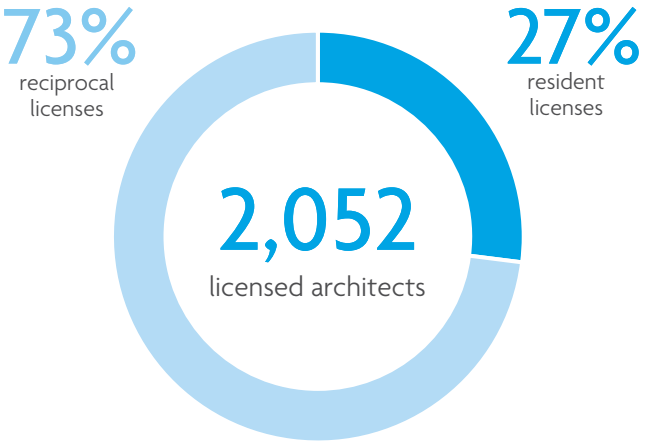


13
candidates finished the path to licensure



+10% compared to the national average

LICENSED ARCHITECTS



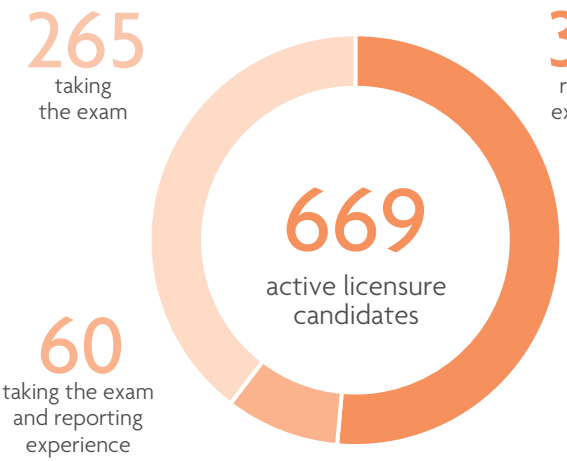
255
NCARB Certificate holders

Architects in Maine are most frequently also licensed in:

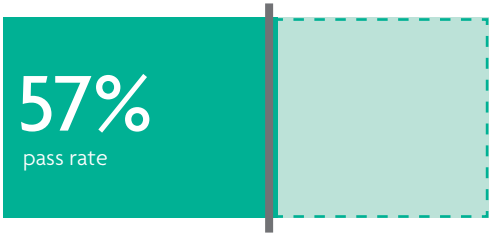
- Massachusetts
- New York
- New Hampshire

Maryland

PATH TO LICENSURE

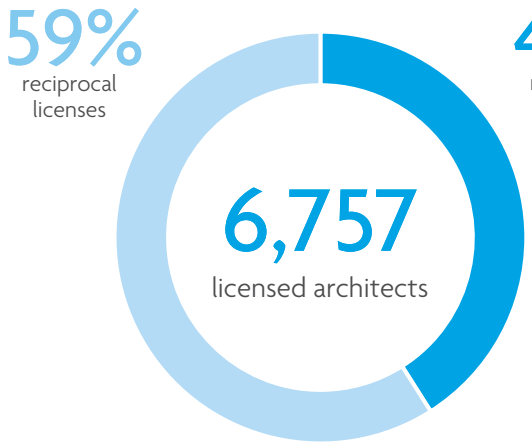


76
candidates finished the path to licensure



+2% compared to the national average

LICENSED ARCHITECTS



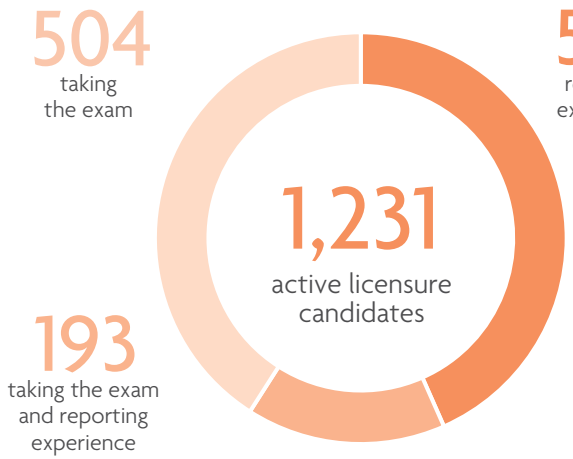
1,249
NCARB Certificate holders

Architects in Maryland are most frequently also licensed in:

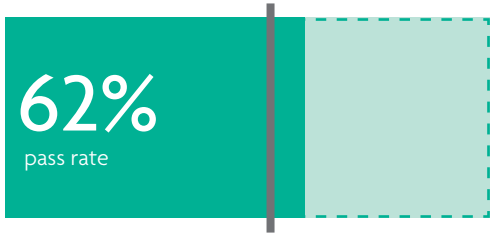
- Virginia
- District of Columbia
- Pennsylvania

Massachusetts

PATH TO LICENSURE

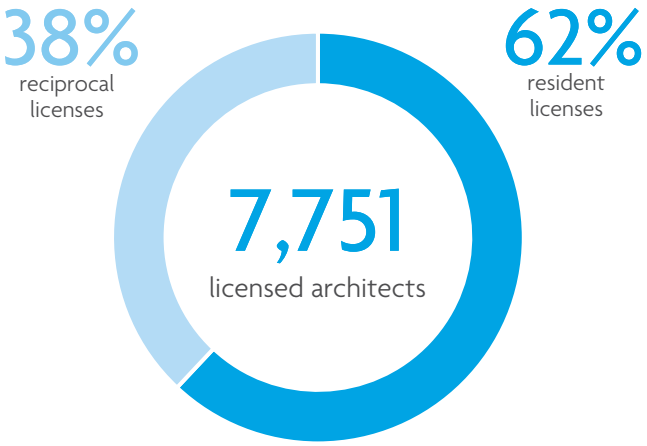


205
candidates finished the path to licensure



+7% compared to the national average

LICENSED ARCHITECTS



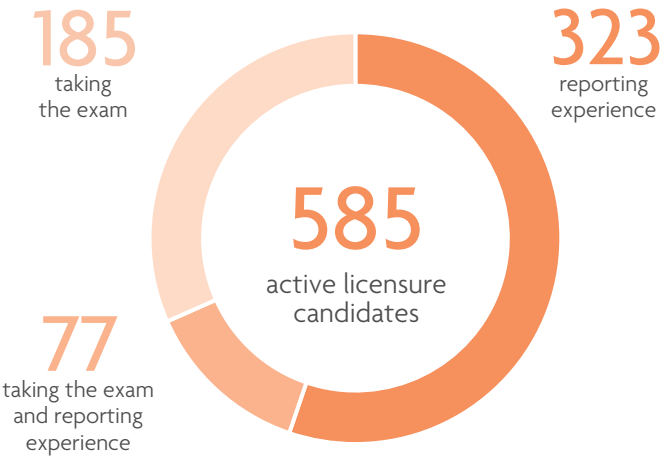
1,891
NCARB Certificate holders

Architects in Massachusetts are most frequently also licensed in:

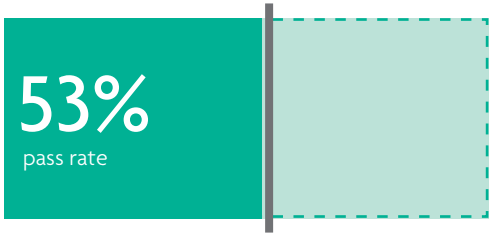
- New York
- Connecticut
- Rhode Island

Michigan

PATH TO LICENSURE

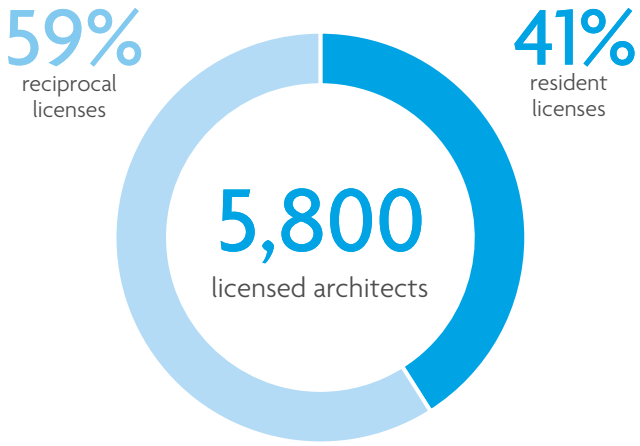


68
candidates finished the path to licensure



-2% compared to the national average

LICENSED ARCHITECTS



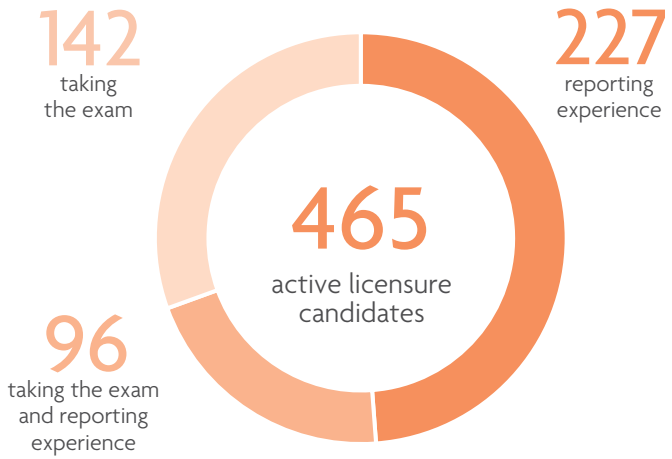
1,124
NCARB Certificate holders

Architects in Michigan are most frequently also licensed in:

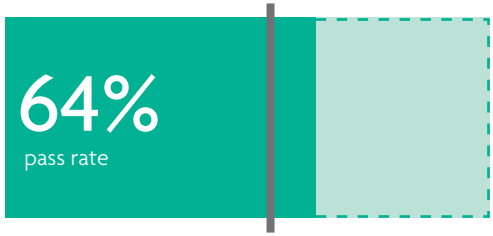
- Illinois
- Ohio
- Indiana

Minnesota

PATH TO LICENSURE

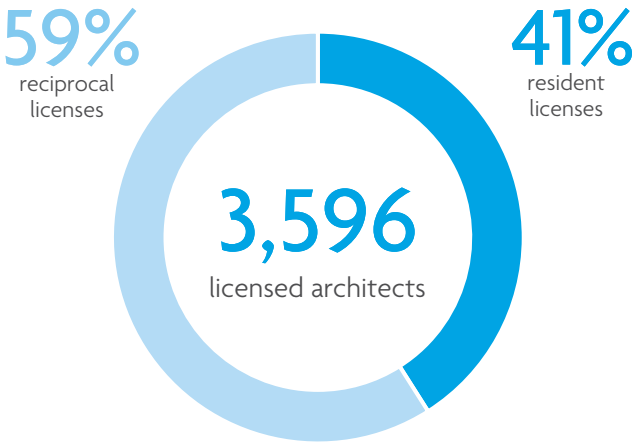


58
candidates finished the path to licensure



+9% compared to the national average

LICENSED ARCHITECTS



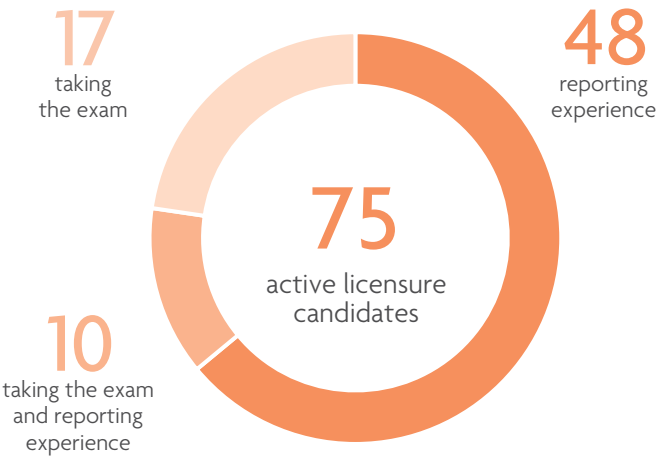
1,073
NCARB Certificate holders

Architects in Minnesota are most frequently also licensed in:

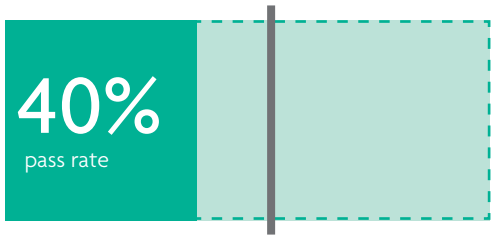
- Wisconsin
- Illinois
- North Dakota

Mississippi

PATH TO LICENSURE

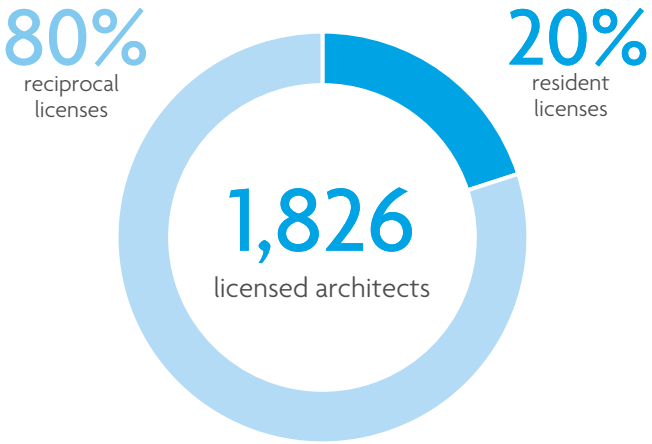


1
candidate finished the path to licensure



-15% compared to the national average

LICENSED ARCHITECTS



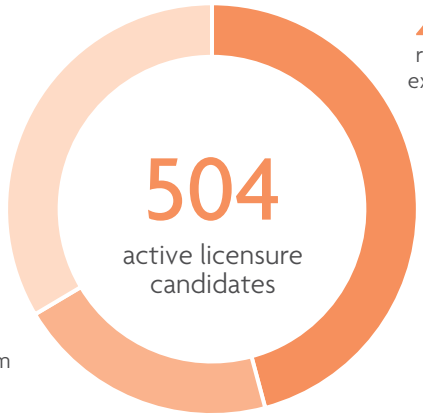
241
NCARB Certificate holders

Architects in Mississippi are most frequently also licensed in:

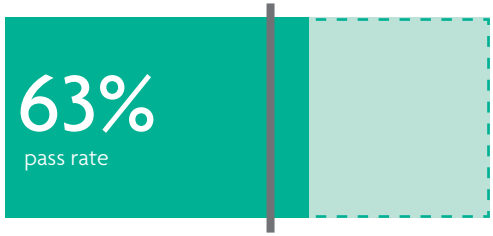
- Louisiana
- Tennessee
- Texas

Missouri

PATH TO LICENSURE

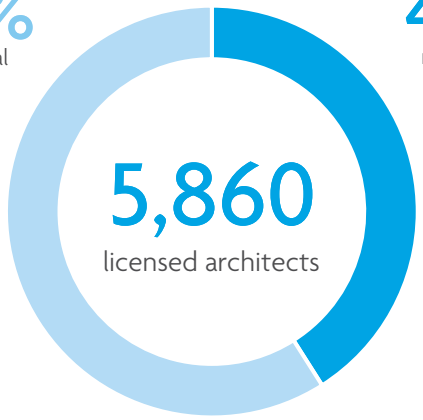


78
candidates finished the path to licensure



+8% compared to the national average

LICENSED ARCHITECTS



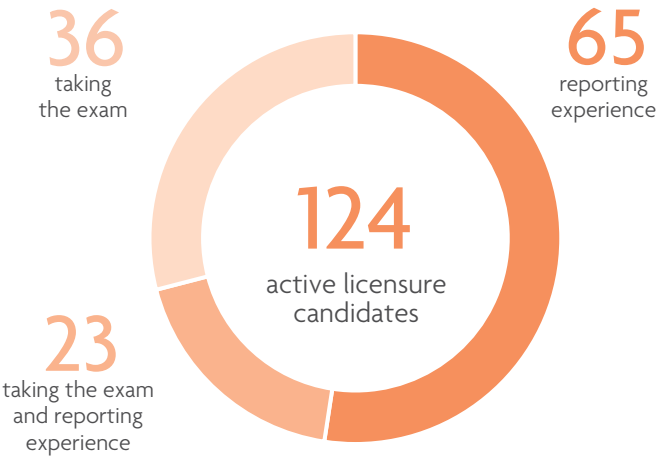
1,131
NCARB Certificate holders

Architects in Missouri are most frequently also licensed in:

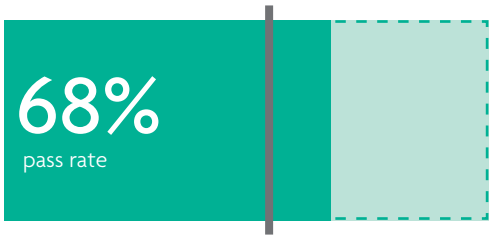
- Kansas
- Illinois
- Texas

Montana

PATH TO LICENSURE

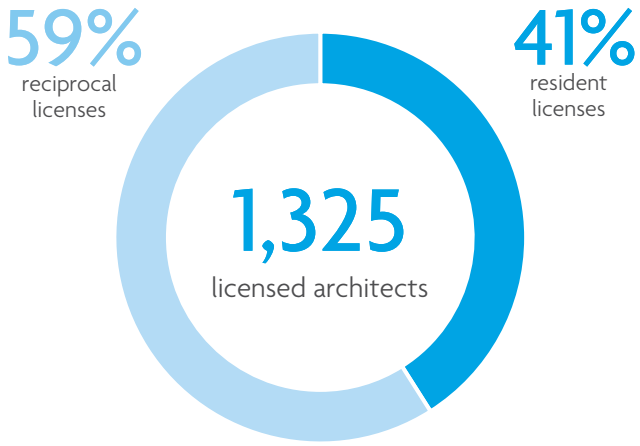


16
candidates finished the path to licensure



+13% compared to the national average

LICENSED ARCHITECTS



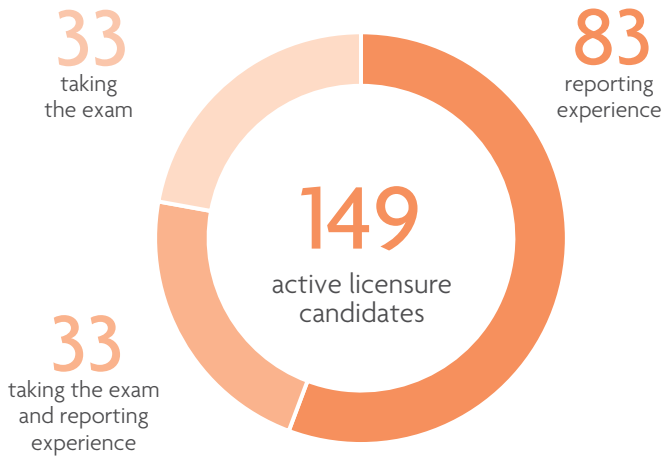
346
NCARB Certificate holders

Architects in Montana are most frequently also licensed in:

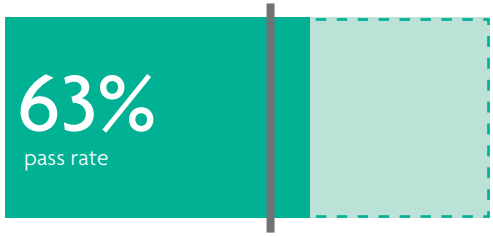
- Washington
- Colorado
- California

Nebraska

PATH TO LICENSURE

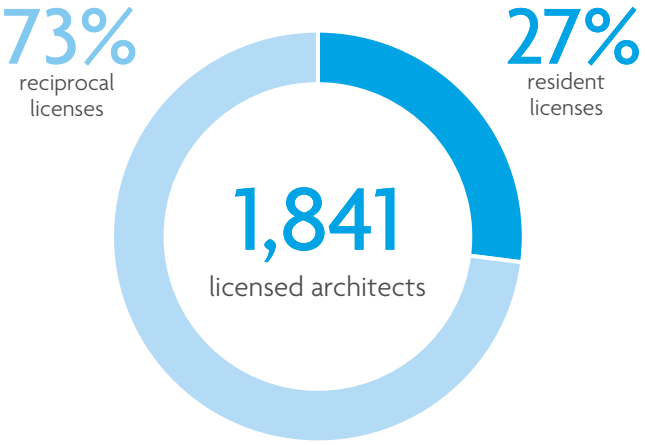


18
candidates finished the path to licensure



+8% compared to the national average

LICENSED ARCHITECTS



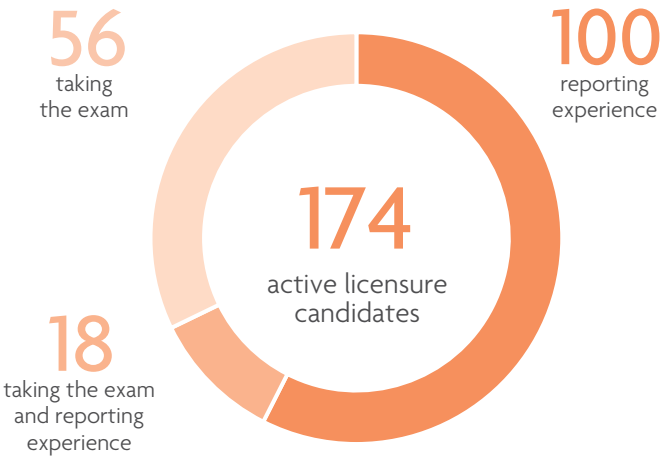
298
NCARB Certificate holders

Architects in Nebraska are most frequently also licensed in:

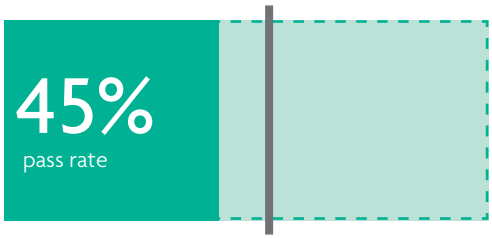
- Iowa
- Kansas
- Missouri

Nevada

PATH TO LICENSURE

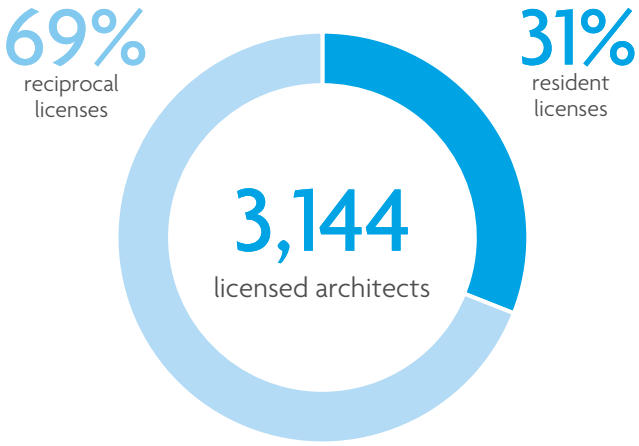


13
candidates finished the path to licensure



-10% compared to the national average

LICENSED ARCHITECTS



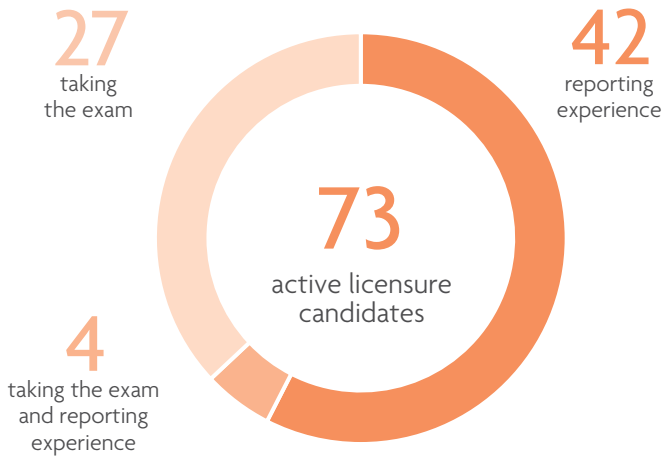
431
NCARB Certificate holders

Architects in Nevada are most frequently also licensed in:

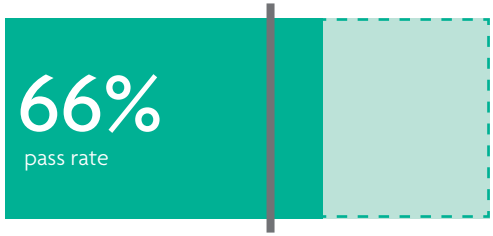
- California
- Arizona
- Texas

New Hampshire

PATH TO LICENSURE

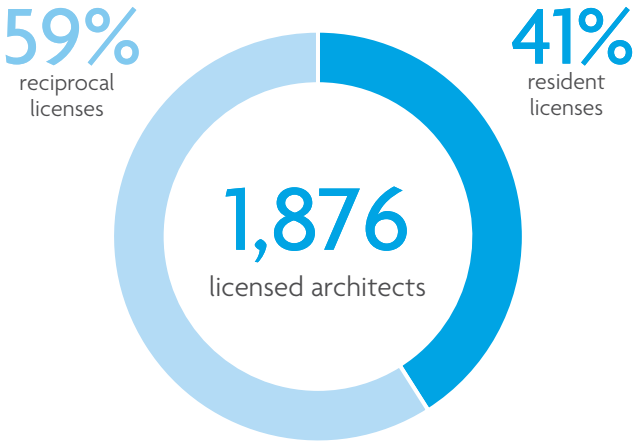


15
candidates finished the path to licensure



+11% compared to the national average

LICENSED ARCHITECTS



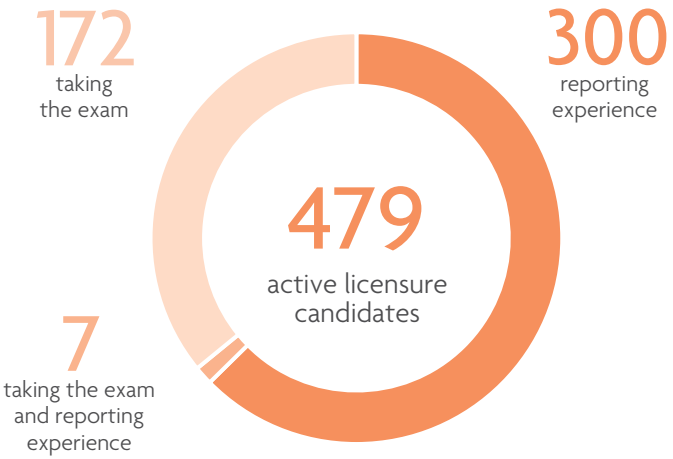
211
NCARB Certificate holders

Architects in New Hampshire are most frequently also licensed in:

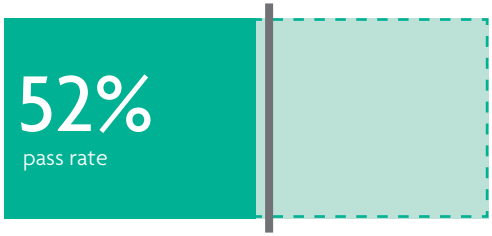
- Massachusetts
- Maine
- New York

New Jersey

PATH TO LICENSURE

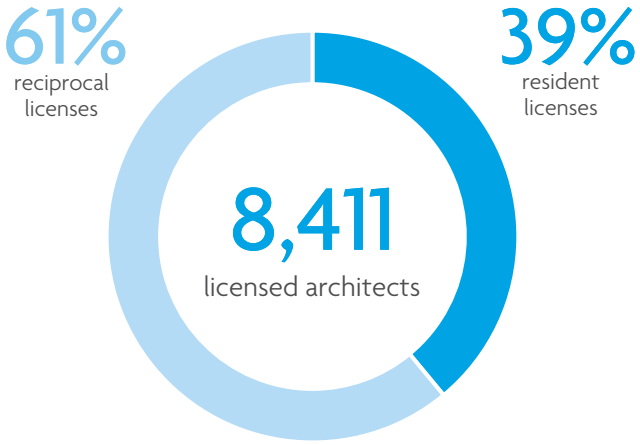


40
candidates finished the path to licensure



-3% compared to the national average

LICENSED ARCHITECTS



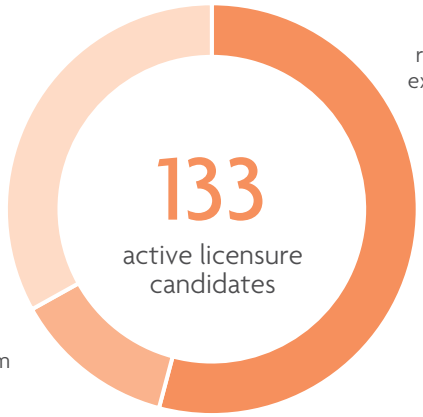
1,680
NCARB Certificate holders

Architects in New Jersey are most frequently also licensed in:

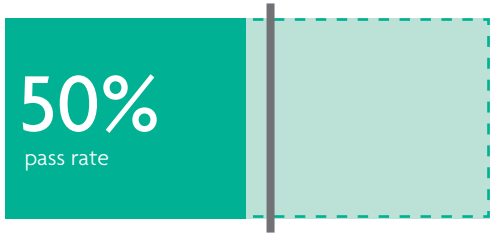
- New York
- Pennsylvania
- Florida

New Mexico

PATH TO LICENSURE

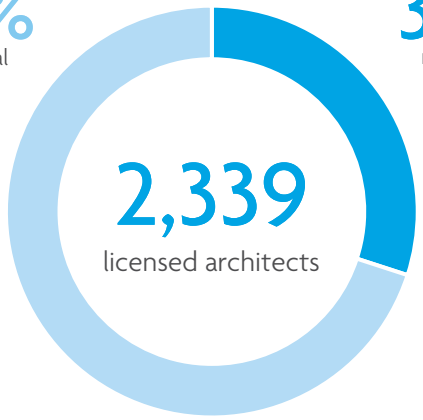


12
candidates finished the path to licensure



-5% compared to the national average

LICENSED ARCHITECTS



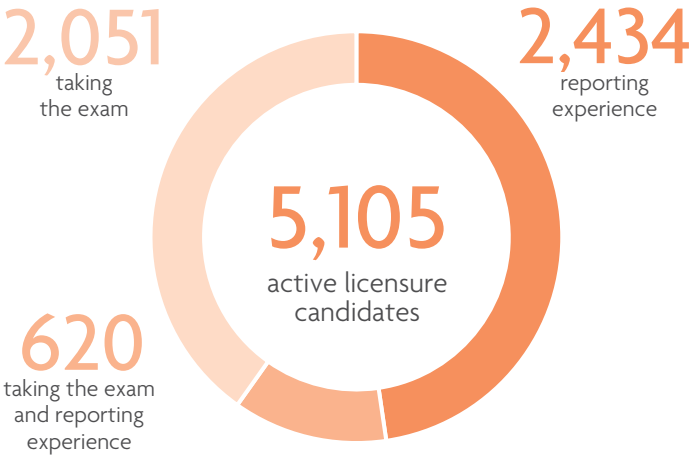
339
NCARB Certificate holders

Architects in New Mexico are most frequently also licensed in:

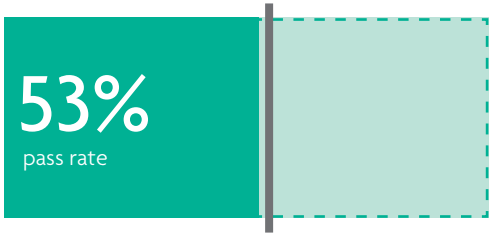
- Texas
- Arizona
- Colorado

New York

PATH TO LICENSURE

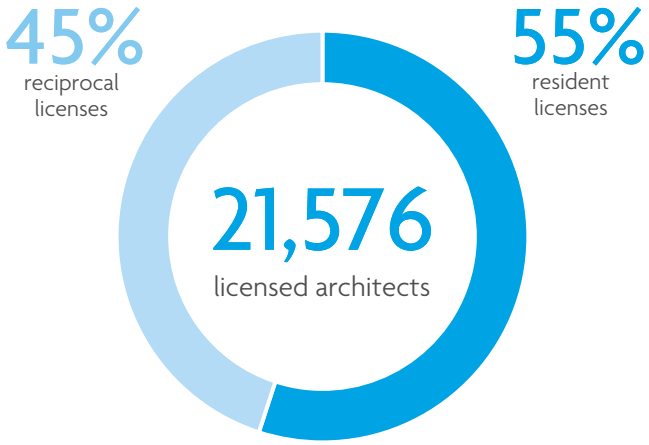


541
candidates finished the path to licensure



-2% compared to the national average

LICENSED ARCHITECTS



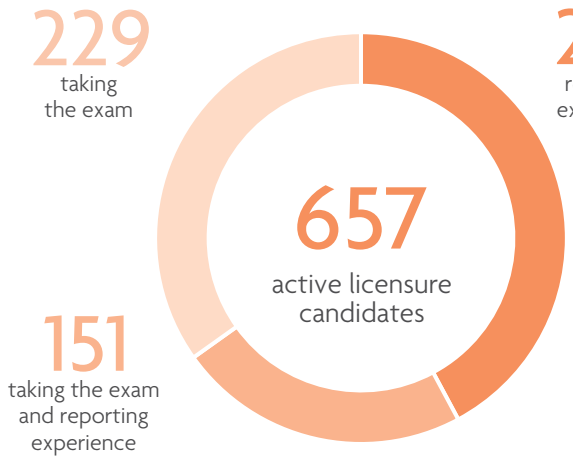
3,518
NCARB Certificate holders

Architects in New York are most frequently also licensed in:

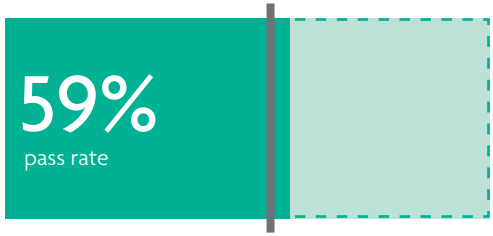
- New Jersey
- Connecticut
- Pennsylvania

North Carolina

PATH TO LICENSURE

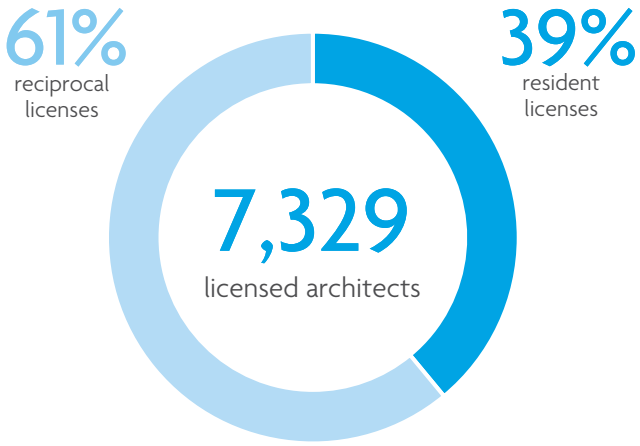


79
candidates finished the path to licensure



+4% compared to the national average

LICENSED ARCHITECTS



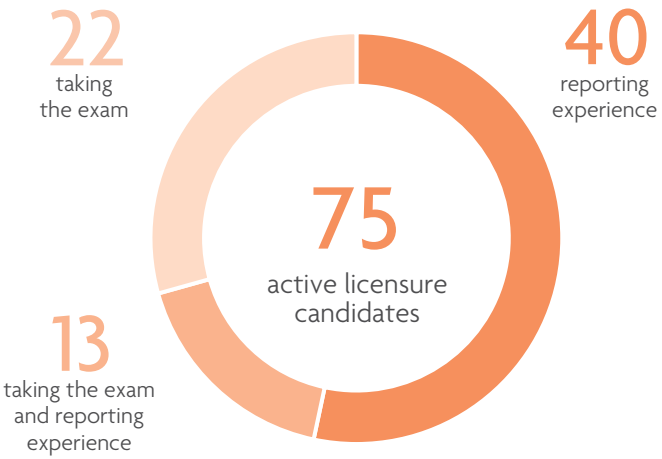
1,803
NCARB Certificate holders

Architects in North Carolina are most frequently also licensed in:

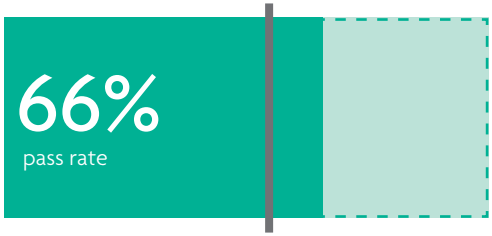
- South Carolina
- Georgia
- Florida

North Dakota

PATH TO LICENSURE

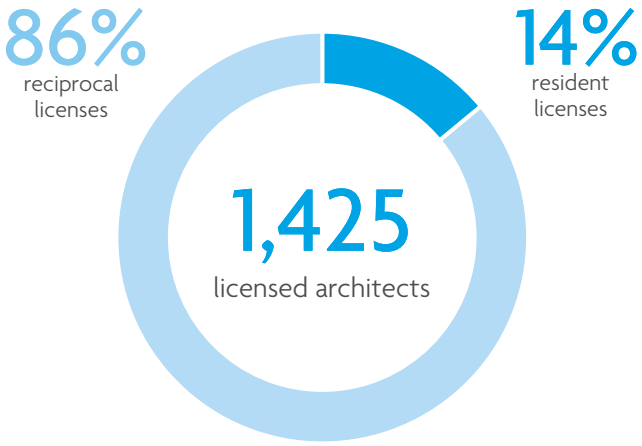


7
candidates finished the path to licensure



+11% compared to the national average

LICENSED ARCHITECTS



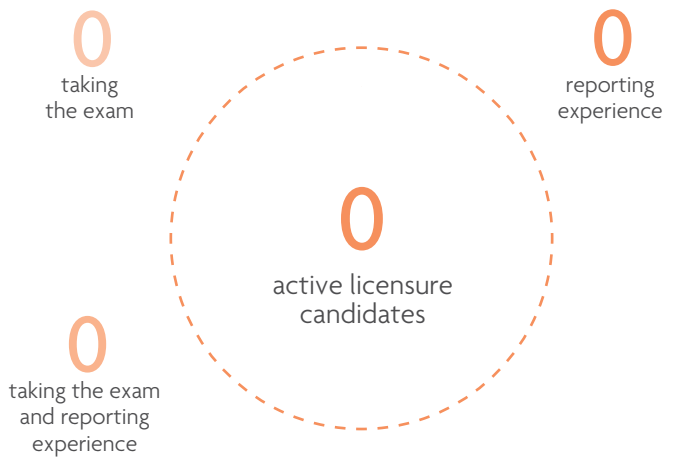
147
NCARB Certificate holders

Architects in North Dakota are most frequently also licensed in:

- Minnesota
- Illinois
- Texas

Northern Mariana Islands

PATH TO LICENSURE

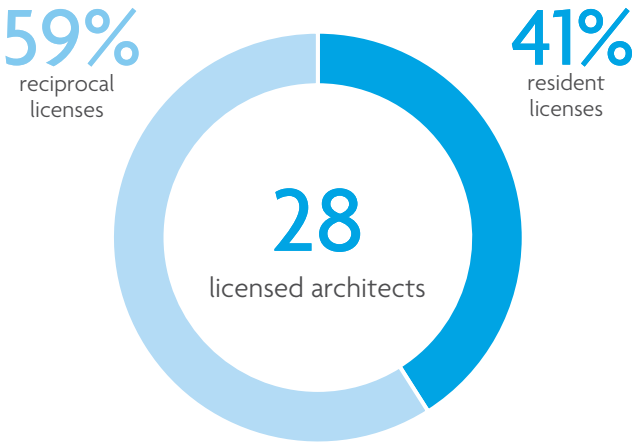


0
candidates finished the path to licensure



N/A compared to the national average

LICENSED ARCHITECTS



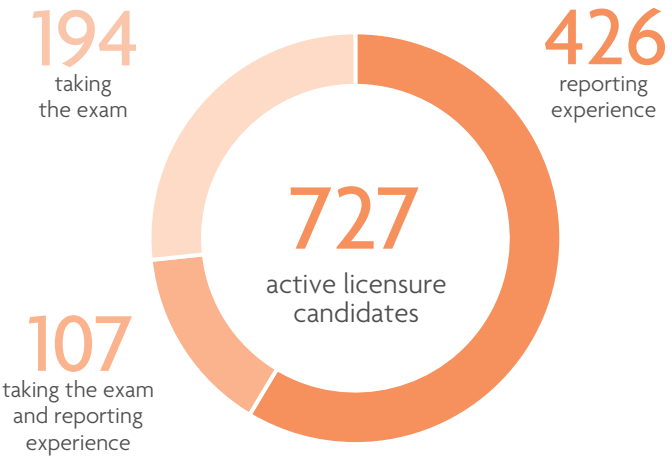
2
NCARB Certificate holders

Architects in the Northern Mariana Islands are most frequently also licensed in:

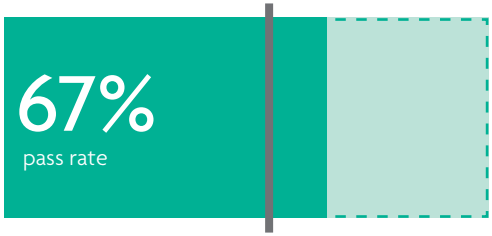
- Illinois
- Colorado
- Guam

Ohio

PATH TO LICENSURE

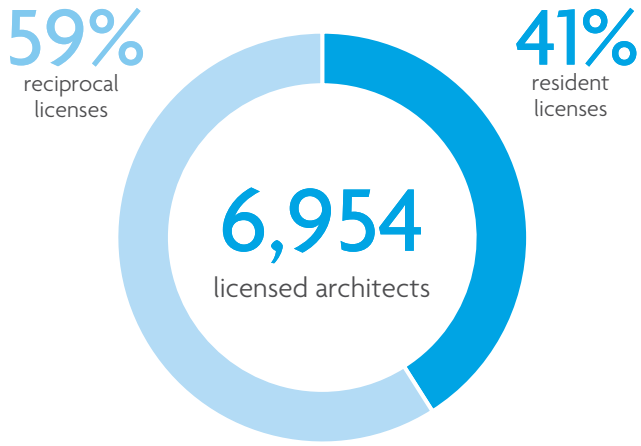


95
candidates finished the path to licensure



+12% compared to the national average

LICENSED ARCHITECTS



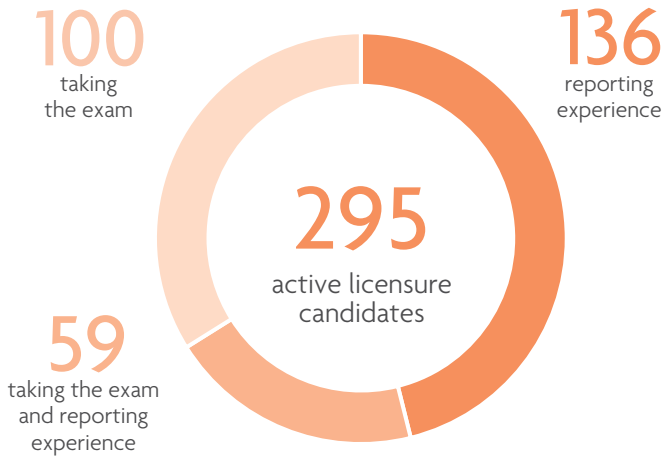
1,645
NCARB Certificate holders

Architects in Ohio are most frequently also licensed in:

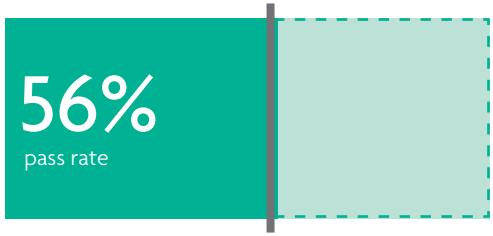
- Pennsylvania
- Illinois
- Michigan

Oklahoma

PATH TO LICENSURE

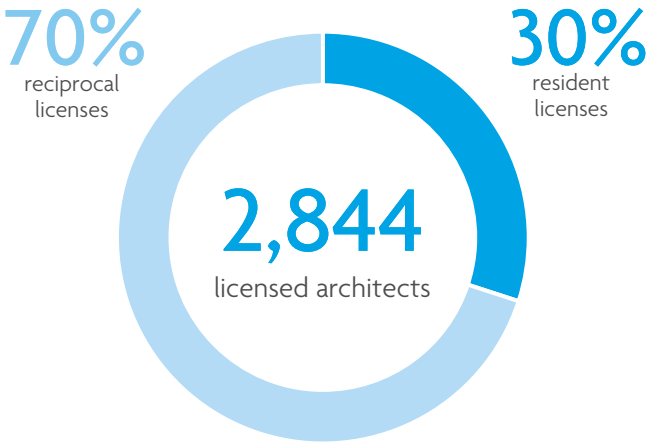


34
candidates finished the path to licensure



+1% compared to the national average

LICENSED ARCHITECTS



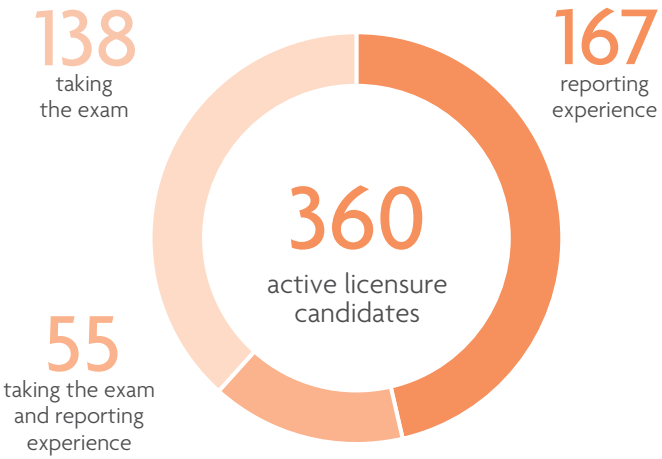
447
NCARB Certificate holders

Architects in Oklahoma are most frequently also licensed in:

- Texas
- Missouri
- Kansas

Oregon

PATH TO LICENSURE

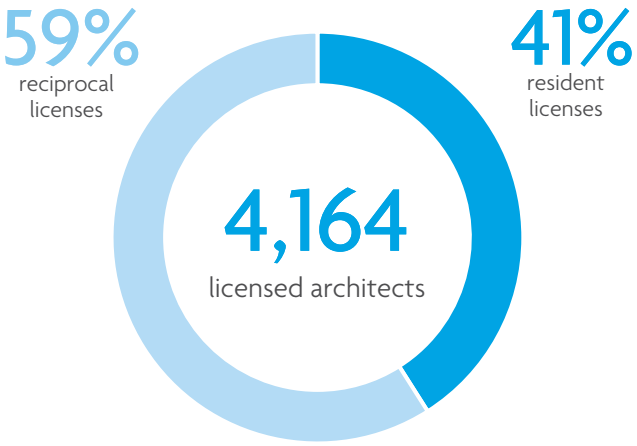


77
candidates finished the path to licensure



+18% compared to the national average

LICENSED ARCHITECTS



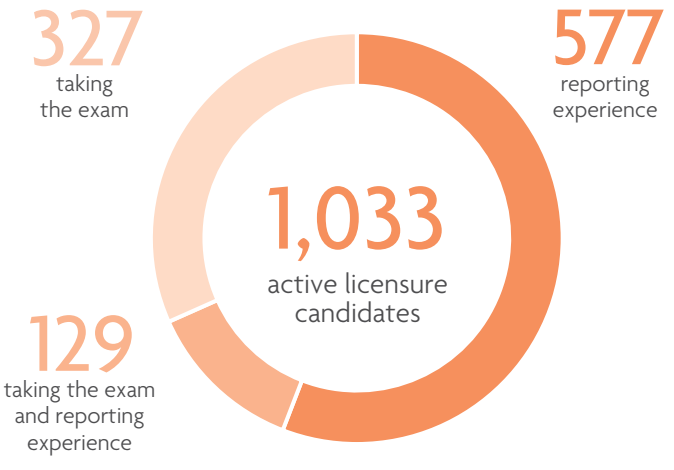
1,065
NCARB Certificate holders

Architects in Oregon are most frequently also licensed in:

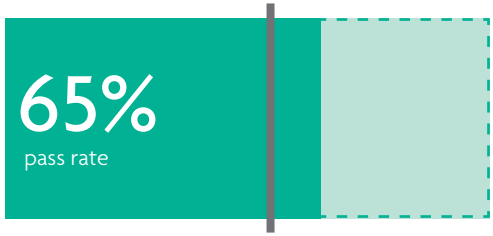
- Washington
- California
- Texas

Pennsylvania

PATH TO LICENSURE

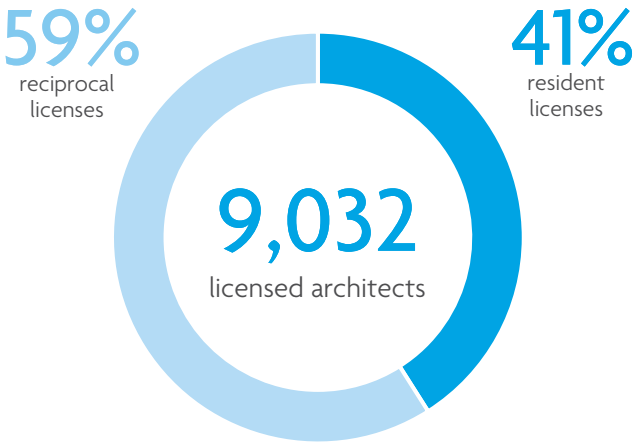


124
candidates finished the path to licensure



+10% compared to the national average

LICENSED ARCHITECTS



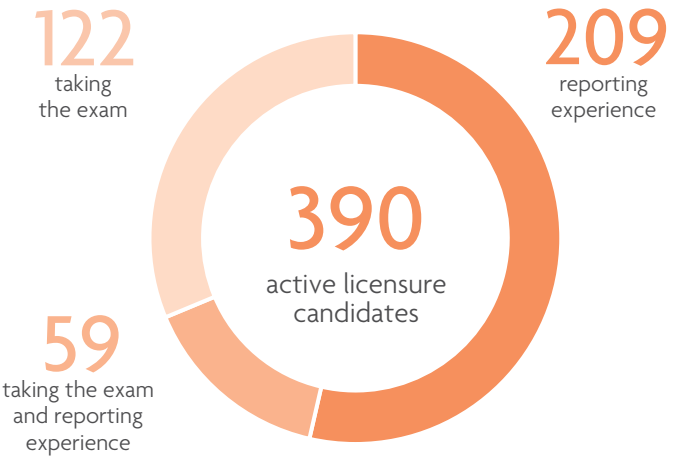
1,897
NCARB Certificate holders

Architects in Pennsylvania are most frequently also licensed in:

- New Jersey
- New York
- Maryland

Puerto Rico

PATH TO LICENSURE

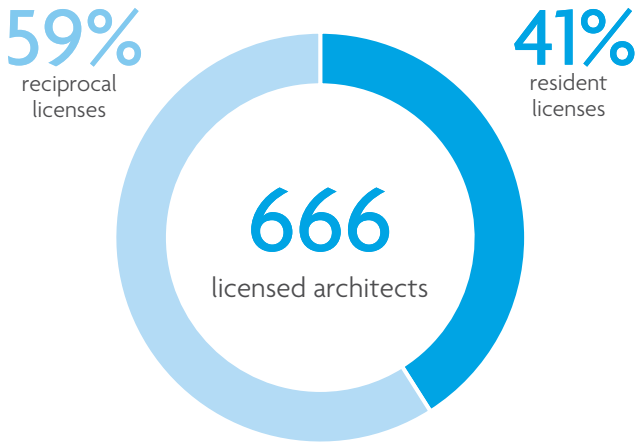


19
candidates finished the path to licensure



-24% compared to the national average

LICENSED ARCHITECTS



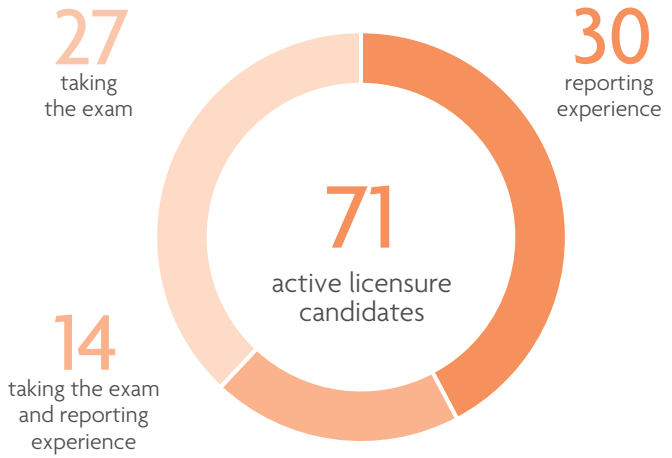
106
NCARB Certificate holders

Architects in Puerto Rico are most frequently also licensed in:

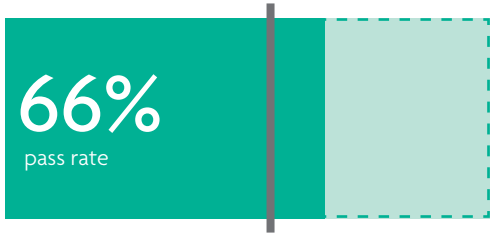
- Florida
- New York
- Texas

Rhode Island

PATH TO LICENSURE

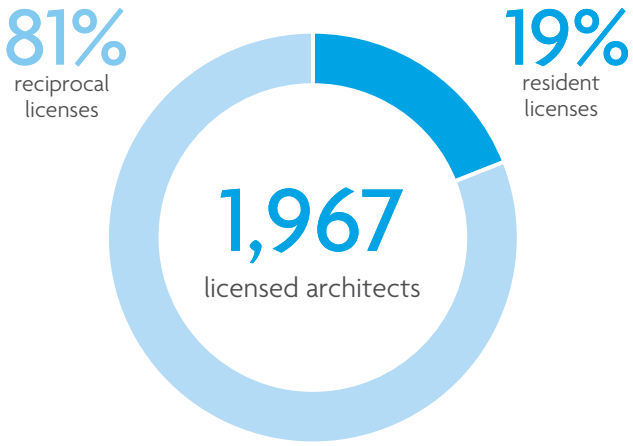


11
candidates finished the path to licensure



+11% compared to the national average

LICENSED ARCHITECTS



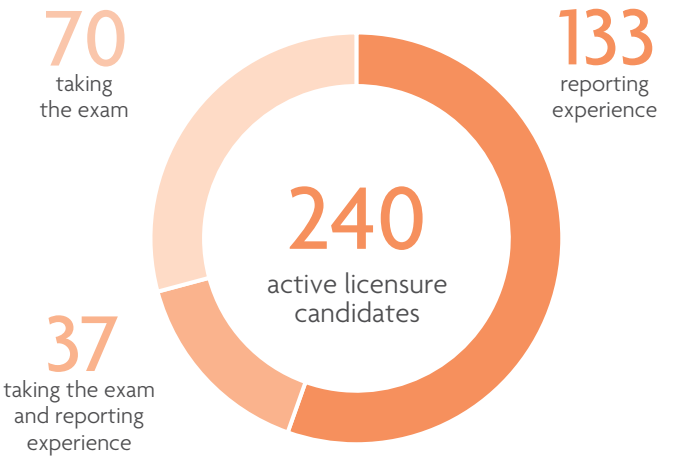
237
NCARB Certificate holders

Architects in Rhode Island are most frequently also licensed in:

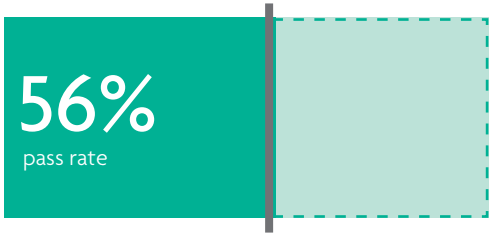
- Massachusetts
- New York
- Connecticut

South Carolina

PATH TO LICENSURE

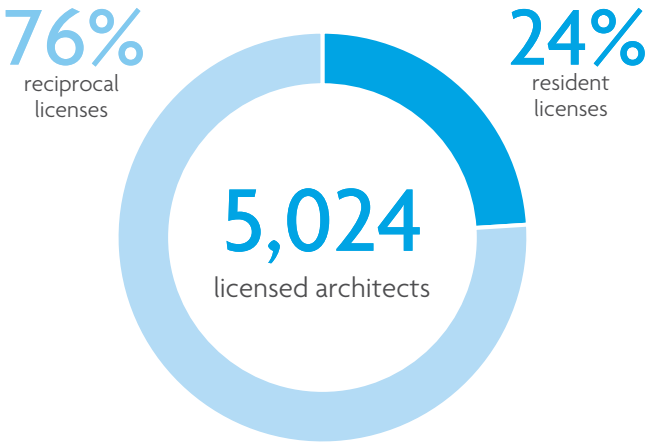


26
candidates finished the path to licensure



+1% compared to the national average

LICENSED ARCHITECTS



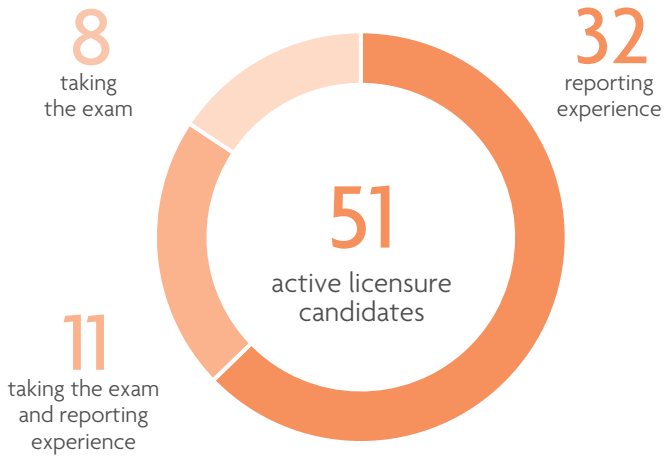
769
NCARB Certificate holders

Architects in South Carolina are most frequently also licensed in:

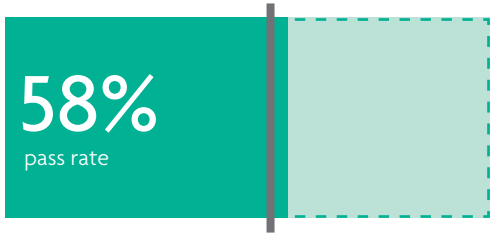
- North Carolina
- Georgia
- Florida

South Dakota

PATH TO LICENSURE

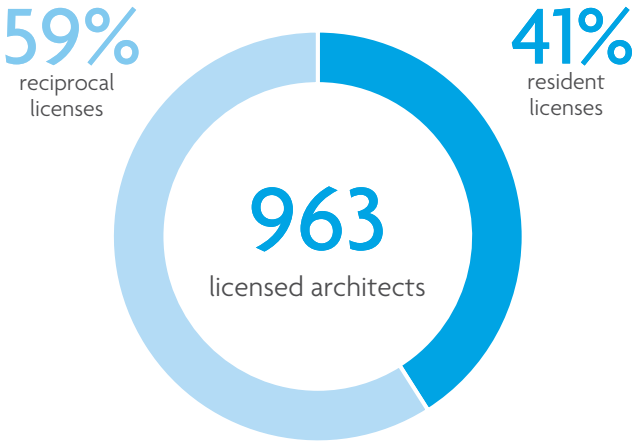


7
candidates finished the path to licensure



+3% compared to the national average

LICENSED ARCHITECTS



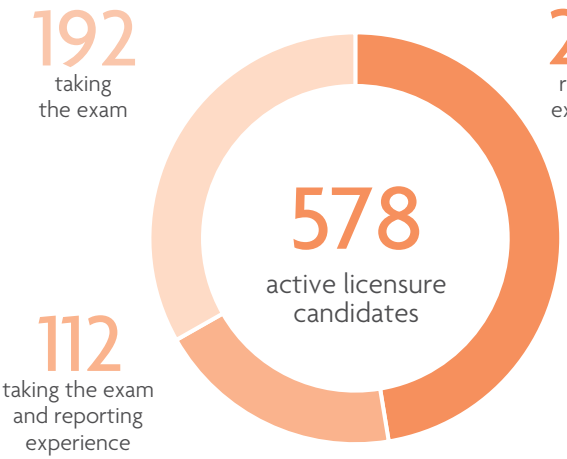
93
NCARB Certificate holders

Architects in South Dakota are most frequently also licensed in:

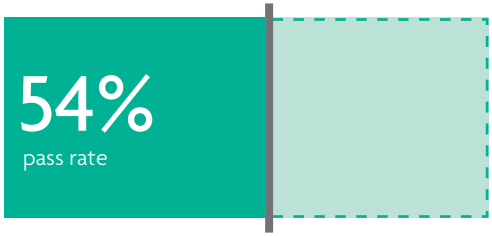
- Minnesota
- Nebraska
- Iowa

Tennessee

PATH TO LICENSURE

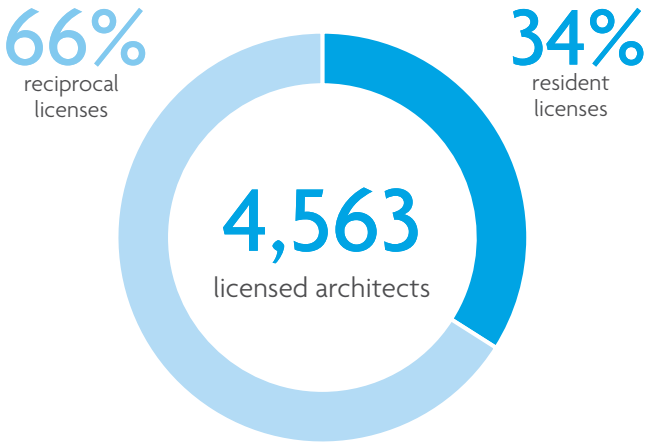


59
candidates finished the path to licensure



-1% compared to the national average

LICENSED ARCHITECTS



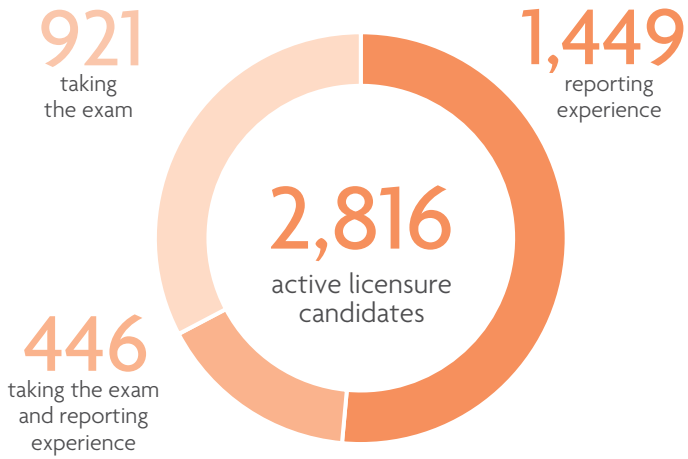
994
NCARB Certificate holders

Architects in Tennessee are most frequently also licensed in:

- Georgia
- Texas
- Florida

Texas

PATH TO LICENSURE

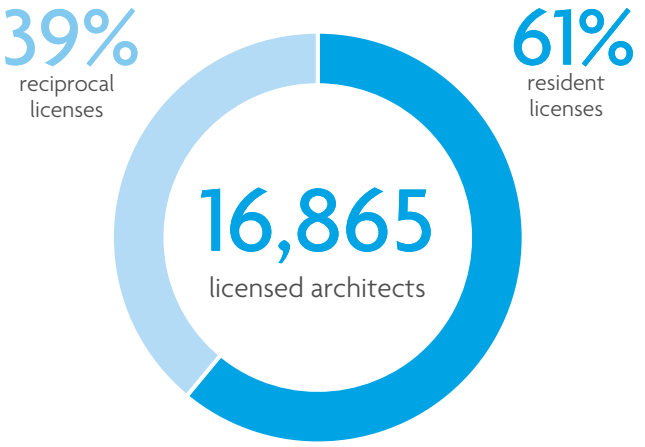


291
candidates finished the path to licensure



-4% compared to the national average

LICENSED ARCHITECTS



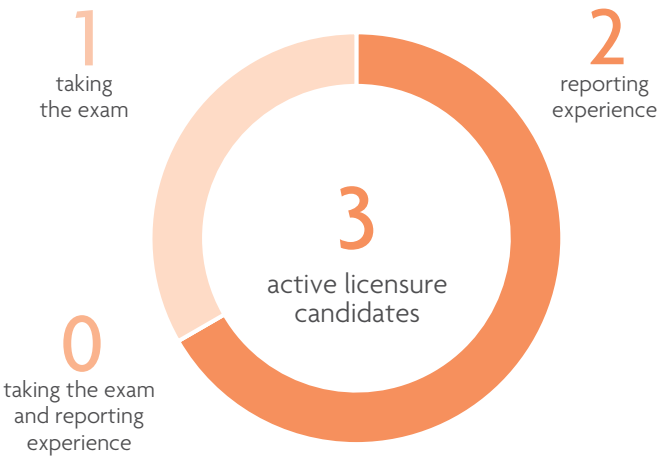
3,853
NCARB Certificate holders

Architects in Texas are most frequently also licensed in:

- Florida
- California
- Colorado

U.S. Virgin Islands

PATH TO LICENSURE

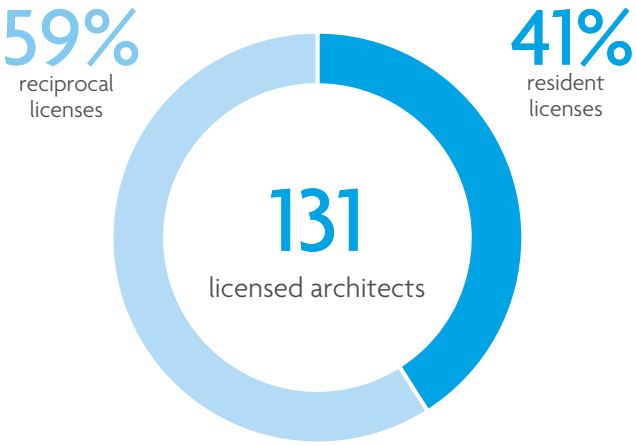


0
candidates finished the path to licensure



N/A compared to the national average

LICENSED ARCHITECTS



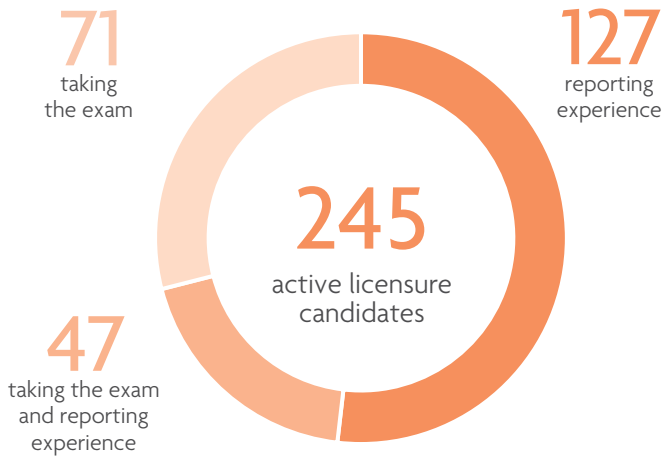
10
NCARB Certificate holders

Architects in the U.S. Virgin Islands are most frequently also licensed in:

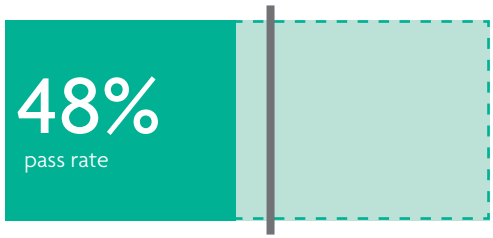
- Florida
- Georgia
- District of Columbia

Utah

PATH TO LICENSURE

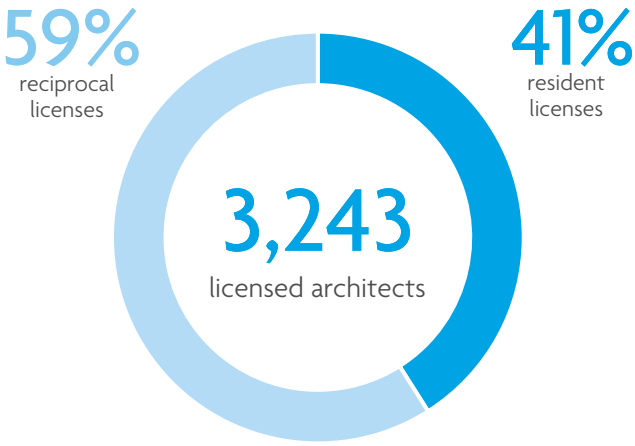


26
candidates finished the path to licensure



-7% compared to the national average

LICENSED ARCHITECTS



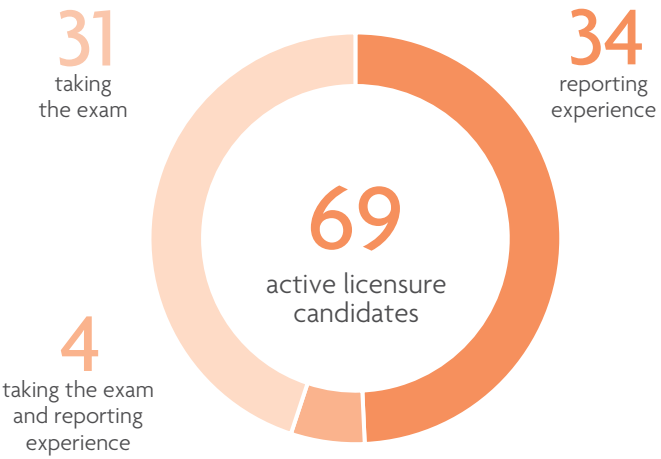
534
NCARB Certificate holders

Architects in Utah are most frequently also licensed in:

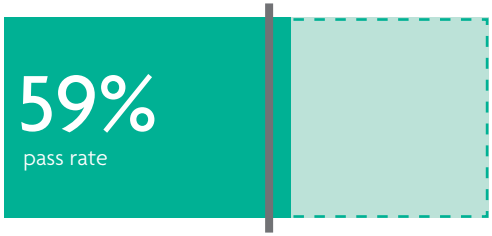
- California
- Colorado
- Texas

Vermont

PATH TO LICENSURE

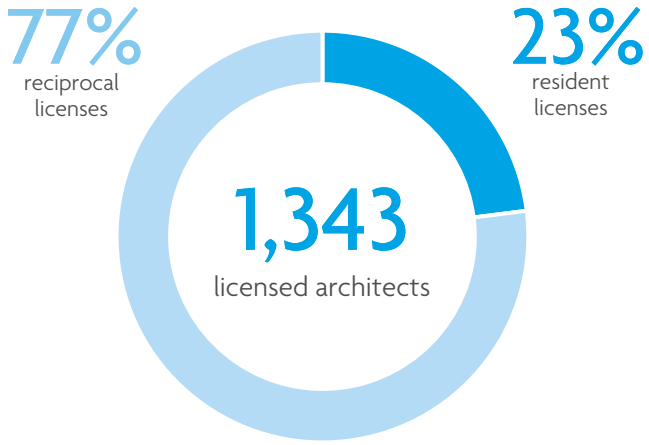


9
candidates finished the path to licensure



+4% compared to the national average

LICENSED ARCHITECTS



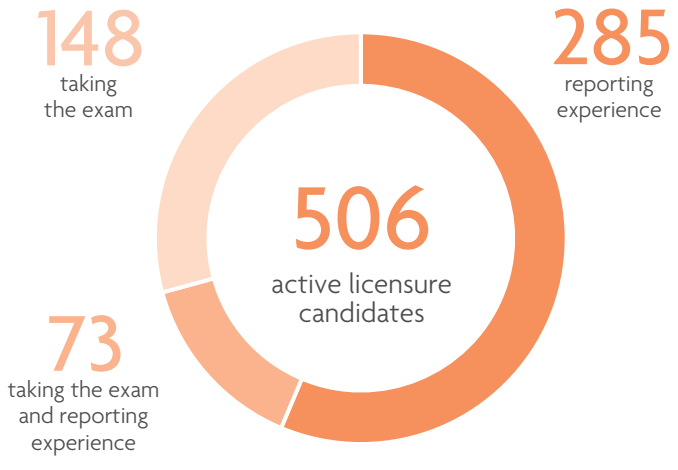
131
NCARB Certificate holders

Architects in Vermont are most frequently also licensed in:

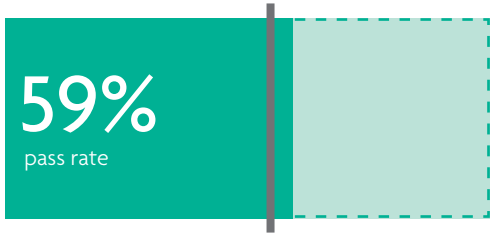
- Massachusetts
- New York
- New Hampshire

Virginia

PATH TO LICENSURE

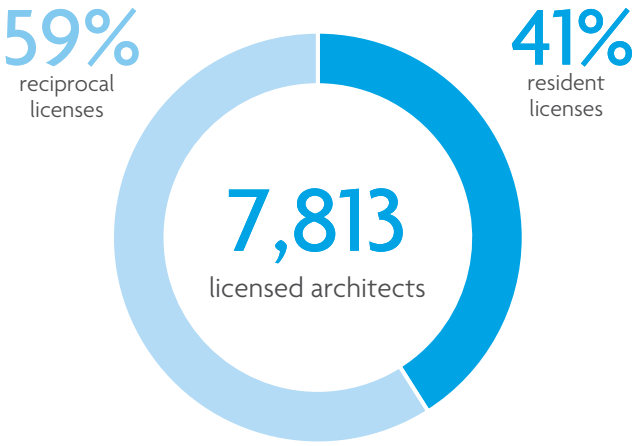


55
candidates finished the path to licensure



+4% compared to the national average

LICENSED ARCHITECTS



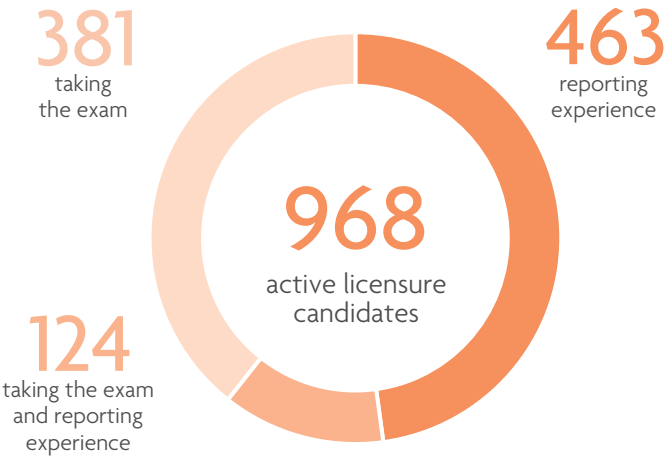
1,508
NCARB Certificate holders

Architects in Virginia are most frequently also licensed in:

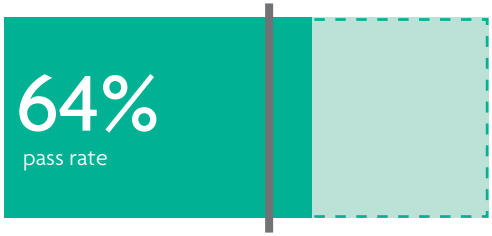
- Maryland
- District of Columbia
- North Carolina

Washington

PATH TO LICENSURE

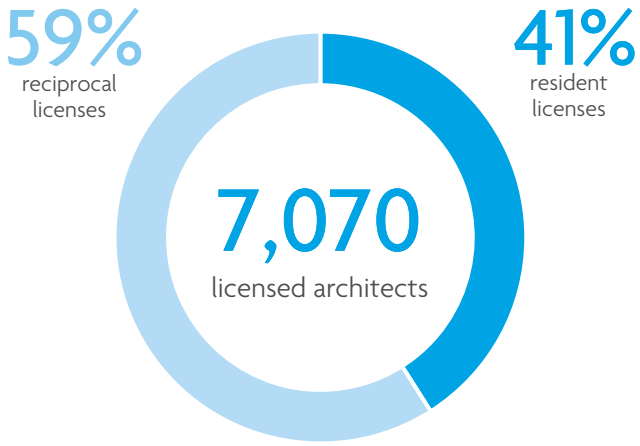


129
candidates finished the path to licensure



+9% compared to the national average

LICENSED ARCHITECTS



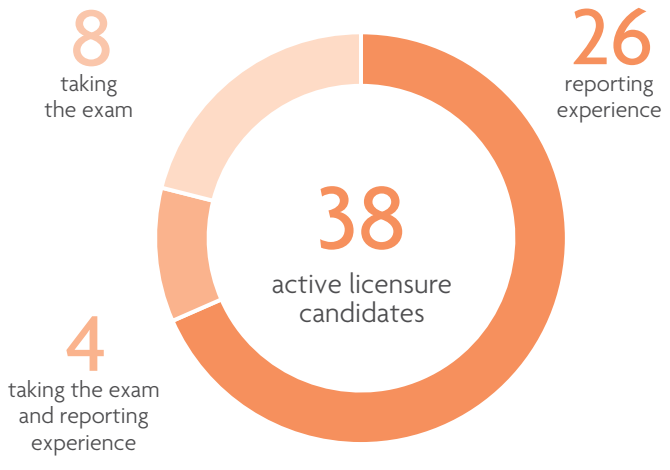
1,380
NCARB Certificate holders

Architects in Washington are most frequently also licensed in:

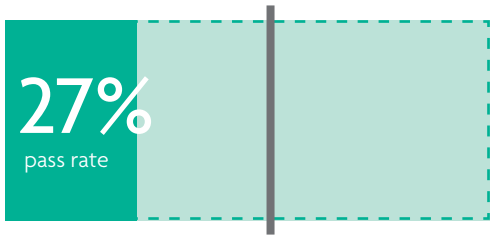
- Oregon
- California
- Texas

West Virginia

PATH TO LICENSURE

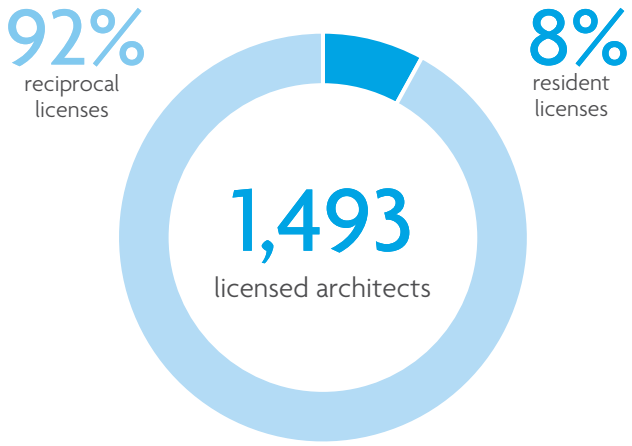


1
candidates finished the path to licensure



-28% compared to the national average

LICENSED ARCHITECTS



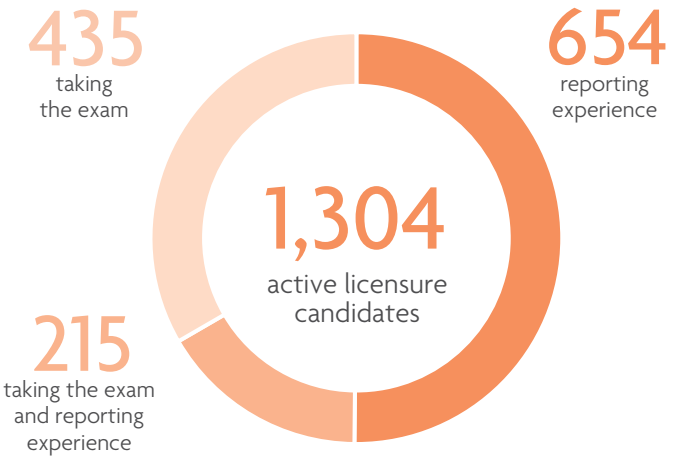
84
NCARB Certificate holders

Architects in West Virginia are most frequently also licensed in:

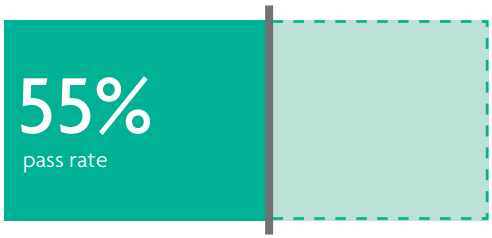
- Ohio
- Pennsylvania
- Virginia

Wisconsin

PATH TO LICENSURE

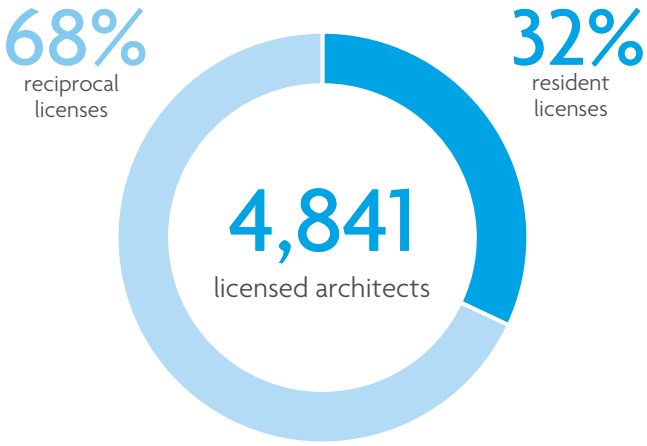


121
candidates finished the path to licensure



On par with the national average

LICENSED ARCHITECTS



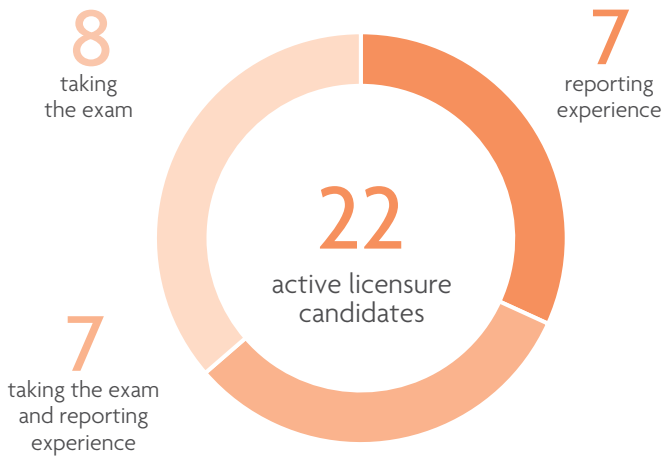
568
NCARB Certificate holders

Architects in Wisconsin are most frequently also licensed in:

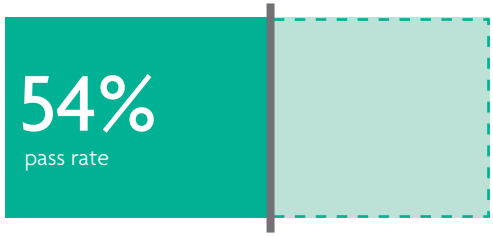
- Illinois
- Minnesota
- Texas

Wyoming

PATH TO LICENSURE

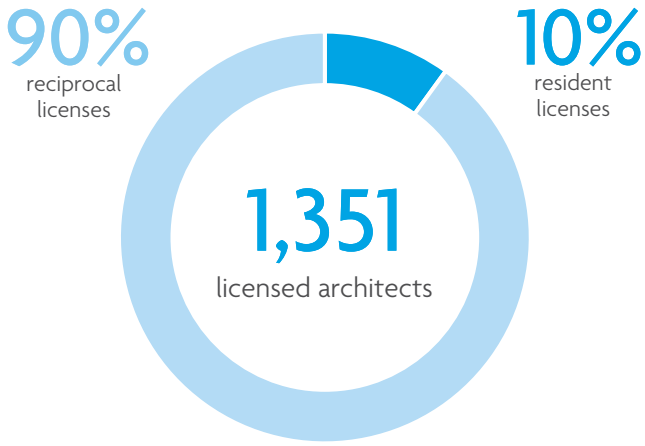


8
candidates finished the path to licensure



-1% compared to the national average

LICENSED ARCHITECTS



96
NCARB Certificate holders

Architects in Wyoming are most frequently also licensed in:

- Colorado
- Utah
- Montana

About This Report

This report is based on data collected by the National Council of Architectural Registration Boards (NCARB) during the 2024 calendar year, providing insight on the path to licensure. It also includes highlights from a survey conducted by NCARB in 2024 on the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on licensure candidates.

NCARB maintains a database on licensure candidates and Certificate holders. This allows us to track the progression of candidates as they move through the AXP, ARE, and beyond.

Some of the data is self-reported, including age, race and ethnicity, gender, and geographic location. Other data is triggered by candidate actions such as starting the AXP or completing the ARE. NCARB also collects data from the U.S. jurisdictional licensing boards to provide a total count of architects.

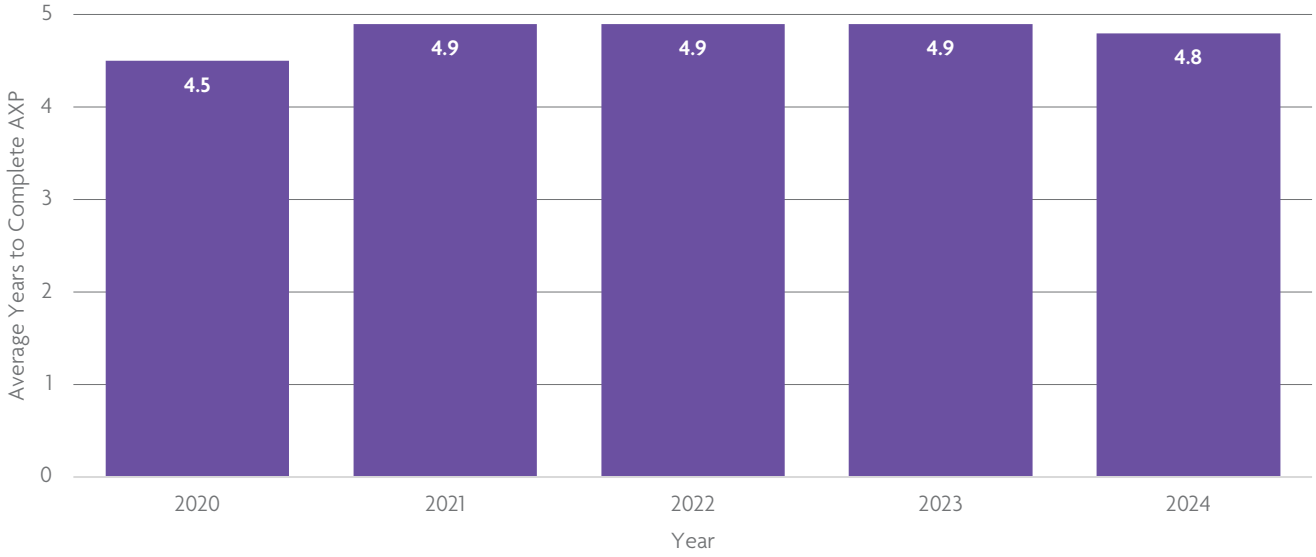
Data from the National Architectural Accrediting Board (NAAB) was also used in this report to provide the number of students graduating from NAAB-accredited programs.

How to Read This Report

Here are some tips for understanding the data presented in *NCARB by the Numbers*.

Reading Charts

Most *NCARB by the Numbers* charts show a year-over-year comparison of data from NCARB's Record holders. For example, each bar in the chart below shows the average time it took for candidates to complete the experience program in a given year.



The x (or horizontal) axis of this chart measures the year a candidate completed the AXP, while the y (or vertical) axis measures the average time to complete the program in each individual year. Reading this chart, you can see the average licensure candidate who completed the AXP in 2024 took 4.8 years, a slight decrease compared to 2023.

A note about averages: There are several ways to measure averages. **NCARB typically uses the *median*, rather than *mean*.** The median provides a more accurate measure for the types of data shown in *NCARB by the Numbers*, because it better accounts for outliers that skew the overall dataset (like a candidate who takes decades to complete a program).

Demographics

Throughout this year's report, we segment NCARB Record holder data by a variety of demographic factors, such as race, ethnicity, and gender. Please keep in mind that individuals can identify as more than one race or ethnicity. For this reason, some demographic percentages may add to over 100%. In addition, NCARB launched updated demographics selections for Record holders in 2023, some of which are reflected in this year's report.

Individuals who identify their race as either American Indian/Alaskan Native, Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander, or Middle Eastern or North African make up a fraction of all NCARB customers. For this reason, they—along with individuals who self-describe their race or ethnicity—are grouped in the individuals of "another group" category.

Additionally, NCARB recognizes that our community's gender identity is more diverse than the "male" and "female" categories represented in *NCARB by the Numbers*. However, due to an insufficient sample size of nonbinary and gender non-conforming individuals, NCARB primarily shares data for men and women in this report.

Some new demographic fields—including those related to disability status, sexual orientation, and transgender status—have not been utilized by enough Record holders to include in detail in this year's edition of *NCARB by the Numbers*. We hope to report on these areas in future years.

Percentage Changes vs. Percentage Point Changes

Throughout the 2025 *NCARB by the Numbers*, we refer to changes in the data as either "percentage point changes" or "percent changes." Percent change measures the rate of change from one number to another (i.e., going from 40,000 to 50,000 is a 25% increase). Percentage point changes, on the other hand, measures the numerical difference in percentages (i.e., going from 40 percent to 50 percent is an increase of 10 percentage points).

NCARB typically uses percentage point changes when comparing proportions of different cohorts or groups—for example, when comparing the racial and ethnic makeup of candidates who completed the AXP in 2024 to 2023. Because the number of candidates completing the AXP each year is different, referring to the change in *percentage points* rather than *percent change* allows for a more accurate comparison of the proportion of candidates who identify as people of color each year.

NCARB is constantly updating how we filter and present data in *NCARB by the Numbers* to provide the most accurate information. If you have questions or comments about this year's *NCARB by the Numbers*, please reach out to us at communications@ncarb.org.

About NCARB

NCARB is a global leader in architectural regulation; our members are the architectural licensing boards of the 50 U.S. states, the District of Columbia, Guam, the Northern Mariana Islands, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

We are dedicated to helping our Member Boards protect the public health, safety, and welfare by recommending and encouraging national requirements for architectural licensure and mobility—including the Architectural Experience Program® (AXP®), Architect Registration Examination® (ARE®), and NCARB Certificate. The Certificate facilitates reciprocal licensure across the United States and in several international locations.

Glossary

Age: Median age based on self-reported dates of birth.

Architect: An individual who is licensed to practice architecture by one of the 55 U.S. jurisdictions. NCARB does not have demographic data on all U.S. architects; however, the NCARB Certificate holder population (see below) provides a close approximation.

ARE: The Architect Registration Examination® (ARE®) is a multi-division exam used to assess a candidate's knowledge and skills and is required for initial licensure in all U.S. jurisdictions.

ARE Completion: This data point is triggered when a candidate passes their final ARE division.

AXP: The Architectural Experience Program® (AXP®) provides a framework to guide licensure candidates through earning and recording professional experience.

AXP Completion: This data point is triggered when a licensure candidate fulfills the AXP's requirements and their Record has been evaluated by NCARB.

Candidate: Shorthand for *licensure candidate*—see below.

Licensure Candidate: An NCARB Record holder who is actively documenting experience and/or taking the ARE.

NAAB: The National Architectural Accrediting Board (NAAB) accredits U.S. professional programs in architecture. All U.S. jurisdictions accept degrees from NAAB-accredited programs for initial licensure.

New Record: A candidate's successful application for an NCARB Record, which is often the first step on the path to licensure.

NCARB Certificate: A credential available to architects that facilitates reciprocal licensure across U.S. jurisdictions, as well as several international locations.

New Architect: NCARB does not receive reliable data regarding when a candidate first receives their license but estimates that a candidate becomes a new architect after becoming ready for licensure. "New Architects" includes candidates who became ready for licensure in 2024.

Non-Certified Architect: An architect who does not hold an NCARB Certificate.

Pass Rate: Percentage of exam attempts that received a passing score out of the total number of exam attempts.

People of Color: Individuals who identified as American Indian or Alaskan Native; Asian; Black or African American; Hispanic or Latino; Middle Eastern or North African; or Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander.

Ready for Licensure: The core requirements for licensure in the United States include gaining an education (typically a degree from a NAAB-accredited program), completing the AXP, and passing the ARE. Some jurisdictions have additional requirements that fall outside this "core," such as a supplemental exam. NCARB considers a candidate ready for licensure when they have completed the core licensure requirements.

Reciprocal License: An architecture license issued by a jurisdiction as a result of the applicant holding an initial license in a separate jurisdiction.

Join the Conversation on Social Media #NBTN

NCARB

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