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ARE update

NCARB



Hi there,

Effective April 27, 2026, NCARB is making several changes to the Architect Registration Examination® (ARE®) to align the program with the [NCARB Competency Standard for Architects](#).

These updates focus on minor adjustments to some exam objectives and formatting adjustments to case studies. The changes will not impact the ARE's overall division structure, number of items per division, or testing time per division. Candidates' passed divisions, including divisions reinstated through the retirement of the former rolling clock policy, will **not** be impacted.

An updated version of the ARE 5.0 Guidelines that reflects these upcoming changes to the exam will be available in January 2026. NCARB will release updated practice exams that reflect these changes in early 2026. [Learn more about the changes to the ARE](#).

[Learn About Exam Changes](#)

Exam Objective Adjustments

NCARB will make minor adjustments to 12 of the 91 exam objectives identified in the *ARE 5.0 Guidelines*. These adjustments are limited to small clarifying updates

and, in some cases, narrowing the competency expectations assessed in the exam to align with the *Competency Standard*. NCARB does not expect that these changes will affect how you prepare for the exam. [Learn more about the objectives being updated](#).

Refreshed Case Studies

The format of the exam's case studies will also be refined, with an end goal of making case studies more efficient for candidates. Effective April 27, case studies will feature fewer total resources and fewer items per individual case study—reducing exam loading times as well as time spent reviewing case study resources during the exam. You should still expect to see the same total number of case study items per exam division.

AXP Changes

As a reminder, NCARB is also making changes to the Architectural Experience Program® (AXP®) on November 18, 2025, including updates to the reporting policy. [Learn more about changes to the AXP](#).

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