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AXP update

NCARB

Hi there,

NCARB is excited to announce that several updates to the Architectural Experience Program® (AXP®) will launch on November 18, 2025. These updates are designed to align the program with the [NCARB Competency Standard for Architects](#) and to address common administrative impediments faced by candidates on the path to licensure—including the experience program’s reporting requirement.

Explore AXP Updates

The updates to the AXP will not change the program’s required hours or experience area structure, and no candidates will lose AXP credit as a result of these changes. NCARB recommends that you continue earning and reporting experience as normal between now and when these changes take effect.

For more details, you can download an updated version of the [AXP Guidelines](#), which will go into effect on November 18, 2025. In addition to minor programmatic updates and language clarifications, the revised *AXP Guidelines* feature changes in the following three areas:

Refreshed Experience Area Descriptions

The descriptions of the six AXP experience areas in the *AXP Guidelines* will be refreshed to reflect the 16 competencies detailed in the *Competency Standard*. Aspects of the competencies will be divided across the current six experience areas as appropriate.

Overall, the updated descriptions will be more flexible and allow more room for variation within your professional experience, while still ensuring that you gain the appropriate knowledge, skills, abilities, and behaviors needed to protect the public.

Updated Reporting Policy

NCARB will replace the current five-year reporting requirement with a new reporting policy.

- Under the current requirement, you must report all experience within eight months of earning it for 100% credit, and within five years for 50% credit.
- Under the updated policy, you must report experience within **one year** of earning it for 100% credit. You will be able to report all experience older than one year for **75% credit instead of 50% credit**, with no limitation on how old the experience can be.

As part of this update, NCARB will automatically update any approved experience reports previously reported for 50% credit to be worth 75% credit for any candidates who are not already AXP complete on November 18, 2025.

You can expect to receive personalized messaging from NCARB in the weeks ahead on how this change will impact any of your previously reported experience. In the meantime, you can still report experience up to five years old between now and November 18—**any experience reported worth 50% credit will be updated to 75% credit as of November 18**.

Professional Development Experience

NCARB will expand the “Setting O: Continuing Education for HSW” opportunity that allows you to gain experience for completing continuing education (CE) programs that qualify for HSW. Under the current program requirements, NCARB only accepts courses accredited by the American Institute of Architects (AIA), which limits access to this experience opportunity to candidates who maintain AIA membership.

Under the updated requirements, NCARB will accept both AIA-accredited HSW CE courses, as well as professional development courses accredited by other organizations (these organizations must be pre-approved by NCARB). This will expand access to non-AIA members who complete courses through these approved organizations. More information about approved organizations and required documentation will be provided this fall.

ARE Changes

In addition, NCARB is expecting to launch minor updates to the Architect Registration Examination® (ARE®) in April 2026. The changes will focus on minor adjustments to a small subset of the exam objectives outlined in the [ARE Guidelines](#) in order to align them with the *Competency Standard*. NCARB will also make formatting changes to the exam’s case studies to improve the testing experience. More information about these changes will be available in fall 2025.

Questions?  
[Contact us.](#)