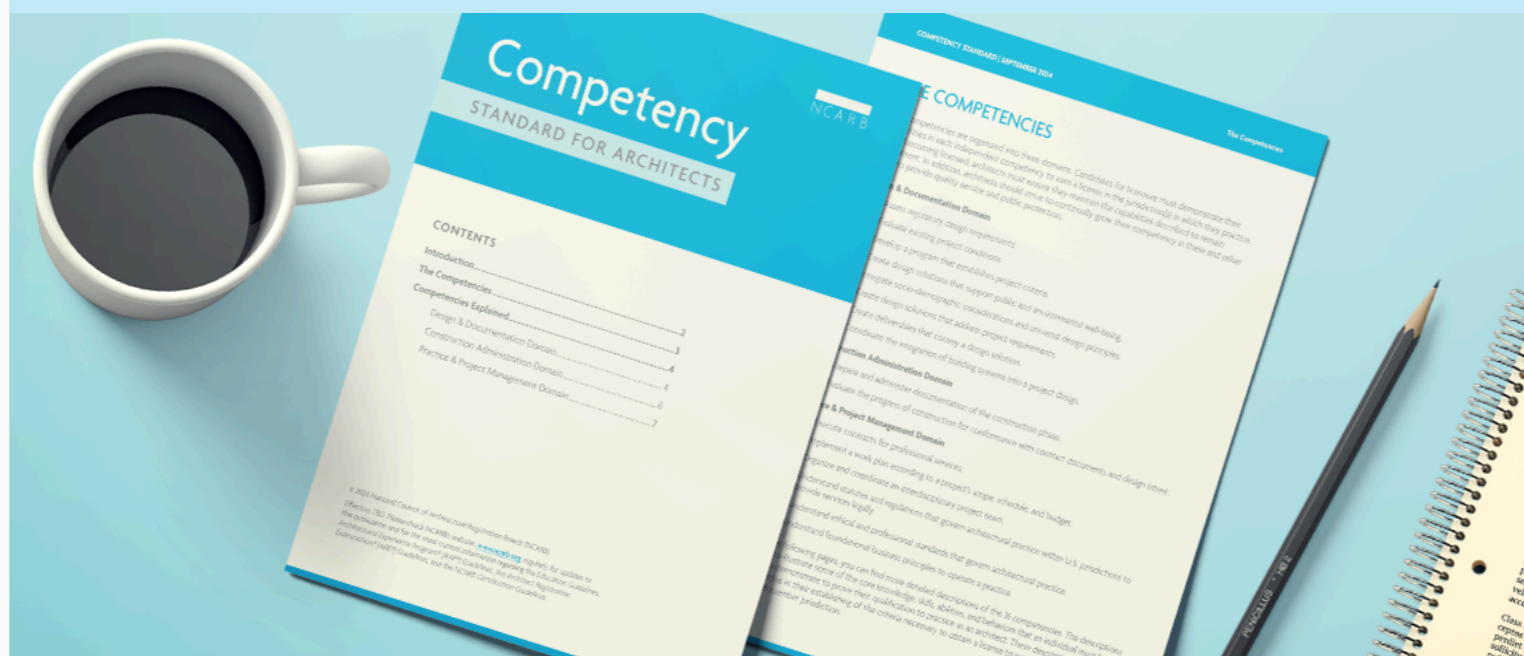


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NATIONAL ARCHITECT

A newsletter for
NCARB-certified architects

OCTOBER 2024



NCARB Releases New Competency Standard for Architects »

Following several years of research, NCARB has released a new *Competency Standard for Architects*, which defines the level of knowledge, skill, and ability necessary to demonstrate competency at the point of initial licensure as an architect. Developed with input from thousands of practicing architects, the *Competency Standard* will be used to shape the path to licensure for years to come.

[Download the Competency Standard](#)

What's in the Competency Standard?

Start our new four-part series with an overview of design tasks related to subgrade conditions, coordination of design professionals, and gathering all the right information.

How was the Competency Standard developed?

The *NCARB Competency Standard for Architects* was developed by NCARB's Competency Task Force. The task force used findings from NCARB's [2022 Analysis of Practice](#)—which had nearly 20,000 architect participants—as a foundation for their efforts. The task force also shared a draft list of competencies for public feedback in October 2023, receiving feedback from nearly 5,000 architects. [Learn how the Competency Standard was developed.](#)

Why create the Competency Standard?

As NCARB works to envision the future of licensure—including the possibility of multiple pathways to licensure—it is essential that our programs share a core expectation of what competency looks like at the point of initial licensure. The *NCARB Competency Standard for Architects* provides that foundation and lays the groundwork for a flexible, accessible path to licensure.

What does the Competency Standard mean for licensure candidates?

Over the next two years, NCARB will use the *NCARB Competency Standard for Architects* to develop and implement updates to the Architectural Experience Program® (AXP®) and the Architect Registration Examination® (ARE®). The changes will likely include clarifying the descriptions of the AXP's six experience areas and updating some of the ARE's test objectives. However, the updates will **not** include changes to the AXP's experience area structure or hours requirement, and they will not include changes to the ARE's divisional structure or length. Candidates will retain full credit for their existing AXP hours and passed ARE divisions, including exam credits transitioned from ARE 4.0.

What does the Competency Standard mean for architects?

While NCARB's immediate plans involve updates to programs for initial licensure, the *Competency Standard* may ultimately be used to update our programs for reciprocal licensure—including pathways to NCARB certification. In addition, it may lead to updated licensure renewal requirements (such as continuing education) in the future.

Where can you find more information?

For more information about the *NCARB Competency Standard for Architects*, including how these changes fit within our ongoing Pathways to Practice initiative, visit www.ncarb.org/pathways.

Questions about the *Competency Standard*? Join our staff experts for a live webinar at 3:30 p.m. (ET) on October 29. During the webinar, we'll review the new *Competency Standard* and answer your questions about the upcoming program updates. [Register now.](#)

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