NCARB

The Standards
for NCARB's Competency-Based Licensure Programs

SUMMARY

The National Council of Architectural Registration Boards (NCARB) is updating its licensure programs to align with a nationally recognized *Competency Standard* that reflects evolving practice while continuing to ensure public protection and the jurisdiction's role as the regulating authority.

- NCARB's competency-based licensure programs preserve **commitment to rigorous standards and public protection** while creating more accessible and responsive pathways to licensure.
- The proposed updated programs build on the existing foundations by **focusing more directly on the underlying competencies** that the current architectural licensure process has always been intended to develop and assess.

Alignment With the *NCARB Competency Standard for Architects*

- The *Competency Standard* establishes a framework describing the minimum competencies necessary for safe and effective professional practice.
- By organizing licensure requirements around competencies, NCARB gives jurisdictions a consistent method for evaluating readiness for professional practice.

Evolution of Education, Experience, and Examination for Initial Licensure

- NCARB's educational programs will evolve to **recognize architecture-related education of all forms**, including demonstrated achievement of competencies through accredited degree programs or approved coursework.
- The Architectural Experience Program® (AXP®) will evolve from broad experience areas to a program that emphasizes **demonstrating and applying focused professional competencies** across work settings, while maintaining the important role of supervised employment and time in practice.
- The Architect Registration Examination® (ARE®) will evolve from a large-format model of six divisions into a suite of **more focused assessments** that include traditional standardized assessments and guided learning with a standardized assessment component.

By measuring outcomes, NCARB's competency-based licensure programs enable licensure candidates to develop competencies through education, professional practice, military service, apprenticeships, alternative educational experiences, and other validated learning, while ensuring every individual meets the same minimum threshold for independent practice.

This evolution reflects a simple but important principle: All candidates should meet the same standard of professional competence, regardless of how they acquire it.

Read the *Standards for NCARB's Competency-Based Licensure Programs*.

About NCARB

- NCARB is a nonprofit organization made up of the architectural licensing boards of 55 U.S. states and territories.
- NCARB, in collaboration with these boards, facilitates the licensure and credentialing of architects to protect the health, safety, and welfare of the public.