



NCARB



NATIONAL
COUNCIL OF
ARCHITECTURAL
REGISTRATION
BOARDS

YOUR GUIDE TO
NCARB
Certification

www.ncarb.org/certification



Your Guide to NCARB Certification

The NCARB Certificate gives you the flexibility you need to advance your career.

Whether you're newly licensed or have been practicing for years, the NCARB Certificate can help expand your professional reach. Along with the mobility to pursue work in multiple jurisdictions, you'll have access to free continuing education, exciting leadership opportunities, and more.

There are now more paths to certification than ever. Read on to discover how the NCARB Certificate can help you expand your professional reach.

Table of Contents

Benefits of Certification.....	4
Continuum Education	6
International Opportunities.....	8
Applying for Certification.....	9
Meeting Requirements.....	10
Understanding Alternatives.....	11
FAQs.....	15

Benefits of Certification

Once you've earned your NCARB Certificate, you can take advantage of:

Professional Mobility



Being certified gives you the flexibility to go wherever work takes you—including all 55 U.S. jurisdictions, Australia, Canada, New Zealand, and the United Kingdom.

Free Continuing Education



You can earn continuing education (CE) hours through our Continuum Education program, free for Certificate holders. Each course comes with an online quiz you can complete from the comfort of your own home.

Competitive Edge



You can add the “NCARB” credential to your title. For many firms, meeting this national standard is an important factor in hiring and promoting.

“All I had to do to gain reciprocity was have NCARB transmit my Record. I was registered that same afternoon!”

—Tina Stanislaski, AIA, NCARB, LEED AP

Secure Records



As a Certificate holder, you don't have to worry about record keeping. All of your professional information is stored on our secure servers—ready whenever you need it.

Leadership Opportunities



You'll be among the first to hear about opportunities to help shape the future of the profession by volunteering on your state board and NCARB committees.



Continuum
Education

Thanks to our exclusive self-study resources, you can easily earn the continuing education hours you need to update your professional skills and maintain your license.

Continuum Education Courses

The CE courses are bite-sized pieces of continuing education, offering you the opportunity to earn between 1 and 3.25 learning units (LUs) in Health, Safety, and Welfare (HSW).

Continue developing your professional skills by completing self-study courses on topics like sustainable design, professional conduct, historic preservation, and building performance. Many of our courses are part of a multi-part series, written by recognized experts. NCARB is a registered provider of AIA-approved continuing education.

Earning CE

Follow these simple steps to complete a course:

- 1 **Access a course.** As a Certificate holder, you'll receive email notifications every month about the latest free courses. You can also browse our full collection on ce.ncarb.org.
- 2 **Take the quiz.** After completing your selected course, complete the quiz online at ce.ncarb.org.
- 3 **Save your results.** Receive your results immediately—if you're an AIA member, your passing score is automatically reported.

**CE courses are always free for NCARB
Certificate holders!**



International Opportunities

The NCARB Certificate doesn't limit reciprocity to the United States. Through our Mutual Recognition Agreements, you can use your Certificate to expand your career abroad, including:

- **Australia**
- **Canada**
- **New Zealand**
- **United Kingdom**

To learn more about the specific requirements for each country, visit www.ncarb.org/international.

Applying for Certification

Ready to join more than 50,000 architects and become an NCARB Certificate holder? Follow these simple steps to advance your career:

- 1 Visit my.ncarb.org and establish or reactivate your NCARB Record.
- 2 Document NCARB's certification requirements.
- 3 Contact our Customer Relations team at ncarb.org/contact to have your Record evaluated.

To learn more about applying for the NCARB Certificate, read the [**Certification Guidelines**](#), available on our website.

Meeting Requirements

Holding an NCARB Certificate signifies that you've met national standards for licensure. As a practicing architect, you probably already meet some or all of these requirements—now's the time to make sure they're updated in your NCARB Record!

Education	Hold a professional degree in architecture from a program accredited by the National Architectural Accrediting Board (NAAB) or the Canadian Architectural Certification Board (CACB).
Experience	Complete the Architectural Experience Program® (AXP®).
Examination	Pass the Architect Registration Examination® (ARE®).
Registration	Receive a license to practice architecture from a U.S. licensure board.

Don't meet these requirements?

There are alternative paths for U.S. architects without a degree from a NAAB-accredited program, as well as international architects. 

*“Maintaining an NCARB Certificate provides flexibility—
I’m able to take my career wherever it may lead.
Plus, I have a credential recognized and respected
throughout the country.”*

—Mary Melissa Taddeo, AIA, NCARB

Understanding Alternatives to Certification

We’ve been working to ensure the certification process is streamlined and inclusive for all applicants.

These paths are offered at no additional charge to the standard initial certification application fee, which is waived for applicants who have maintained an active NCARB Record.

The Education Alternative

Through this path, architects who do not have a degree from a NAAB-accredited program can pursue NCARB certification. You must be currently licensed in a U.S. jurisdiction to be eligible. Your path will be determined based on your education background.

Education Alternative Paths

Bachelor's Degree in an Architecture-Related Program (as determined by NCARB): Architects eligible for this path must document two times the requirements of the AXP.

Other than a Bachelor's Degree in an Architecture-Related Program: Architects eligible for this path must complete the NCARB Certificate Portfolio, a portfolio of your work as an architect addressing the subject areas of the *NCARB Education Standard*.

To learn more about the AXP or the [NCARB Education Standard](#), visit our website.

Note: Architects with other post-secondary education who have 64 or more semester credit hours have the option to obtain an Education Evaluation Services for Architects (EESA) evaluation to determine which subject areas of the *Education Standard* they must address through a portfolio. Architects with less than 64 semester credit hours must address all education requirements through a portfolio. The NAAB charges a fee for EESA evaluations.

International Architect Path

Through this path, architects who are licensed outside of the United States can pursue an NCARB Certificate by completing the experience and examination requirements for licensure.

- 1 Have a degree or education credential in an architecture program that leads to registration/credential to practice architecture in another country.
- 2 Submit verification of active registration or licensure to practice architecture in a country that tracks disciplinary actions in the profession.
- 3 Complete the AXP.
- 4 Pass the ARE.

To learn more about alternatives to certification,
read the [**Certification Guidelines**](#).

NATIONAL ARCHITECT

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industry trends, and more—delivered
right to your inbox.*

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FAQs

How much does the NCARB Certificate cost?

You can find the current Certificate application fee and annual renewal fee at www.ncarb.org/fees. Licensure candidates who maintain an active NCARB Record will not have to pay the Certificate application fee and will receive their first year of certification for free.

How do I use my Certificate to apply for licensure in another jurisdiction?

Certified architects can easily apply for licensure in another jurisdiction through their NCARB Record. Simply select the “New Transmittal Request” button and follow the instructions on your screen. NCARB charges a fee for each transmittal.

Do I need to complete CE to renew my NCARB Certificate?

While certification does give you access to free continuing education opportunities, you do not need to complete CE to renew your NCARB Certificate.

Can I apply for an NCARB Certificate online?

If you do not already have an NCARB Record, you can apply for NCARB certification online by starting your Record. Architects with existing NCARB Records will be automatically evaluated for certification following their annual online Record renewal. If you have an existing Record and would like to be evaluated for certification sooner, please contact our Customer Relations team at ncarb.org/contact.

Do I need an NCARB Certificate to apply for licensure in another jurisdiction?

While it's possible to gain a reciprocal license without being certified, all 55 jurisdictions accept the Certificate and many require it.

Can I use my NCARB Certificate to apply for licensure in other countries?

Certified architects can apply for reciprocal licenses in Canada, Australia, New Zealand, and the United Kingdom. NCARB can also send a letter on your behalf to international economies participating in the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Architect Project.

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For more information on the NCARB Certificate, visit:



www.ncarb.org



ncarb.org/blog



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