



Appendix B:

NCARB Examination Policy Sunset: 1966-2002

In FY19, Board discussions unveiled a resolution from 2000 that dictated an NCARB position on an issue/policy that, in 2020, no longer aligned with current practice or philosophy. Evaluation of the resolution was assigned to a task force for review and discussion, but led the Board to question the status of other resolutions that dictated official NCARB policy or position. Policies or positions implemented by membership vote remain active unless the membership takes a follow-up action to sunset it, provides a deadline, or includes information granting authority of future adjustments to another party in the resolution. NCARB staff began a research project to evaluate the status of all historical NCARB resolutions, and the Policy Advisory Committee (PAC) has been asked to make recommendations to the NCARB Board of Directors on whether the resolutions should remain NCARB policy or sunset.

Examination Policies: 1966-2002

Today, the *NCARB Bylaws* specifically give the NCARB Board of Directors authority to issue rules and policies respecting the development, administration, and grading of examination, which includes setting fees, dates exams may be administered, safeguards to prevent improper disclosure of information respecting the exams, and other matters.

Prior to the computerized exam, examination policies were regularly implemented via resolution because the exam was administered by each jurisdiction. In preparation for the change from paper-and-pencil to a computerized exam, the Member Boards passed Resolution 1996-12 that was intended to rescind previous policies and replaced them with new policies. The later passage of Resolution 2002-14 to rescind a specific policy, as well as the development of an index of active resolutions in 2002, has caused uncertainty as to the effect of the 1996 resolution.

To provide clear direction going forward, the Policy Advisory Committee recommends a new resolution be passed so that it is clear that all active policies governing the exam are located in *ARE Guidelines*, *Certification Guidelines*, and/or other Board policies.

Appendix B includes all the resolutions included in the 2002 index of active of resolution:

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III. EXAMINATION FOR REGISTRATION AND CERTIFICATION

RESOLUTION NO. 69-8

Continuation of Studies Toward the Development of a New Examination

RESOLVED, That this convention give its approval to the direction of the studies this past year that reviewed the process of education, internship, examinations, and practice for the architect and commends the NCARB Directors to continue these studies and report to next year's convention the progress; and

RESOLVED, That this report shall include a definitive study by a top level committee of NCARB, the members of Member Boards, and other professionals both in education and practice, toward development of a new NCARB examination and procedure for its use.

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RESOLUTION NO. 70-6

Acceptance of Examination Grades Between Member Boards

WHEREAS, The principal purpose of the NCARB is to facilitate reciprocity between the states; and

WHEREAS, Many candidates for examination move or are transferred from the state of their original examination before its completion; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Member Boards agree to accept grades earned by their candidates in other states and allow these candidates to complete the examination in the state of their new location according to the laws and rules and regulations of that state.

RESOLUTION NO. 71-4

Eligibility Cut-Off Date for Council Oral Examination

WHEREAS, At the 1970 Annual Meeting certain changes were incorporated into the Council documents and procedures relative to the "senior" method of Council certification, one very important subject was inadvertently omitted; and

WHEREAS, The requirements for passage of the written examination for initial registration is uniform within the several states, the avenue of awarding registration and certification via the exemption, grandfather or senior method is no longer germane to the best interests of the state registration boards and the National Council. Therefore, it is desirable that a date be established after which no credits would be allowed for experience for admission to the Council Oral Examination for certification via the "senior" procedure; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the date for the matter discussed above be established as, and become effective on, December 31, 1971. All applicants for certification who have not passed a written examination will be required to do so unless they have completed all currently established criteria for "senior" certification to December 31, 1971. Individual architects who have met the "senior" requirements prior to the above-noted date will be eligible for certification via the Council Oral Examination.

RESOLUTION NO. 71-6

Phasing Out of Seven-Part Examination and Implementation of New Professional Examination

WHEREAS, The purpose of registration is health, safety, and public welfare; and

WHEREAS, Public welfare demands a workable and satisfactorily built environment; and

WHEREAS, Competent architects are needed to meet this goal; and

WHEREAS, Registration is a professional competence identifying process; and

WHEREAS, This process measured educational, training, and examination evidence; and

WHEREAS, This evidence must be related to the wisdom and knowledge of the time, now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the recommendations of the Examination Development Committee for revising the registration process, as detailed below, be accepted:

1. Purpose: To phase out the present 36-hour, seven-part examination for architectural license candidates. To implement, as soon as practicable, the new Professional Examination for candidates holding NAAB-accredited professional architectural degrees and a Qualifying Examination for candidates without NAAB-accredited degrees and/or with combinations of education and experience in accordance with NCARB equivalencies.
2. Prerequisites for New Professional Examinations: A professional architectural degree from an NAAB-accredited school to be required for entrance to the new Professional Examination beginning in June 1973 or a passing grade in the Qualifying Examination to be first offered in December 1972.
For the holders of a master's degree in architecture, one year's acceptable experience in the field to be required.
For the holders of a bachelor of architecture degree, the first professional degree, two (2) years acceptable experience in the field to be required.
3. Presentation: A complete examination process will be presented to the 1972 national convention.

RESOLUTION NO. 71-16

Additional Registration and/or Certification Requirements

WHEREAS, Certification by NCARB is the desirable vehicle for professional mobility throughout the United States, now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That if any jurisdiction desires additional requirements for registration and/or certification, and for continued registration and/or certification beyond those currently required by the NCARB, those additional requirements be submitted to the NCARB Board for consideration and appropriate action and where legally possible the action of the NCARB be adopted by the various jurisdictions.

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RESOLUTION NO. 72-2

NCARB Examinations

WHEREAS, The goal of the examining procedure is to provide a reliable measure of a candidate's qualifications essential to the practice of architecture; and

WHEREAS, The current seven-part, written examination covers subject matter that can be related logically under three basic areas of architectural knowledge; and

WHEREAS, A candidate's performance in each of these three basic areas provides a measure of his proficiency in the general area; and

WHEREAS, Failure in a single part only of the seven-part examination does not necessarily demonstrate lack of proficiency in the general area; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the seven parts of the present NCARB written examination be grouped into three categories as follows:

Category 1: Examinations—(C), History and Theory of Architecture; (D), Site Planning; and (E), Architectural Design.

Category 2: Examinations—(F), Building Construction; (G), Structural Design; and (I), Building Equipment

Category 3: Examination—(H), Professional Administration.

RESOLVED, That if a candidate for the written examination attains a grade of 70 or more, but less than 75 in one part only of the entire examination and such failure occurs in either Category 1 or Category 2, then the failing grade shall be averaged with the remaining two parts in the same category and a passing grade be granted provided the averaged total of the category is 75 or greater.

RESOLUTION NO. 72-4

Publication and Distribution of Examination Success Rates

RESOLVED, That NCARB direct ETS to publish examination success rates of candidates of all Member Boards and to distribute these results to all boards.

RESOLUTION NO. 72-5

Implementation of New Examinations

RESOLVED, That the report of the Examinations Committee be approved for implementation as described below:

- (a) That the Equivalency Examination be first administered in June, 1973, and
- (b) That the Professional Examination be first administered in December, 1973, and

RESOLVED, That there be a five-year time limit for the use of the present examination for those Member Boards which cannot, by law, implement the new examination procedure. The five-year time period to begin January 1, 1973.

RESOLUTION NO. 75-6

Publication of Examination Costs

WHEREAS, Legislative bodies in a number of jurisdictions in the areas served by NCARB are requesting budget information from the examining boards; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the NCARB Board of Directors shall annually publish all examination costs.

RESOLUTION NO. 75-16

Prohibition of Examination Interpreters

WHEREAS, The objective of the Member Boards must be to facilitate and permit qualified and competent architects to practice architecture and, thereby fulfilling the legal obligation to protect the public welfare and the public's interests; and

WHEREAS, The complete understanding of the English language is essential to the practice of architecture in that comprehension of codes, rules, regulations, ordinances and the laws of the land is necessary to fulfill professional service verbally, as well as in the instruments of service including contract documents; and

WHEREAS, The architectural candidate, during the course of the examination must demonstrate his comprehension of the English language without the assistance of others; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the use of an interpreter assisting the candidate during the examination be forbidden.

RESOLUTION NO. 75-20

Administration of Parts I and II of the Equivalency Examination

WHEREAS, All Member Boards recognize and acknowledge progressive improvements in the content of the Professional Examination; and

WHEREAS, A number of boards now require both the Equivalency Examination and Professional Examination of all candidates; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That NCARB Member Boards requiring all candidates to take both the Equivalency and the Professional Examination delete the parts of History and Theory of Architecture and Environmental Planning and Construction Theory and Practice of the Equivalency Examination as a requirement for candidates having an NAAB-accredited, or otherwise approved, professional degree in architecture.

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RESOLUTION NO. 76-5

Evaluation of NCARB Examination

WHEREAS, All Member Boards use examinations prepared by NCARB to assist in determining a candidate's qualification for registration as an architect within each Member Board's jurisdiction, and

WHEREAS, The true intent of the NCARB examination procedure is to register candidates who prove their qualifications to practice the profession of architecture, and

WHEREAS, It is the responsibility of each Member Board to ensure proper registration practices by use of proper testing procedures, and

WHEREAS, It is essential periodically to evaluate those testing procedures to insure that the examinations appropriately and adequately test the education, knowledge and evidence of that experience which represents minimum competence for admission to professional practice; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the NCARB Board of Directors appoint a distinguished panel comprising both persons with broad architectural practice, knowledge and experience, who will reflect current accepted architectural practice standards and persons expert in testing procedures (none of the foregoing shall have served in the preparation of NCARB examinations), charged with defining standards of minimum competence for professional practice and evaluating the Professional Examination in order to ascertain that it appropriately and adequately tests the education, knowledge, skills and experience necessary to qualify for such minimum competence. The panel shall report its findings and recommendations to the 1977 Annual Meeting.

RESOLUTION NO. 77-1

Requirements for Graphics Examination

RESOLVED, That all candidates for registration be evaluated for design competency as follows:

- (a) That the design section of the Qualifying Test as developed and used in 1977 be administered to all candidates commencing in 1978;
- (b) That grading of the design test be performed on a regional basis, commencing in 1978, or as soon thereafter as a Member Board can adopt the grading procedures;
- (c) That the NCARB Board of Directors continue the Design Committee in 1977-78 to further define the scope, content and procedures of the design test for presentation to the 1978 Annual Meeting for approval and use commencing in 1979.

RESOLUTION NO. 79-5

Task Analysis and Validation Study

(The Board submits the following resolution with the understanding that the committee which it establishes will continue the work of the Task Force on Registration established at the 1978 NCARB Annual Meeting.)

RESOLVED, That NCARB is directed to analyze and to define the knowledge, skills, abilities and functions necessary for minimum competence for the practice of architecture in the United States (hereinafter referred to as "task analysis") and apply these findings to an evaluation of the current NCARB examinations, internship standards, education standards and practice standards, and recommend criteria as necessary and appropriate to conform to those findings (hereinafter referred to as a "validation study").

That a Steering Committee composed of one person and one alternate chosen by each NCARB Regional Conference, and a chairperson and vice chairperson chosen by the president of NCARB, shall be assigned the task of carrying out the foregoing directive and shall further be authorized and directed:

1. To engage, with approval of the Council Board, such independent experts, including testing experts, as the committee deems appropriate;
2. To call upon any standing or special committees of the Council to assist in its work;
3. To report periodically to the Council Board of Directors and all Member Boards on the progress of the Committee's work;
4. To report to the 1980 Annual Meeting its findings and recommendations with regard to the "task analysis" and "validation study."

RESOLUTION NO. 79-22

Sequence of Sections A and B of Professional Examination

RESOLVED, That for purposes of Council certification, an applicant for registration may have passed Section A of the Professional Examination before or after such applicant has passed Section B of the Professional Examination.

RESOLUTION NO. 80-3

Revision of Passing Procedure for Section B, Professional Examination

RESOLVED, That if a candidate fails one part only of Section B of the Professional Examination, and attains passing scores on all other parts, the passing scores will be recorded as the candidate's final grades in those parts of the examination passed. Upon the candidate retaking Section B, only the score in the part first failed will be considered in the retake record; and if that score is a

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pass, the candidate will be deemed to have passed all parts of Section B. If that part is failed a third time, the candidate must take the entire Section B, as hereinbefore stated.

RESOLUTION NO. 83-11

Examination May Be Taken in Parts

RESOLVED, That there shall be no requirement that an applicant for certification must have taken all divisions of the Architect Registration Examination at his or her initial sitting for the examination, nor that he or she must have taken all previously failed divisions at any subsequent sitting for the examination.

RESOLUTION NO. 83-12

Allow Purchase of the ARE by Parts

RESOLVED, That the new ARE, which can be taken in parts, be allowed to be purchased by Member Boards from NCARB in parts for any or all candidates.

AND FURTHER, WHEREAS, The California Board of Architectural Examiners has shown a continuing arbitrary and unilateral disregard for the rules and guidelines established by the NCARB Board of Directors for the administration and grading of the Architect Registration Examination, which has resulted in a breach of fundamental principles of examination grading and administration by causing candidates similarly situated to be treated dissimilarly, and by giving unfair advantage to California candidates, and by seriously affecting NCARB's ability to assess and measure the exam results nationally,

FURTHER RESOLVED, In the interest of the protection of the public's health, safety, and welfare, and also the protection of the rights of exam candidates, all Member Boards shall administer the Architect Registration Examination in strict compliance with the rules and guidelines as established by the NCARB Board of Directors and all Member Boards shall participate in the Regional Grading Sessions using the grading criteria as established by the NCARB Exam Committee, and the determination by the Board of Directors of the failure of any jurisdiction to honor the said rules, guidelines and criteria for the administration and grading of the Architect Registration Examination shall cause the immediate termination of that Member Board's right and privilege to purchase and administer the NCARB Architect Registration Examination.

AND FURTHER, WHEREAS, The California Board of Architectural Examiners has disregarded the rules and guidelines established by the NCARB Board of Directors for the administration and grading of the Architect Registration Examination,

NOW THEREFORE, The Board of Directors is hereby instructed to withhold the right and privilege of the California Board or any other board found to have been in infraction to purchase and administer the NCARB Architect Registration Examination until the Board of Directors shall have received satisfactory assurance from the California Board or any other board found to have been in infraction that the rules and guidelines will be strictly observed.

RESOLUTION NO. 84-14

Security of NCARB Examinations

RESOLVED, That for purposes of test security, all Member Boards seek to provide in their rules for removal of NCARB examinations from any "Freedom of Information Act" or similar public domain laws or regulations.

RESOLUTION NO. 84-19

Structural Examinations Format

RESOLVED, That the structural examinations of the ARE shall continue to test candidates by the use of the questions employing calculations of basic structural design problems, conforming generally to the specifications for the 1984 ARE.

RESOLUTION NO. 85-8

Rescission of 1984 Resolution No. 20 Permitting Use of Reference Material in the ARE

RESOLVED, That Resolution No. 20 as adopted at the 1984 Annual Meeting be revoked and that no reference materials be permitted in the examination, and be it further

RESOLVED, That the examination be published to include all reference material necessary for its administration.

RESOLUTION NO. 88-7

Withholding Access to ARE from Member Board Not Administering Examination

RESOLVED, That the Council withhold all portions of the Architect Registration Examination from any Member Board which has not committed itself to the satisfaction of the Council Board of Directors, to administering the examination to all of its applicants (other than applicants of whom it does not require a written examination) for registration.

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RESOLUTION NO. 89-12

Study the Appropriateness of Terminating the Paper-and-Pencil ARE

RESOLVED, That the Council Board of Directors study the appropriateness of changing from the paper-and-pencil ARE following its administration in June 1992 to a computer ARE for all non-graphic portions of the ARE and that a schedule of the details of the transition and the financial implications of the transition be presented to the 1990 Annual Meeting for its approval.

RESOLUTION NO. 89-15

Elimination of Special Seismic Test

RESOLVED, That the special seismic test be discontinued and that architects who need to be tested on this subject take Division E of the ARE or C/ARE.

RESOLUTION NO. 92-2

NCARB Written Examination Required for Certification

RESOLVED, That all applicants for Council certification be required to pass the NCARB written examination current at the time the applicant sat for the examination and that except as provided in Appendix C of *Circular of Information No. 1* and for CALE-registered persons in Appendix A of *Circular of Information No. 1*, there be no substitute for the written examination.

RESOLUTION NO. 92-5

ARE in English Requirement for Certification

RESOLVED, That the Architect Registration Examination (ARE) may be rewritten in French for Canadian provinces and in Spanish for Puerto Rico for registration purposes so long as all costs and security issues associated therewith are borne by the governmental agency requesting such permission, all in accord with NCARB guidelines.

AND, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That applicants applying for NCARB certification must have passed the NCARB examination in the English language except for applicants under the interrecognition agreement with Canada who passed the examination in French or applicants from Puerto Rico who passed the examination in Spanish.

RESOLUTION NO. 93-1

Rescind Resolution No. 1 of the 1990 Annual Meeting

RESOLVED, That Resolution Number 1 of the 1990 Annual Meeting calling for a computerized ARE in 1995 be and hereby is rescinded, and that the computerized ARE be administered beginning in 1997, and that the implementation plan for the computerized ARE delivery system be in place no later than the 1994 NCARB Annual Meeting and Conference.

RESOLUTION NO. 93-2

Reporting Scores for the Computerized ARE

RESOLVED, That beginning with the first computer-delivered ARE and thereafter, only pass or fail status will be reported for all divisions of the ARE and diagnostic information will be available to boards with respect to every candidate.

RESOLUTION NO. 94-10

Giving Credit For Pilot Administrations of ARE '97

RESOLVED, That a candidate for NCARB certification shall be given full credit for passing a division of the ARE in a pilot administration of the computerized ARE in 1995 and 1996, and that all Member Boards are urged to accept candidates for registration whose certification by NCARB is based in whole or in part upon passing divisions of the ARE administered as part of the pilot administrations in 1995 and 1996.

RESOLUTION NO. 96-12

Examination Policies

RESOLVED, That all previously enacted policies regarding the Council's examinations be rescinded, and in their place, the Council Board of Directors is authorized to adopt the Examination Policies set out in Appendix B of the *Pre-Annual Meeting Report*.

RESOLUTION NO. 97-12

Examination Fees

RESOLVED, That NCARB address the computerized ARE cost concerns by:

- (1) thoroughly reviewing cost components such as the delivery cost, the credit card charges, the tutorials and any other possible cost savings to determine if the financial impact to the candidates of the change to the computerized ARE can be mitigated by reasonable means without diminishing the generally acclaimed improvements in the examination;
- (2) actively monitor the Chauncey Group (including Sylvan) contract for compliance in the delivery of the examination; and
- (3) reporting the results of the review and monitoring efforts at the 1998 NCARB Annual Meeting.

RESOLUTION NO. 99-17

Comprehensive Testing

RESOLVED, That NCARB is directed, in the shortest time possible, to investigate a testing and grading procedure by which a candidate can demonstrate his or her ability to solve individual problems within the context of a broader comprehensive solution.