



Certification Guidelines

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About NCARB

The National Council of Architectural Registration Boards (NCARB) is a global leader in architectural regulation, dedicated to helping professionals reach their career goals, providing key data about the path to licensure, and protecting the public's health, safety, and welfare.

We are a nonprofit organization made up of the architectural licensing boards of 55 states and territories. While each jurisdiction is responsible for regulating the practice of architecture within its borders, NCARB develops and administers national programs for licensure candidates and architects to ensure they have the mobility to go wherever their career takes them.

To accomplish this, NCARB recommends and encourages national requirements for architectural licensure. We develop and recommend standards for the 55 licensing boards, who then issue licenses to applicants who meet their specific registration requirements.

NCARB Services

NCARB exists to help you advance from student to practicing architect, so our services span the many phases of your career—think of us as your professional guide. Whether you're navigating the Architectural Experience Program® (AXP®), completing the Architect Registration Examination® (ARE®), or earning your NCARB Certificate, NCARB is here to help.

And with our secure digital filing system, we can store all your major milestones, including official transcripts, employment history, examination successes, and more—a safe record of all of your achievements and accomplishments, ready to be sent to the jurisdiction of your choice.

NCARB Mission

NCARB, in collaboration with licensing boards, facilitates the licensure and credentialing of architects to protect the health, safety, and welfare of the public.

Registration (Licensure)

Before you can officially call yourself an architect, you have to earn your license. Once you do, you'll prove to your firm and your community that you're able to protect the health, safety, and welfare of those who live and work in the built environment. Each licensing board has its own set of requirements, but navigating them doesn't have to be complicated. NCARB has developed a number of tools and resources to help you succeed in meeting your jurisdiction's licensure requirements in the following three areas:

Licensure/Registration

NCARB uses the words "licensure" and "registration" interchangeably when talking about the process of becoming an architect.

Education



The recommended first step to becoming an architect is finding a school that offers a professional degree in architecture from a program accredited by the [National Architectural Accrediting Board](#) (NAAB) or the [Canadian Architectural Certification Board](#) (CACB).

With over 130 schools to choose from, the NAAB can help you find a school that fits your vision—or you can take advantage of the other education requirements that some jurisdictions offer. More information about starting your education in architecture can be found in the [Education Guidelines](#).

Experience



Licensure candidates also have to gain experience under the supervision of a practicing architect. The AXP provides the framework to guide you through earning and recording your professional experience—covering everything from site design to project management. And you can start reporting experience after graduating high school or an equivalent.

We know you'll be busy learning the ins and outs of architecture. That's why we offer a number of tools—including a free mobile app—that can help you log experience hours and understand the program requirements. And since completing the AXP is a core component for certification, you'll be on your way to earning your NCARB Certificate, too.

More information about earning experience can be found in the [AXP Guidelines](#).

Examination



Another key part of becoming an architect is demonstrating your knowledge and skills through the ARE. With exam divisions that are designed to reflect the current profession, the ARE assesses your competency to practice architecture independently. Passing the exam is another big step toward finally getting that license.

Whenever you need a helping hand, our tips, guides, and inspiring success stories are there to make sure you have what you need to get it done. To learn more about the exam, each division, and tips to start planning, read this document and the [ARE Guidelines](#).

NCARB Certification

Following initial licensure, obtaining an NCARB Certificate ensures you can get the most out of your career in architecture. It provides mobility and signifies that you have met the national standards that guide the 55 licensing boards. With an NCARB Certificate in hand, it's simpler to get licensed across jurisdictions—allowing you the freedom and flexibility to pursue your career and connect with clients regardless of location.

Benefits of the Certificate

Once you've earned your NCARB Certificate, you can take advantage of all the following benefits:

NCARB CREDENTIAL

Obtaining and maintaining an NCARB Certificate demonstrates that you've met national standards. You can now use the letters "NCARB" after your name.

RECIPROCITY

The Certificate streamlines the process for obtaining a license in a new jurisdiction.

MOBILITY

Gaining reciprocity in multiple jurisdictions allows you the freedom to go wherever the work takes you.

COMPETITIVE EDGE

Setting yourself apart from other architects can be key for your career; the greater flexibility you'll enjoy as a Certificate holder is often an important factor for firms when hiring and promoting.

SECURITY

As an NCARB Certificate holder, you don't have to worry about record keeping—all your information is stored on our secure server, ready whenever you need it.

FREE CONTINUING EDUCATION

Earning continuing education hours in Health, Safety, and Welfare (HSW) has never been easier, thanks to NCARB's online [Continuum Education Program](#)—free for Certificate holders!



Steps to Certification

1. Establish Your NCARB Record

To create your NCARB Record, go to the [My NCARB](#) section on www.ncarb.org, and click on “Create New Account.” Once you have established your account, add the NCARB Record service. If you are interrupted in the process or need additional information to complete the application, you can save it and return later. In order to receive your NCARB Record number, you must complete the application and submit payment. Once you click “Submit,” you will receive two emails. The first will confirm receipt of your payment. The second will assign your NCARB Record number and provide further instructions.

MAINTAINING YOUR NCARB RECORD

You must maintain an active Record to maintain an active NCARB Certificate. You must renew your NCARB Record annually by completing an annual renewal form and submitting a fee.

All renewals and reactivations can be submitted online through My NCARB. Notify NCARB promptly of any change to your mailing and email address or update your account through “My NCARB.” Monitor your NCARB Record status online through My NCARB. This will allow you to make sure processes are taking place in a timely manner.


NCARB FEES

Please refer to the NCARB schedule of fees on our [Fees Page](#) for establishing and maintaining your NCARB Record. All fees are subject to change and are non-refundable unless otherwise noted.

YOUR NCARB RECORD

Throughout your career, your Record becomes a detailed, verified account of your education, experience, and examination used to establish qualification for licensure and certification. Your NCARB Record is confidential and maintained on a secure server. The contents may only be discussed with the Record holder directly or provided to the registration board identified by the Record holder.

Establishing a Record is essential for documenting the AXP and accessing the ARE. Your NCARB Record gives you access to the online reporting system for the timely and accurate reporting of AXP experience. It is also the first step for those seeking eligibility to take the ARE, or for foreign-educated applicants who are having their education evaluated through the Education Evaluation Services for Architects (EESA).



If you have applied for an NCARB Record in the past, please do not reapply. You should reactivate your existing Record by going to [My NCARB](#) online and selecting the Annual Renewal option.

Already Have a Record?

If you already have an NCARB Record, you can apply for the NCARB Certificate by clicking the “Certify Me” button in your Record, adding your license to the “Registration” tab, or by contacting [NCARB Customer Service](#).

Steps to Certification

2. Documentation

As a registered architect establishing your NCARB Record for the purpose of applying for an NCARB Certificate, you must document the following:

EDUCATION

You must document completion of a professional degree in architecture from a NAAB-accredited program to satisfy the education requirement for NCARB certification by requesting that an official copy of your final transcript(s) be delivered directly from the school(s) to NCARB.

Download and mail the transcript request forms and any associated fee to your school(s). NCARB will only accept official transcripts submitted by the school.

If you do not hold a professional degree in architecture, refer to the Alternative to the Education Requirement in Section 2.2 of this document.

EXPERIENCE

You must document completion of the Architectural Experience Program (AXP) to satisfy the experience requirement for NCARB certification. The *AXP Guidelines* describe the specific experience requirements including experience settings, categories, areas, and experience hour minimums and maximums. The online reporting system allows you to document your experience directly in your NCARB Record through [My NCARB](#).

If you are unable to complete the AXP, you may refer to the Alternative to the Experience Requirement in Section 2.3 of this document.

EXAMINATION

You must have completed the Architect Registration Examination (ARE), or its then-current predecessor (see [Appendix B](#)) to satisfy the examination requirement for NCARB certification. NCARB will request an official examination history report from the registration board where you were initially licensed.

REGISTRATION

You must hold an active registration in good standing in a U.S. or Canadian jurisdiction. NCARB will need an official history report from the registration board where you were initially licensed.

Some boards charge a fee to process an examination history report and official registration. If this fee is required, you are responsible for any external fees required to retrieve the supporting documents needed for the certification process.

If you established your NCARB Record as a licensure candidate, please notify NCARB when you receive your initial registration in order to proceed with certification. You can do this by adding your license under the registration tab, clicking the “Certify Me” button, renewing your Record, or contacting customer service.

3. Evaluation

Once NCARB has received all of the requested documentation from educational institutions, employers, references, and/or registration boards, your Record will be evaluated.

- If you are an architect and meet the requirements for the Certificate, you will be approved and notified of your Certificate number. You will be required to update your professional activity since the date of your application and pay any remaining fee(s) prior to certification.
- If you are an architect and do not meet the requirements for the Certificate, NCARB will notify you of any deficiencies and will advise you on how to satisfy them. Certain jurisdictions may accept a non-certified record in support of your application for reciprocal licensure. Please review the [individual board registration requirements](#) to determine the specific requirements for reciprocal registration in any U.S. jurisdiction.

Please Note

NCARB will provide you with a summary of your NCARB Record, but will not make the individual documents that comprise your Record available to you. The documents submitted to NCARB are authenticated through our evaluation processes, and these verified documents will only be released to a registration board in support of licensure.

Steps to Certification

4. Certification

By earning the NCARB Certificate, NCARB recommends to all registration authorities that you be granted registration without further qualification. All U.S. and Canadian jurisdictions recognize the NCARB Certificate as conclusive evidence of your eligibility for registration. You must be registered in a jurisdiction before you are qualified to practice there.

The NCARB Certificate is an individual credential. By obtaining and maintaining the NCARB Certificate, you have demonstrated that you have met the established standards for certification. Once you have obtained an NCARB Certificate, you may use the letters “NCARB” after your name. Please note, the NCARB logo is reserved solely for use by NCARB. There is no accepted means of using the NCARB logo or designation in association with a firm.

NCARB CERTIFICATE MAINTENANCE AND RENEWAL

To keep your Certificate active, you must submit an annual report of professional activities during the preceding year and renew your NCARB Record by paying the annual renewal fee. You must also maintain an active registration with a U.S. or Canadian jurisdiction.

Prior to your renewal date each year, NCARB will send you a statement indicating the renewal fee, including an NCARB Annual Renewal Report. The fee and the report are due on or before the indicated Record expiration date. The Annual Renewal Report becomes part of your NCARB Record.

Note: All renewals and reactivations can be submitted online through [My NCARB](#). Notify NCARB promptly of any change to your name, mailing address, and email address.

LAPSE OF NCARB CERTIFICATE

Your Certificate will lapse if you:

- Fail to file the Annual Renewal Report;
- Fail to pay the renewal fee;
- Have not made payment (or have made insufficient payment) for NCARB services performed; or
- Failed to maintain at least one current and valid registration with a U.S. or Canadian jurisdiction.

NCARB CERTIFICATE REACTIVATION

If your NCARB Record or Certificate has lapsed, you will be required to pay a reactivation fee and the current renewal fee for each year the Record or Certificate lapsed, up to \$1,100. If you are reactivating a lapsed Certificate, you must also submit proof of active registration with a U.S. or Canadian jurisdiction prior to reactivation.

To reactivate your NCARB Record or Certificate, go to [My NCARB](#) online and select “Annual Renewals” through your NCARB Record.

Steps to Certification

5. Transmittal of Your NCARB Certificate

Registration boards are required to examine and maintain a record of the qualifications of each applicant for registration. To satisfy this requirement, a complete copy of your active NCARB Record will be transmitted as requested to a jurisdiction to support your application for initial or reciprocal registration. All U.S. registration boards accept the NCARB Record for initial registration, and many require the NCARB Certificate for reciprocal registration. Some registration boards may accept a non-certified record transmitted by NCARB in support of an application for reciprocal registration.

NCARB will transmit current and valid NCARB Records to any U.S. registration board, or to any foreign registration authority with whom NCARB has an agreement for mutual reciprocity, upon your request and payment of the transmittal fee.

JURISDICTIONAL REQUIREMENTS

When you request transmittal of your NCARB Record to a U.S. or Canadian jurisdiction, NCARB will try to inform you of any additional requirements that exist for that jurisdiction. However, you should confirm specific requirements directly with the jurisdiction prior to seeking registration. Please review the [Registration Board Licensing Requirements](#) on www.ncarb.org to determine the specific requirements for reciprocal registration in any jurisdiction.

TRANSMITTAL REQUESTS

To authorize NCARB to transmit your Record, go to [My NCARB](#) and select “Request a Transmittal” to access instructions on transmitting your Record to the U.S. or Canadian jurisdiction of your choice. If you cannot access this online service or need assistance with your request, please contact customerservice@ncarb.org.

Please Note

- Transmittal of your Record in support of registration is only available for active Record holders.
- NCARB will only transmit your Record to a single jurisdiction in support of initial registration.
- NCARB will only transmit your Record to additional jurisdictions in support of reciprocal registration through the NCARB Certificate program.

Certification Requirements

The following requirements for NCARB certification may only be changed by an absolute majority vote of the NCARB Member Boards. Such change becomes effective July 1 following the close of the Annual Business Meeting, or such later date identified in the change, and applies both to applications for certification in process and new applications. If applicants whose applications were in process met all certification requirements that existed prior to the change, they will be eligible for certification. Applicants who fail to complete the NCARB certification process within five years will not be considered “in process” and will be required to satisfy current certification requirements.

Changes to the NCARB Education Standard and the AXP

A change in the [NCARB Education Standard](#) or the AXP becomes effective on the date of the change as described in a notice given to all Member Boards, at which time such change shall also be posted on NCARB’s website. The effective date shall be a minimum of 60 days after the date of such notice. Any change in the *NCARB Education Standard* and the AXP applies both to Records in process and new Records. An existing Record holder who has satisfied the *NCARB Education Standard* and/or the AXP prior to the effective date of the change shall be treated as having satisfied either or both.

Section 1 Page 10

Requirements for Certification of an Architect Registered in a U.S. Jurisdiction

Section 2 Page 11

Alternatives for Certification of an Architect Registered in a U.S. Jurisdiction

Section 3 Page 13

Requirements for Certification of an Architect Registered in a Foreign Jurisdiction Through an Established Mutual Recognition Arrangement With NCARB

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Requirements for Certification of an Architect Credentialed by a Foreign Registration Authority

Section 5 Page 15

Revocation and Reinstatement of an NCARB Certificate

Appendix A Page 16

Architect Registration Examination

Appendix B Page 17

ARE 5.0 Exam Equivalents

Requirements for Certification of an Architect Registered in a U.S. Jurisdiction

1.1 Good Character

You must be of good character as verified by employers and an NCARB Member Board where you are registered.

1.2 Education Requirement

[VIEW ALTERNATIVES](#)

You must hold a professional degree in architecture from a program accredited by the National Architectural Accrediting Board (NAAB) or the Canadian Architectural Certification Board (CACB) not later than 24 months after your graduation, or a program that retained its accreditation without revocation to a time 24 months or less before your graduation, or hold a professional degree in architecture certified by the CACB from a Canadian university.

1.3 Experience Requirement

[VIEW ALTERNATIVES](#)

You must have completed the Architectural Experience Program® (AXP™). To begin participation in the AXP, an applicant shall have established an NCARB Record and met all requirements for eligibility listed in the [AXP Guidelines](#), which may be revised from time to time by NCARB.

The *AXP Guidelines* describes the specific experience requirements including eligibility to begin participation in the AXP, experience settings, categories, areas, hour minimums and maximums, timely reporting and verification of experience¹, and the like.

For additional information, please refer to the *AXP Guidelines*.

The [Reporting Requirements](#) identified in the *AXP Guidelines* do not apply to architects registered in the United States or Canada or to architects credentialed by a foreign registration authority pursuing NCARB certification.

¹ Verification of experience: If you were at the time of the activity already a registered architect and not under the direct supervision of another, the verification must be by a person who observed the activity and who was your partner or a person employed by the same employer. Under no circumstances may you verify your own experience.

1.4 Examination Requirement

[VIEW ALTERNATIVES](#)

You must have passed the NCARB Architect Registration Examination® (ARE®) or the equivalent, as identified in Appendix B, provided all examinations and the pass/fail standards applied were in accordance with NCARB standards current at the time you took the examination.

For additional information, please refer to the [ARE Guidelines](#).

1.5 Registration Requirement

You must hold a current and valid registration to practice architecture issued by an NCARB Member Board.

1.6 General

In evaluating qualifications, NCARB may, prior to certification, require you to substantiate the quality and character of your experience, even if you have met the technical requirements set forth above.

Alternatives for Certification of an Architect Registered in a U.S. Jurisdiction

2.1 Good Character

You must be of good character as verified by employers and an NCARB Member Board where you are registered.

2.2 Alternatives to the Education Requirement

If you do not hold a professional degree in architecture as identified in Section 1.2, NCARB will accept either of the following:

- A. Three (3) years of continuous licensure in any U.S. jurisdiction with no disciplinary action from any jurisdiction; and Documentation of experience gained pre-licensure and/or post-licensure. The experience must be verified either by a supervisor as allowed by the NCARB Architectural Experience Program or by an architect familiar with the work of the applicant:
 - 1. Architects who hold a four-year bachelor degree in an architecture-related program awarded by a U.S. regionally accredited institution or the Canadian equivalent must document two times (2x) the experience requirement of the NCARB Architectural Experience Program.
 - * Bachelor Degree in an Architecture-related Program: The term refers to any baccalaureate degree in an architecture-related program from an institution with U.S. regional accreditation that is awarded after earning less than 150 semester credits or the quarter-hour equivalent. For instance these degrees have titles such as Bachelor of Science in Architecture, Bachelor of Science in Architectural Studies, Bachelor of Arts in Architecture, Bachelor of Environmental Design, Bachelor of Architectural Studies, etc. This list is neither all-inclusive nor exhaustive. The amount of architecturally-defined content in these programs may vary from institution to institution.
 - 2. All other architects whose highest level of education may be high school, associate degree, unrelated bachelor or master degree, or non-U.S. or Canadian degree must:
 - Submit a Certificate Portfolio. Document experience as a licensed architect to satisfy all subject areas of the *NCARB Education Standard* through a portfolio for peer review.
 - i. Architects with 64 or more semester credit hours of postsecondary education have the option to obtain an Education Evaluation Services for Architects (EESA) to identify specific subject-area deficiencies to address through the Certificate Portfolio.
 - ii. The General Education subject area of the Certificate Portfolio is waived for those with a U.S. or Canadian bachelor degree or higher.
- B. Architects may obtain an Education Evaluation Services for Architects (EESA) NCARB evaluation report stating that he/she has met the *NCARB Education Standard*.

The NCARB Architectural Experience Program is described in the [AXP Guidelines](#). The *NCARB Education Standard* is described in the [Education Guidelines](#). These documents may be revised from time to time by NCARB.

Alternatives for Certification of an Architect Registered in a U.S. Jurisdiction

2.3 Alternatives to the Experience Requirement

In lieu of completing the Experience Requirement identified in Section 1.3, NCARB will accept registration by an NCARB Member Board for at least five consecutive years together with a certification by the applicant that his or her experience as a registered architect met the intent of the AXP in each of the experience areas, and verification by one or more other architects that the applicant obtained such experience. This alternative shall not apply to applicants initially registered after January 1, 2011.

2.4 Alternatives to the Examination Requirement

If you fail to meet the examination requirement identified in Section 1.4, you may still be certified in the following circumstances:

- A. If your examination deficiency arose from causes other than having failed a division of an examination under applicable NCARB pass/fail standards, and the deficiency is, in NCARB's judgment, compensated for by your demonstration of competency in the deficient area.
- B. If your registration was based in whole or in part on having passed previous examination equivalents, you are deemed to have passed the corresponding divisions of the ARE. See Appendix B for a table of these qualifying equivalents.

2.5 Registration Requirement

You must hold a current and valid registration to practice architecture issued by an NCARB Member Board.

2.6 General

In evaluating qualifications, NCARB may, prior to certification, require you to substantiate the quality and character of your experience, even if you have met the technical requirements set forth above.

Requirements for Certification of an Architect Registered in a Foreign Jurisdiction Through Established Mutual Recognition Arrangement With NCARB

NCARB enters into Mutual Recognition Arrangements (MRA) with countries based on a thorough review of their regulatory standards including the education, experience, and examination requirements for licensure. U.S. jurisdictions that choose to become signatories to an MRA will recognize an NCARB Certificate issued in accordance with the terms and conditions of the MRA.

Eligibility requirements and conditions for certification are established by each Agreement/Arrangement. The basic provisions include:

- citizenship or lawful permanent residence in a country that is party to the arrangement;
- licensure in good standing in a signatory jurisdiction in the home country;
- a specific period of post-licensure experience in the home country;
- licensure in the home country that was not obtained through any other foreign reciprocal arrangements.

Please refer to the [NCARB website](#) for the detailed requirements of each MRA.

Nothing in this section of the *Certification Guidelines* or the individual Mutual Recognition Arrangements precludes an applicant from independently satisfying the education, experience, and examination requirements for licensure in any U.S. or foreign jurisdiction.

Requirements for Certification of an Architect Credentialed by a Foreign Registration Authority

A “Foreign Architect” is an individual who holds a current registration in good standing in a country other than the United States or Canada, which allows such individual to use the title “architect” and to engage in the unlimited practice of architecture (defined as the ability to provide any architectural services on any type of building in any state, province, territory, or other political subdivision of his/her national jurisdiction) in that country.

4.1 General

A foreign architect may be granted an NCARB Certificate by meeting the requirements set forth in Section 1, under a mutual recognition agreement ratified by the Member Boards, or under the procedures set forth in this section. NCARB recommends registration be granted to the NCARB Certificate holder by any NCARB Member Board without further examination of credentials.

4.2 Education Requirement

You must hold a recognized education credential in an architecture program that leads to a license/credential for the unlimited practice of architecture in the foreign country. You are required to describe such program or submit information describing the program from the accreditation/validation/recognition authority. You are required to have an official transcript of your educational record sent directly to NCARB from the school. Where there is doubt about the nature of the professional degree, an Educational Evaluation Services for Architects (EESA) evaluation may be required.

4.3 Registration Requirement

You must be credentialed in a foreign country that has a formal record-keeping mechanism for disciplinary actions in the practice of architecture. You are required to describe the process by which you were credentialed or submit information describing the credentialing process from the credentialing authority that granted the credential, and to arrange for independent verification by the credentialing authority directly to NCARB showing that your credential has been granted and is currently in good standing. You are also required to describe the process by which and the reasons for which disciplinary actions may be taken against architects and the system in which these actions are recorded, or to submit information provided by the disciplinary authority in this regard. You shall secure a written statement from your credentialing authority stating that you either have no record of a disciplinary action or if such record exists, describing such action and its current status. This statement must be sent directly to NCARB from the credentialing authority.

4.4 Experience Requirement

You must document completion of the NCARB Architectural Experience Program® (AXP™).

4.5 Examination Requirement

You must pass the Architect Registration Examination® (ARE®).

Revocation and Reinstatement of an NCARB Certificate

Revoking a Certificate

NCARB will revoke your Certificate if:

- A Member Board has revoked (without limitation as to time) your registration for a cause other than non-payment of renewal fees or failure to file information with the Member Board; or
- Facts are subsequently revealed that show you were actually ineligible for the Certificate at the time of certification.

NCARB may revoke your Certificate if:

- A Member Board or a court makes a finding, not reversed on appeal, that you have, in the conduct of your architectural practice, violated the law, or have engaged in conduct involving wanton disregard for the rights of others; or
- You have surrendered or allowed your registration to lapse in connection with pending or threatened disciplinary action; or
- A Member Board has denied you registration for a cause other than the failure to comply with the education, experience, age, residency, or other technical qualifications for registration in that jurisdiction; or
- You have willfully misstated a material fact in a formal submission to NCARB.

Reinstating a Certificate

NCARB may reinstate a previously revoked Certificate if the cause of the revocation has been removed, corrected, or otherwise remedied.

Architect Registration Examination

Description

The content of the Architect Registration Examination (ARE) is based on the knowledge and skills required of a newly registered architect, practicing independently, to provide architectural services. The ARE evaluates an applicant's competence in the provision of architectural services to protect the public health, safety, and welfare.

To begin taking the ARE, an applicant shall have fulfilled all requirements for eligibility established by his or her jurisdiction and shall have established an NCARB Record. To complete the ARE, an applicant must achieve a passing grade on each division.

Five-Year Rolling Clock

For all initial candidates for licensure, a passing grade for any division of the ARE shall be valid for an initial period of five years, plus any extension granted under the rolling clock extension policy, after which time the division will expire unless the candidate has completed the ARE.

Applicants for NCARB certification that completed the ARE or were licensed:

- A. Prior to January 1, 2006, will not have any divisions governed by the five-year rolling clock.
- B. Prior to July 1, 2014, will have only divisions passed after January 1, 2006, governed by the five-year rolling clock.
- C. On July 1, 2014 or later, will have all divisions governed by the five-year rolling clock.

Any applicant for NCARB certification that is determined to be deficient in a division of the ARE will have to test and pass that division, or the then current exam equivalents, to earn NCARB certification. Those deficient examinations, standing alone, shall be subject to the five-year rolling clock.

Rolling Clock Extension

NCARB may allow a reasonable extension to a division expiration period in circumstances where completion of the ARE is prevented by the birth or adoption of a child, by a serious medical condition, by active duty in military service, or by other like causes. An applicant may request such an extension by submitting a timely written application and supporting documentation as prescribed by NCARB. Upon proper application NCARB will allow parents of newborn infants or newly adopted children a six-month extension to the end of such division expiration period if the birth or adoption of their child occurs within such rolling clock period.

ARE 5.0 Exam Equivalents

ARE 5.0 Exam Equivalents

Applicants for NCARB certification that completed a previous version of the ARE must have passed examination equivalents equal to those of the current ARE as defined below. Applicants that do not achieve all examination equivalents shall be required to pass the unachieved division(s) identified to meet the examination requirement for the NCARB Certificate.

Practice Management (ARE 5.0) AND Project Management (ARE 5.0) are satisfied by successfully completing one examination in each of the following FOUR groups:

GROUP 1:

- | | |
|--|-------------|
| 1. Construction Documents & Services (ARE 4.0) | (2008-2018) |
| 2. Construction Documents & Services – ARE 3.1 and prior computer-based versions | (1997-2009) |
| 3. Division I of the ARE | (1983-1996) |
| 4. Professional Examination–Section B, Part IV | (1978-1982) |
| 5. Professional Examination Part IV | (1973-1977) |
| 6. Examination Syllabus H | (1954-1975) |
| 7. Section 6 of the CALE | (1987-1989) |

GROUP 2:

- | | |
|--|-------------|
| 1. Construction Documents & Services (ARE 4.0) | (2008-2018) |
| 2. Building Technology | (1997-2009) |
| 3. Division C of the ARE | (1983-1996) |
| 4. Professional Examination–Section A | (1979-1982) |
| 5. Qualifying Test E and F | (1977-1978) |
| 6. Equivalency Examination III | (1973-1976) |
| 7. Examination Syllabus E | (1954-1975) |
| 8. Section 9 of the CALE | (1987-1989) |

GROUP 3:

- | | |
|---|-------------|
| 1. Programming, Planning & Practice (ARE 4.0) | (2008-2018) |
| 2. Pre-Design | (1997-2009) |
| 3. Division A of the ARE | (1983-1996) |
| 4. Professional Examination–Section B, Parts I and II | (1979-1982) |
| 5. Professional Examination Parts I and II | (1973-1978) |
| 6. Examination Syllabus C | (1954-1975) |
| 7. Section 7 of the CALE | (1987-1989) |

GROUP 4:

- | | |
|--|-------------|
| 1. Programming, Planning & Practice (ARE 4.0) | (2008-2018) |
| 2. Site Planning | (1997-2009) |
| 3. Division B (Written and Graphic) of the ARE | (1988-1996) |
| 4. Division B of the ARE | (1983-1987) |
| 5. Professional Examination–Section A | (1979-1982) |
| 6. Qualifying Test E and F | (1977-1978) |
| 7. Equivalency Examination III | (1973-1976) |
| 8. Examination Syllabus D | (1954-1975) |
| 9. Section 8 of the CALE | (1987-1989) |

ARE 5.0 Exam Equivalents

Project Planning & Design (ARE 5.0) is satisfied by successfully completing one examination in each of the following SEVEN groups:

GROUP 1:

1. Site Planning & Design (ARE 4.0) (2008-2018)
2. Site Planning (1997-2009)¹
3. Division B (Written and Graphic) of the ARE (1988-1996)
4. Division B of the ARE (1983-1987)
5. Professional Examination—Section A (1979-1982)
6. Qualifying Test E and F (1977-1978)
7. Equivalency Examination III (1973-1976)
8. Examination Syllabus D (1954-1975)
9. Section 8 of the CALE (1987-1989)

GROUP 2:

1. Building Design & Construction Systems (ARE 4.0) (2008-2018)
2. Building Design/Materials & Methods (1997-2009)
3. Division H of the ARE (1983-1996)
4. Professional Examination—Section B, Part III (1978-1982)
5. Qualifying Test C (1978-1982)
6. Professional Examination Part III (1973-1977)
7. Equivalency Examination II (1974-1976)
8. Examination Syllabus F (1954-1975)
9. Section 5 of the CALE (1987-1989)

GROUP 3:

1. Building Design & Construction Systems (ARE 4.0) (2008-2018)
2. Building Technology (1997-2009)²
3. Division C of the ARE (1983-1996)
4. Professional Examination—Section A (1979-1982)
5. Qualifying Test E and F (1977-1978)
6. Equivalency Examination III (1973-1976)
7. Examination Syllabus E (1954-1975)
8. Section 9 of the CALE (1987-1989)

GROUP 4:

1. Structural Systems (ARE 4.0) (2008-2018)
2. General Structures (1997-2009)
3. Division D/F of the ARE (1988-1996)
4. Divisions D and F of the ARE (1983-1987)
5. Professional Examination—Section B, Part III (1979-1982)
6. Qualifying Test B (1977-1982)
7. Professional Examination Part III (1973-1978)
8. Equivalency Examination II (1973-1976)
9. Examination Syllabus G (1954-1975)
10. Section 1 of the CALE (1989)
11. Sections 1 and 3 of the CALE (1987-1988)

GROUP 5:

1. Structural Systems (ARE 4.0) (2008-2018)
2. Lateral Forces (1997-2009)
3. Division E of the ARE (1983-1996)
4. Professional Examination—Section B, Part III (1978-1982)
5. Qualifying Test B (1977-1982)
6. Professional Examination Part III (1973-1978)
7. Equivalency Examination II (1973-1976)
8. Examination Syllabus G (1965-1975)
9. Section 2 of the CALE (1987-1989)

[Project Planning & Design continued on next page >](#)

ARE 5.0 Exam Equivalents

(...continued) Project Planning & Design (ARE 5.0) is satisfied by successfully completing one examination in each of the following SEVEN groups:

GROUP 6:

- | | |
|---|-------------|
| 1. Building Systems (ARE 4.0) | (2008-2018) |
| 2. Mechanical & Electrical Systems | (1997-2009) |
| 3. Division G of the ARE | (1983-1996) |
| 4. Professional Examination—Section B, Part III | (1978-1982) |
| 5. Qualifying Test D | (1977-1982) |
| 6. Professional Examination Part III | (1973-1978) |
| 7. Equivalency Examination II | (1973-1976) |
| 8. Examination Syllabus I | (1954-1975) |
| 9. Section 4 of the CALE | (1987-1989) |

GROUP 7:

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. Schematic Design (ARE 4.0) | (2008-2018) |
| 2. Building Planning | (1997-2009) ² |
| 3. Division C of the ARE | (1983-1996) |
| 4. Professional Examination—Section A | (1979-1982) |
| 5. Qualifying Test E and F | (1977-1978) |
| 6. Equivalency Examination III | (1973-1976) |
| 7. Examination Syllabus E | (1954-1975) |
| 8. Section 9 of the CALE | (1987-1989) |

ARE 5.0 Exam Equivalents

Project Development & Documentation (ARE 5.0) is satisfied by successfully completing one examination in each of the following SIX groups:

GROUP 1:

- | | |
|--|-------------|
| 1. Construction Documents & Services (ARE 4.0) | (2008-2018) |
| 2. Construction Documents & Services – ARE 3.1 and prior computer-based versions | (1997-2009) |
| 3. Division I of the ARE | (1983-1996) |
| 4. Professional Examination–Section B, Part IV | (1978-1982) |
| 5. Professional Examination Part IV | (1973-1977) |
| 6. Examination Syllabus H | (1954-1975) |
| 7. Section 6 of the CALE | (1987-1989) |

GROUP 2:

- | | |
|--|-------------|
| 1. Construction Documents & Services (ARE 4.0) | (2008-2018) |
| 2. Building Technology | (1997-2009) |
| 3. Division C of the ARE | (1983-1996) |
| 4. Professional Examination–Section A | (1979-1982) |
| 5. Qualifying Test E and F | (1977-1978) |
| 6. Equivalency Examination III | (1973-1976) |
| 7. Examination Syllabus E | (1954-1975) |
| 8. Section 9 of the CALE | (1987-1989) |

GROUP 3:

- | | |
|---|-------------|
| 1. Building Design & Construction Systems (ARE 4.0) | (2008-2018) |
| 2. Building Design/Materials & Methods | (1997-2009) |
| 3. Division H of the ARE | (1983-1996) |
| 4. Professional Examination–Section B, Part III | (1978-1982) |
| 5. Qualifying Test C | (1978-1982) |
| 6. Professional Examination Part III | (1973-1977) |
| 7. Equivalency Examination II | (1974-1976) |
| 8. Examination Syllabus F | (1954-1975) |
| 9. Section 5 of the CALE | (1987-1989) |

GROUP 4:

- | | |
|---|-------------|
| 1. Structural Systems (ARE 4.0) | (2008-2018) |
| 2. General Structures | (1997-2009) |
| 3. Division D/F of the ARE | (1988-1996) |
| 4. Divisions D and F of the ARE | (1983-1987) |
| 5. Professional Examination–Section B, Part III | (1979-1982) |
| 6. Qualifying Test B | (1977-1982) |
| 7. Professional Examination Part III | (1973-1978) |
| 8. Equivalency Examination II | (1973-1976) |
| 9. Examination Syllabus G | (1954-1975) |
| 10. Section 1 of the CALE | (1989) |
| 11. Sections 1 and 3 of the CALE | (1987-1988) |

GROUP 5:

- | | |
|---|-------------|
| 1. Structural Systems (ARE 4.0) | (2008-2018) |
| 2. Lateral Forces | (1997-2009) |
| 3. Division E of the ARE | (1983-1996) |
| 4. Professional Examination–Section B, Part III | (1978-1982) |
| 5. Qualifying Test B | (1977-1982) |
| 6. Professional Examination Part III | (1973-1978) |
| 7. Equivalency Examination II | (1973-1976) |
| 8. Examination Syllabus G | (1965-1975) |
| 9. Section 2 of the CALE | (1987-1989) |

GROUP 6:

- | | |
|---|-------------|
| 1. Building Systems (ARE 4.0) | (2008-2018) |
| 2. Mechanical & Electrical Systems | (1997-2009) |
| 3. Division G of the ARE | (1983-1996) |
| 4. Professional Examination–Section B, Part III | (1978-1982) |
| 5. Qualifying Test D | (1977-1982) |
| 6. Professional Examination Part II | (1973-1978) |
| 7. Equivalency Examination II | (1973-1976) |
| 8. Examination Syllabus I | (1954-1975) |
| 9. Section 4 of the CALE | (1987-1989) |

ARE 5.0 Exam Equivalents

Construction & Evaluation (ARE 5.0) is satisfied by successfully completing one examination in each of the following TWO groups:

GROUP 1:

- | | |
|--|-------------|
| 1. Construction Documents & Services (ARE 4.0) | (2008-2018) |
| 2. Construction Documents & Services – ARE 3.1 and prior computer-based versions | (1997-2009) |
| 3. Division I of the ARE | (1983-1996) |
| 4. Professional Examination–Section B, Part IV | (1978-1982) |
| 5. Professional Examination Part IV | (1973-1977) |
| 6. Examination Syllabus H | (1954-1975) |
| 7. Section 6 of the CALE | (1987-1989) |

GROUP 2:

- | | |
|--|-------------|
| 1. Construction Documents & Services (ARE 4.0) | (2008-2018) |
| 2. Building Technology | (1997-2009) |
| 3. Division C of the ARE | (1983-1996) |
| 4. Professional Examination–Section A | (1979-1982) |
| 5. Qualifying Test E and F | (1977-1978) |
| 6. Equivalency Examination III | (1973-1976) |
| 7. Examination Syllabus E | (1954-1975) |
| 8. Section 9 of the CALE | (1987-1989) |

Programming & Analysis (ARE 5.0) is satisfied by successfully completing one examination in each of the following TWO groups:

GROUP 1:

- | | |
|---|-------------|
| 1. Programming, Planning & Practice (ARE 4.0) | (2008-2018) |
| 2. Pre-Design | (1997-2009) |
| 3. Division A of the ARE | (1983-1996) |
| 4. Professional Examination–Section B, Parts I and II | (1979-1982) |
| 5. Professional Examination Parts I and II | (1973-1978) |
| 6. Examination Syllabus C | (1954-1975) |
| 7. Section 7 of the CALE | (1987-1989) |

GROUP 2:

- | | |
|--|--------------------------|
| 1. Site Planning & Design (ARE 4.0) | (2008-2018) |
| 2. Site Planning | (1997-2009) ¹ |
| 3. Division B (Written and Graphic) of the ARE | (1988-1996) |
| 4. Division B of the ARE | (1983-1987) |
| 5. Professional Examination–Section A | (1979-1982) |
| 6. Qualifying Test E and F | (1977-1978) |
| 7. Equivalency Examination III | (1973-1976) |
| 8. Examination Syllabus D | (1954-1975) |
| 9. Section 8 of the CALE | (1987-1989) |

1 If you hold a professional degree from a NAAB-accredited program, and you passed the four-part Professional Examination between December 1973 and December 1978, and you were registered on or before March 1, 1979, you need not have passed examinations in Site Planning.

2 If you hold a professional degree from a NAAB-accredited program, and you passed the four-part Professional Examination between December 1973 and December 1978, and you were registered on or before March 1, 1979, you need not have passed examinations in Building Planning and Building Technology.