

Education Guidelines

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What is the Education Requirement?

For Initial Licensure

A professional degree from a program accredited by the National Architectural Accrediting Board (NAAB) or the Canadian Architectural Certification Board (CACB) is the most accepted way (and sometimes the only way) to satisfy U.S. jurisdictions' education requirements.

Each jurisdiction sets its own specific education requirements, so the type of degree you earn may also have an impact on whether you can become licensed in multiple jurisdictions. These requirements may change, so it's a good idea to check in with your individual board to verify their standards.

For NCARB Certification

In order to gain an NCARB Certificate, you must meet NCARB's education requirement by earning a professional degree in architecture from a program accredited by the NAAB or the CACB. Program accreditation must have occurred not more than two years after your graduation or without revocation for two years or less before your graduation. A professional degree in architecture certified by the CACB from a Canadian university also meets the education requirement.

There are two alternative ways to satisfy the education requirement for NCARB certification:

- Satisfy the requirements as specified for [the education alternative](#).
- Hold a degree in the field of architecture that is not accredited by NAAB or CACB, and obtain an EESA-NCARB Education Evaluation report stating that you have satisfied the [NCARB Education Standard](#).

The Education Standard

The *NCARB Education Standard* is an approximation of a first professional degree from a NAAB-accredited degree program. It includes general studies, professional studies, and optional studies, which together comprise a liberal education in architecture. A detailed description of the subject areas and the number of semester credit hours required in each subject area is available in the *NCARB Education Standard* in this document.

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 54 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 54 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 transmitted to the jurisdiction of your choice.

NCARB Mission

NCARB protects the public's health, safety, and welfare by leading the regulation of the practice of architecture through the development and application of standards for licensure and credentialing of architects.

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 specific standards in the following three areas:

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 120 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.

Ready to start your education in architecture? All the information you need can be found in this document.

Experience



Licensure candidates also have to gain experience under the supervision of a practicing architect. The Architectural Experience Program® (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 through the Architect Registration Examination® (ARE®). With exam divisions that are designed to reflect the current profession, the ARE ensures that you're ready 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 and start planning, read the [ARE Guidelines](#).

INTRODUCTION

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 54 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 [Mini-Monograph Series](#)—free for Certificate holders!



For more information about how to access all the opportunities the NCARB Certificate has to offer, read the [Certification Guidelines](#).

Accrediting Boards



About NAAB

The National Architectural Accrediting Board (NAAB) establishes the criteria by which professional degree programs in architecture in the United States are evaluated, and accredits programs that meet those standards. NAAB also administers the Education Evaluation Services for Architects (EESA) program on NCARB's behalf. NAAB and NCARB are collateral organizations; however, NAAB is an independent organization and is not affiliated with any architectural registration board.

Since most state registration boards in the United States require applicants for registration to have graduated from a NAAB-accredited or CACB/CCCA-accredited program, obtaining such a degree is an essential aspect of preparing to become an architect. While graduation from a NAAB-accredited or CACB/CCCA-accredited program does not assure registration, the accrediting process is intended to verify that each accredited program substantially meets standards that, as a whole, comprise an appropriate education for an architect.

**CACB CCCA**

About CACB/CCCA

Canadian Architectural Certification Board/Conseil canadien de certification en architecture (CACB/CCCA) establishes the criteria by which professional degree programs in architecture in Canada are evaluated, and accredits programs that meet those standards.

Satisfying the Education Requirement

For Initial Licensure

A professional degree in architecture from a NAAB- or CACB/CCCA-accredited program satisfies NCARB's recommended education requirement for initial and reciprocal registration in most U.S. and Canadian jurisdictions.

If you received your education in a foreign country, refer to our [Foreign-Educated Applicants](#) section.

For NCARB Certification

Before you receive your NCARB Certificate, you must be licensed and satisfy the NCARB education requirement. In order to meet this requirement, you must:

- Hold a professional degree in architecture from a program accredited by [NAAB](#) or [CACB/CCCA](#) no later than two years after graduation;
- Hold a professional degree in architecture from a program that retained its accreditation, without revocation, to a time two years or less before your graduation;
- Hold a professional degree in architecture, certified by the CACB/CCCA, from a Canadian university; or
- Have an EESA-NCARB education evaluation report that indicates satisfaction of the [NCARB Education Standard](#).

A professional degree may be a Bachelor of Architecture, a Master of Architecture, or a Doctor of Architecture. For a list of accredited programs, click [here](#).

Degrees in architectural studies, Master of Architecture degrees from non-NAAB accredited programs, and degrees in related fields do not satisfy the education requirement for NCARB certification.

If you do not have a professional degree in architecture from a NAAB- or CACB/CCCA-accredited program, refer to the [Education Alternative](#) section.

Foreign-Educated Applicants

If you have a recognized education credential in architecture in a country other than the United States or Canada, you may be able to satisfy the NCARB recommended education requirement for initial licensure by having your education evaluated through the [Education Evaluation Services for Architects \(EESA\)](#).

▲ **Keep in mind:** U.S. jurisdictions have different requirements, so check with the jurisdiction you would like to be registered in to verify registration and practice requirements.

If you have a recognized education credential in architecture in a country other than the United States or Canada and **are licensed to practice** architecture in a foreign country with unlimited practice, you may seek NCARB certification through the [foreign architect path](#) as outlined in the [Certification Guidelines](#). Or, you may seek NCARB certification through the standard process by meeting the education, experience, and examination requirements.

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Licensure for Foreign-Educated Applicants

The process for initial licensure varies from jurisdiction to jurisdiction; however, in most U.S. jurisdictions, you will need to do the following:

START AN NCARB RECORD

- Go to www.ncarb.org and click “Create new account.” Create new account information, and then add the “NCARB Record” service.
- Fill out all of the requested information, including the payment method. If you are interrupted or need additional information to complete the application, you can save the information and return later to complete the process.
- Once you click on “Submit” you will receive two emails. The first email will confirm acceptance of your payment. The second email will give you your NCARB Record number, and advise you what transcripts and employment verifications are required. The email will include links to the forms you will need to download from the [NCARB website](#).

▲ Fees for Foreign-Educated Applicants for Licensure

Record Application: \$100

EESA Evaluation: This fee is charged by and paid directly to NAAB. Please visit the [EESA website](#) for more information.

Please note: Fees are subject to change. Please confirm current fees on our [website](#).

Already have an NCARB Record?

Please check your status by accessing your Record online [here](#).

Need Assistance?

NCARB Customer Relations

EMAIL: customerservice@ncarb.org

PHONE: 202-879-0520

MONDAY—FRIDAY

8:30 a.m.—5:30 p.m. EST

Letters may be addressed to:

NCARB Customer Relations
1801 K Street NW, Suite 700K
Washington, DC 20006

Licensure for Foreign-Educated Applicants

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OBTAIN AN EESA-NCARB EDUCATION EVALUATION

If you have a recognized education credential in architecture in a country other than the United States or Canada, and your degree meets the requirements for licensure in that country, you can obtain an EESA-NCARB Education Evaluation to determine if you meet the [NCARB Education Standard](#).

If your EESA-NCARB Education Evaluation report indicates that you have met the *NCARB Education Standard*, you will have satisfied the NCARB recommended education requirement for licensure, and you may have met the education requirement for initial licensure in a U.S. jurisdiction.

If your report identifies deficiencies, you will need to complete additional education. The EESA website has instructions on how to satisfy the deficiencies identified in your EESA-NCARB Education Evaluation report. For more information go to www.eesa-naab.org.

If you have a degree in architecture from a NAAB- or CACB/CCCA-accredited program, you may have satisfied the education requirement and do not need to have your foreign education evaluated by EESA.

▲ There are jurisdictions that do not currently accept an EESA evaluation of foreign education for initial licensure. Registration requirements, including reciprocal registration, may change. It is always advisable to check with the [individual board](#) to verify registration and practice requirements.

DOCUMENT YOUR EXPERIENCE

Document your experience to satisfy the Architectural Experience Program (AXP) requirement or alternative requirements as specified in the [AXP Guidelines](#) using the online reporting system. The architect who supervised you at the time you completed the experience must approve your reports. You may also satisfy the experience requirement by fulfilling the alternatives to the AXP experience requirement specified in the *AXP Guidelines*.

Please note that formal completion of the AXP is the nationally recognized standard for satisfaction of the experience requirement. Using an alternative method to satisfy the experience requirement may not be accepted for [registration](#) by all U.S. registration boards.

TAKE THE EXAMINATION

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

Certification for Foreign-Educated Applicants

Once you have received an initial license in a U.S. jurisdiction and met NCARB's education, experience, and examination requirements, you will need to do the following to complete your path to certification:

FINAL EVALUATION OF YOUR NCARB RECORD AND CERTIFICATION

After you complete the preceding steps, your NCARB Record will go through a final evaluation to ensure that all necessary information has been provided and all remaining requirements have been met. If any information is missing, you will need to send it to NCARB before you are approved for an NCARB Certificate. Once all the required information has been received and verified, your NCARB Certificate will be issued.

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The Education Alternative for Certification

The Education Alternative allows applicants with the required years of architectural practice in a U.S. jurisdiction to demonstrate, through experience, satisfaction of the Education Requirement for NCARB certification.

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Steps to Certification for Education Alternative Applicants

If you do not hold a professional degree in architecture from a NAAB-accredited program you may be able to meet the requirements of the [NCARB Education Standard](#) through the Education Alternative.

Note: The steps in this document reflect the process for the new alternative to the education requirement, **which will be implemented in early 2017**. Before beginning this process, please contact EducationAlternative@ncarb.org.

Step 1: Start an NCARB Record

- Go to www.ncarb.org and click “Create New Account.” Skip to the new account information and enter the required fields.
- Verify your account.
- Once you are logged into “My NCARB,” add the NCARB Record service. Fill out all required information, including method of payment.
- If you are interrupted or need additional information to complete the application, you can save the information and return later to complete the process.
- Once you click “Submit,” you will receive two emails. The first email will confirm acceptance of your payment. The second email will assign your NCARB Record number and provide further instructions.
- In order to establish an NCARB Record, you must complete the application and submit payment. You will not receive your NCARB Record number until you have completed the application including payment.

▲ Fees for the Education Alternative process

New Certificate Application Fee: \$1,100

Education Portfolio Review: Free!

EESA Evaluation: If an EESA is required, this fee is charged by and paid directly to NAAB. Please visit the [EESA website](#) for more information.

Already have an NCARB Record?

Please check your status by accessing your Record online [here](#).

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Steps to Certification for Education Alternative Applicants

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... STEP 1: START AN NCARB RECORD CONTINUED

REQUEST TRANSCRIPTS

Download and mail the [transcript request form](#) and any fee to your school(s). The school must submit your transcript directly to NCARB. NCARB will only accept an official transcript submitted by the school. A transcript is required for determination of eligibility and requirements in step 2.

DOCUMENT YOUR EXPERIENCE

Document your experience to satisfy the Architectural Experience Program (AXP) requirement or alternative requirements as specified in the [Certification Guidelines](#) using the [online reporting system](#).

The architect who supervised you at the time you completed the experience must approve your experience reports. You may also satisfy the experience requirement by fulfilling one of the alternatives to AXP specified in the *Certification Guidelines*. Please note that formal completion of the AXP is the nationally recognized standard for satisfaction of the experience requirement. Using an alternative method to satisfy the experience requirement may not be accepted for reciprocal registration by all Member Boards.

Completion of the AXP verifies that you have met the experience requirement for certification.

VERIFY YOUR EXAMINATION AND REGISTRATION HISTORY

NCARB must receive a Certification of Registration and Examination History report from the registration board where your examination history is held, as well as from all state and provincial boards where you hold an active registration. This report verifies that you have met the NCARB examination and registration requirements for certification.

NCARB will send a form requesting the report directly to the registration board. In the event a fee is required, we will send the report request form to you so that you can send it to the board with the required fee.

◀ If you are a **U.S., Canadian, or foreign registered architect** documenting your experience to satisfy the AXP experience requirement for NCARB certification, the [reporting requirement](#) does not apply to you. This rule is only applicable to unlicensed individuals.

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Step 2: Education Alternative Eligibility

To be eligible for the Education Alternative, you must hold a current registration from a U.S. jurisdiction and have architectural experience as a registered architect for a minimum of three years without disciplinary action.

Once eligibility is confirmed, you will satisfy the education requirement for certification through one of two prescribed methods outlined in step 3.

Step 3: Satisfy Education Deficiencies

There are two ways to satisfy your education deficiencies; additional education or completion of the education alternative by one of the prescribed methods outlined below.

1. Additional Education

Applicants may take additional courses to satisfy education deficiencies (see [page 19](#) for information on satisfying education deficiencies through additional education).

2. Education Alternative

Your level of education will determine your requirements for satisfaction of the Education Alternative as indicated below.

- **Documentation of AXP:** If you have earned a four-year architecture-related degree, as determined by NCARB, you will need to document two times (2X) AXP; or
- **Education Portfolio:** If you do not have a four-year architecture-related degree, as determined by NCARB, you will be required to submit work experience through an online education portfolio that satisfies education deficiencies.

DOCUMENTING 2X AXP

Applicants who have a four-year architecture-related degree are required to document two times the AXP's requirements (7,480 hours), which is two times each experience area as outlined below. Any hours already approved will count toward this requirement. Architects who need to fulfill this requirement are not limited by the reporting requirement, and may submit eligible experience from any point in the past, pre- or post-licensure. All experience must be in accordance with the [AXP Guidelines](#).

Experience Areas

The six AXP experience areas and the required 2X hours are:

- Practice Management: 160 Hours x 2 = 320 Hours
- Project Management: 360 Hours x 2 = 720 Hours
- Programming & Analysis: 260 Hours x 2 = 520 Hours
- Project Planning & Design: 1,080 Hours x 2 = 2,160 Hours
- Project Development & Documentation: 1,520 Hours x 2 = 3,040 Hours
- Construction & Evaluation: 360 Hours x 2 = 720 Hours

EDUCATION PORTFOLIO

The education portfolio allows you to submit work experience (completed pre- or post-licensure) to satisfy education deficiencies identified in your EESA. If you were not required to obtain an EESA, you must satisfy all subject areas of the *NCARB Education Standard*. NCARB will send you a detailed description of the required format and instructions for submitting your education portfolio.

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... STEP 3: SATISFY EDUCATION DEFICIENCIES CONTINUED

You are not required to submit an education portfolio if your EESA-NCARB Education Evaluation report:

- Identified no deficiencies;
- Identified only general education deficiencies, and you hold a baccalaureate degree from a U.S. regionally accredited institution of higher learning;
- Identified deficiencies that you subsequently satisfied through additional education.

▲ Obtain An EESA-NCARB Education Evaluation

An EESA-NCARB Education Evaluation will be required if you do not have a four-year architectural-related degree and have 64 or more semester credit hours (or 96 quarter credit hours) of post-secondary education. NCARB will determine whether or not your four-year degree meets the architecture-related criteria.

If your education does not meet the [NCARB Education Standard](#), then the EESA-NCARB Education Evaluation report will identify specific areas in which your education is deficient. If your EESA-NCARB report states that you have met the *NCARB Education Standard*, then you have met the education requirement for certification.

If you have fewer than 64 semester credit hours (or 96 quarter credit hours) of postsecondary education, you do not need an EESA-NCARB Education Evaluation, but must satisfy all subject areas of the *NCARB Education Standard*.

UPLOAD YOUR EDUCATION PORTFOLIO FOR REVIEW

Upload your education portfolio to NCARB through your My NCARB account. The portfolio will then be assigned to reviewers who are trained volunteer architects. The reviewers will determine if you have adequately addressed your education deficiencies. You may be requested to provide additional documentation or answer any questions about the work from the reviewer(s).

Once your portfolio is approved, you will have satisfied the requirements of the Education Alternative. The time required to complete the portfolio review will vary depending upon the number of deficiencies and the need for additional documentation.

Step 4: Final Record Evaluation And Certification

After completion of the Education Alternative, whether through documentation of 2X AXP or approval of an education portfolio satisfying the [NCARB Education Standard](#), you will be recommended for certification. Your NCARB Record will go through a final evaluation to ensure that all necessary information has been provided and all requirements have been met. If any information is missing, you will need to send it to NCARB before you are approved for an NCARB Certificate.

Once all the required information has been received and verified, your NCARB Certificate will be issued.

- ▲ Requirements for reciprocal registration vary between jurisdictions and not all jurisdictions accept an NCARB Certificate issued through satisfaction of the education requirement through the Education Alternative. You should confirm specific requirements for reciprocal licensure directly with the individual registration board where you would like to be registered.

Education Evaluation Services for Architects

This section provides an overview of the [Education Evaluation Services for Architects \(EESA\)](#) and the EESA-NCARB Education Evaluation process.

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EESA

The [Education Evaluation Services for Architects \(EESA\)](#) is administered by NAAB. It was established to assist applicants who do not have a professional degree in architecture from a NAAB- or CACB/CCCA-accredited program who wish to apply for NCARB certification or for registration with an NCARB Member Board. EESA evaluates the education of architects licensed in a U.S. jurisdiction applying for certification through the Education Alternative and foreign-educated licensure candidates.

- ▲ You'll find more details about EESA at www.eesa-naab.org. Any questions about the EESA application process, required documents, and fees should be directed to NAAB at eesa@naab.org or 202-638-3372, or by writing:

EESA

National Architectural Accrediting Board, Inc.
1101 Connecticut Avenue, NW Suite 410
Washington, DC 20036

The EESA-NCARB Education Evaluation

EESA evaluates an applicant's academic transcript in comparison with the [NCARB Education Standard](#), an approximation of the requirements of the professional degree from a NAAB-accredited degree program. The EESA-NCARB Education Evaluation report states which areas of the *NCARB Education Standard* have been met and which areas (if any) are deficient.

If I have a Bachelor of Architecture degree from a foreign program and a Master of Architecture degree from a NAAB-accredited program in the United States, will I be required to get an EESA-NCARB Education Evaluation?

No, if you have a professional degree in architecture from a NAAB- or CACB/CCCA-accredited program you satisfy the education requirement for NCARB certification and do not need to have your foreign education evaluated by EESA.

When an EESA-NCARB Education Evaluation is Required

You will need an EESA-NCARB Education Evaluation if:

- You are an Education Alternative applicant without a four-year architectural-related degree and at least 64 semester credit hours (or 96 quarter credit hours) of post-secondary education; or
- You have a professional degree in architecture from a country other than the United States or Canada, and your degree meets the requirements for licensure in that country.

You do not need an EESA-NCARB Education Evaluation if:

- You are an Education Alternative applicant with a four-year architecture-related degree;
- You are an Education Alternative applicant with fewer than 64 semester credit hours (or 96 quarter credit hours) of post-secondary education; or
- You are seeking NCARB certification through the foreign architect path, unless NCARB has specifically requested an EESA-NCARB Education Evaluation.

The EESA Evaluation Process

To fulfill the [NCARB Education Standard](#), you need a total of 150 semester credit hours or 225 quarter credit hours (one semester credit hour equals 1.5 quarter credit hours). The minimum semester credit hours in each subject area total 138 semester credit hours. You may take the additional 12 semester credit hours in any one or more of the five subject areas and/or in elective subjects. Acceptable elective subject areas include architecture, business administration, computer science, engineering, interior design, law, public administration, and other courses that in the opinion of NAAB are acceptable toward the elective requirement. You'll find a detailed description of the subject areas and the number of semester credit hours required in each subject area in the *NCARB Education Standard*.

Your secondary education and continuing education will not be evaluated by EESA, as it is not eligible for satisfaction of the education requirement for NCARB certification.

Ways to Fulfill Your Education Deficiencies

If an EESA-NCARB Education Evaluation report states that an applicant has not met the *NCARB Education Standard* because of one or more deficiencies and you wish to satisfy those deficiencies through additional education, please refer to guidelines provided by NAAB at www.eesa-naab.org. NAAB will provide pre-approval of any proposed courses and determine if they will satisfy deficiencies. Information is included with the initial EESA-NCARB Education Evaluation report. When the deficiencies have been remedied, transcripts should be submitted to NAAB for a supplementary EESA-NCARB Education Evaluation. Updates to EESA-NCARB Education Evaluations are provided automatically online.

Six Subject Areas

EESA will compare your education to the six subject areas described in the *NCARB Education Standard*:

Subject Area	Semester Credit Hours Required
1. General Education	45 hours
2. History and Theory, and Human Behavior	12 hours
3. Building Practices	27 hours
4. Design	42 hours
5. Professional Practice	12 hours
6. Optional Studies	12 hours
TOTAL	150 hours

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Applying for the EESA-NCARB Education Evaluation

You can apply for an EESA-NCARB Education Evaluation online through your [NCARB Record](#).

Request for Reconsideration of an EESA-NCARB Education Evaluation Report

Upon receipt of the EESA-NCARB Education Evaluation report, an applicant may request reconsideration of the evaluation results. When making a request for reconsideration, the applicant must be prepared to present evidence that either of the following is true:

- The evaluation did not take into account factual evidence cited in the applicant's record as it was submitted for the evaluation, or
- The evaluating team failed to comply substantially with established guidelines in the [NCARB Education Standard](#) and the departure significantly affected the evaluation.

Reconsideration of an EESA-NCARB Education Evaluation report may not be requested to redress failure of the applicant to provide information, including transcripts and course descriptions, to EESA in a timely manner when completing his/her application.

Filing a request for reconsideration automatically delays transmittal of the results of the EESA-NCARB Education Evaluation to NCARB.

Reconsiderations are conducted by a team consisting of all EESA evaluators.

- ◀ 1. Initiating a Request for Reconsideration of an EESA-NCARB Education Evaluation report:
 - a. The reconsideration must be requested by the applicant within 60 calendar days of receiving the EESA-NCARB Education Evaluation report.
 - b. The request must be made in writing and sent to: NAAB Executive Director; The National Architectural Accrediting Board (NAAB); 1101 Connecticut Avenue NW, Suite 410; Washington, DC, 20036; USA.
 - c. The request must identify the factual information not taken into account by the evaluator, or evidence that the evaluator failed to comply with established guidelines and that any such departure significantly affected the results of the evaluation.
 - d. The request must be sent by certified mail, return receipt requested.
 - e. All days refer to regular calendar days, excluding U.S. national holidays.

2. Sequence of Reconsideration of an EESA-NCARB Education Evaluation report:
 - a. Upon receipt of a request for reconsideration of an EESA-NCARB Education Evaluation report, the EESA manager shall review the applicant's request for reconsideration, the original evaluation results, and the applicant's educational credentials to determine whether the evaluation warrants reconsideration. The manager may reject a request for reconsideration if substantial evidence in support of the request is lacking, or if the applicant has failed to comply with the request for reconsideration guidelines stated herein.
 - b. Should the EESA manager determine that a request for reconsideration is valid, the request—along with all the applicant's documents—will be assigned to the original evaluator and co-assigned to all other evaluators for review. Upon completion of the reconsideration evaluation, NAAB will issue a response letter and update the applicant's credit summary report, if necessary, with a copy to NCARB.
 - c. If the EESA manager grants the request for reconsideration, there is no additional fee to the applicant for the reconsideration.
 - d. The result of the reconsideration evaluation is final and may not be appealed further.

Appeal of a Denial of a Request for Reconsideration of an EESA-NCARB Education Evaluation Report

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An applicant may appeal the response to a request for reconsideration only if the response resulted in a denial of reconsideration. Such appeals are made to the NCARB Education Committee. By entering an appeal process, the applicant agrees to accept the ruling of the NCARB Education Committee as final.

Appeals may only be made on the grounds that:

- The response to the request for reconsideration was not supported by sufficient factual evidence cited in the record; or that
- The EESA evaluators' review of the request for reconsideration failed to comply with established guidelines in the [NCARB Education Standard](#), and the departure significantly affected the response to the request for reconsideration.

Failure of the applicant to provide information to EESA or the EESA evaluators in a timely manner does not provide a basis for requesting an appeal.

- ◀ 1. Initiating an Appeal of a Denial of a Request for Reconsideration of an EESA-NCARB Education Evaluation report:
 - a. To initiate an appeal, the applicant must send a written request to the NCARB Education Committee within 60 calendar days of receiving official notice of the response to the request for reconsideration. The appeal must include a copy of the specific response to the request for reconsideration.
 - b. The appeal must be sent to the NCARB Experience + Education Director; The National Council of Architectural Registration Boards (NCARB); 1801 K Street NW, Suite 700K; Washington, DC 20006; USA.
 - c. The appeal must identify the incorrect or insufficient factual information cited by EESA in support of the response to the Denial of a Request for Reconsideration of an EESA-NCARB Education Evaluation report or evidence of failure of the evaluator team to comply with established guidelines for evaluation and the departure significantly affected the response.
 - d. The appeal must be sent by certified mail, return receipt requested.
 - e. All days refer to regular calendar days, excluding U.S. national holidays.
 - f. The filing of an appeal automatically delays further processing of the applicant's NCARB Record.
2. Appeal Sequence:
 - a. Upon receipt of an appeal, the NCARB Experience + Education Director shall review the appeal for compliance with the appeal process and requirements and whether grounds for an appeal exist.
 - b. If the appeal has merit, the appeal shall be reviewed by the NCARB Education Committee at the subsequent committee meeting; the committee's decision shall be communicated to the applicant within 30 calendar days of the committee meeting.
 - c. The NCARB Education Committee may make one of two decisions:
 - i. To deny the appeal and to let the decision of the EESA manager stand; or
 - ii. To grant the appeal and remand the application to EESA for a reconsideration evaluation.
 - d. If the appeal is denied, the appeal shall not be reviewed by the NCARB Education Committee and no further consideration of appeals shall be entertained.

The Education Standard

The *NCARB Education Standard* is the approximation of the requirements of a professional degree from a program accredited by the National Architectural Accrediting Board (NAAB). It includes general studies, professional studies, and optional studies, which together comprise a professional liberal education in architecture.

Following are detailed descriptions of the subject areas and categories and the number of semester credit hours required.

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The *NCARB Education Standard* is the approximation of the requirements of a professional degree from a NAAB-accredited degree program. It includes general studies, professional studies, and electives, which together comprise a professional liberal education in architecture.

The *NCARB Education Standard* is the criteria for the EESA-NCARB Education Evaluation (described on [page 18](#) of the *Education Guidelines*). An EESA-NCARB Education Evaluation is required for two types of applicants who are seeking to satisfy one of two alternatives to the education requirement for initial licensure or NCARB certification:

- Licensure candidates who have a recognized education credential in architecture from a country other than the United States or Canada and whose credential meets the requirements for licensure in that country.
- Architects for the Education Alternative who do not have a four-year architecture-related degree who have at least 64 semester credit hours (or 96 quarter credit hours) of post-secondary education.

The EESA-NCARB Education Evaluation process is described on [page 19](#) and the Education Alternative is described on [page 12](#) of the *Education Guidelines*. The education requirement for NCARB certification is described in the [Certification Guidelines](#).

Subject Area and Category	Semester Credit Hour Requirement
General Education	45 Hours
A. Communication Skills	3 Hours Min. in English Composition
B. Humanities and Arts	N/A
C. Quantitative Reasoning	N/A
D. Natural Sciences	N/A
E. Social Sciences	N/A
History and Theory, and Human Behavior	12 Hours
A. History and Theory	6 Hours Min.
B. Human Behavior	3 Hours Min.
Building Practices	27 Hours
A. Structural Systems	6 Hours Min.
B. Environmental Control Systems	6 Hours Min.
C. Construction Materials and Assemblies	6 Hours Min.
D. Building Service and Building Enclosure Systems	3 Hours Min.
E. Technical Documentation	3 Hours Min.
F. Financial Considerations	3 Hours Min.
Design	42 Hours
A. Fundamental Design	8 Hours Min.
B. Programming and Site Design	8 Hours Min.
C. Research and Investigative Based Design	8 Hours Min.
D. Integrated Design	8 Hours Min.
Professional Practice	12 Hours
A. Stakeholder Roles in Architecture	3 Hours Max.
B. Project Management	3 Hours Max.
C. Business Management	3 Hours Max.
D. Laws and Regulations	3 Hours Min.
E. Ethics and Professional Conduct	3 Hours Min.
Optional Studies	12 Hours
Total	150 Hours

General Education

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The *NCARB Education Standard*, the individual subject areas and categories of the *NCARB Education Standard*, and means to satisfy any identified deficiencies are described on the following pages. The following definitions have been developed to approximate the requirements of a NAAB-accredited degree program in architecture.

A minimum of 150 semester credit hours¹ (225 quarter credit hours) of academic credit is required and is grouped into six subject areas: General Education; History and Theory and Human Behavior; Building Practices; Design; Professional Practice; and Optional Studies.

1. General Education

A total of 45 semester credit hours are required. At least three (3) hours in the Communication Skills category must be in English Composition. The remaining 42 hours may be in any one or more categories of the General Education subject area.

A. Communication Skills

Communication Skills are defined as effective written and oral communication using the conventions of Standard English as taught in English-speaking countries.

Acceptable courses include English composition, English grammar, public speaking, media communication, community consensus building, research methods, speech communication, business communication, and introductions to research.

Courses in English literature are NOT acceptable in this category, but they are acceptable in Humanities and Arts. Courses in English as a foreign language are NOT acceptable in Communication Skills; however, they may be acceptable in Humanities and Arts.

B. Humanities and Arts

Humanities and Arts are defined as the academic study of the expressions and artifacts of human experience in word, image, music, and gesture using methods that are primarily analytic, critical, or speculative and that apply rational thought to construct and assess opinions, ideas, and arguments.

Acceptable courses include philosophy, ancient and modern languages, literature, history, philosophy, religion, visual, performing and applied arts, and language courses other than English.

C. Quantitative Reasoning

Quantitative Reasoning is defined as the study of quantitative methods and rational, systematic steps based on sound mathematical procedures to arrive at a conclusion.

Acceptable courses include algebra, analytic and descriptive geometry, trigonometry, calculus, logical reasoning, pre-calculus, linear algebra, and statistics.

D. Natural Sciences

Natural Sciences is defined as the study of the universe using a naturalistic approach, which is understood as obeying rules or laws of natural origin. The term Natural Science is also used to distinguish study in those fields that use the scientific method to study science and nature.

Acceptable courses include astronomy, astrophysics, bacteriology, biology, chemistry, earth science, physics, geology, zoology, microbiology, biochemistry, and botany.

¹ A “credit hour” is the unit of measuring educational credit, usually based on the number of classroom hours per week throughout a term. Students are awarded credit for classes on the basis of the Carnegie unit. This defines a semester unit of credit as equal to a minimum of three hours of work per week for a semester (Definition of a Carnegie Unit). Generally, in the U.S., a semester credit hour is measured as 15-16 contact hours per semester.

History and Theory, and Human Behavior

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E. Social Sciences

Social Science is defined as the study of the fields of academic scholarship that explore human society.

Acceptable courses include: anthropology, archaeology, economics, geography, history, law, linguistics, human geography, political science, gender studies, racial/ethnic studies, geography, international studies, psychology, and sociology.

Satisfying deficiencies in General Education

Relevant courses may be taken at any university, college, or community college that is accredited by one of the six regional accrediting associations in the United States: Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools, North Central Association of Colleges and Schools, New England Association of Schools and Colleges, Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities, Southern Association of Colleges and Schools, and Western Association of Schools and Colleges. Information concerning regional accreditation is usually found on each academic institution's website. It can also be obtained from the admissions office or the registrar.

If a U.S. regionally accredited academic institution grants credit in relevant subjects on the basis of equivalency examinations administered by the institution or by the College Entrance Examination Board's Advance Placement Program, and if that credit is listed on an official transcript issued by that institution, then that credit can be used to satisfy the general education requirement.

[The College Level Examination Program \(CLEP\)](#) can be used to satisfy the general education requirement. The score required varies from subject to subject. Further information can be obtained from [NAAB](#).

2. History and Theory, and Human Behavior

A total of at least 12 semester credit hours, with minimum requirements for each category as indicated:

- A. History and Theory (6)
- B. Human Behavior (3)

The remaining three (3) semester credit hours may be in any one or more categories of the History and Theory, and Human Behavior subject area.

A. History and Theory

History and Theory are defined as the study of the traditions of architecture and the built environment, landscape architecture, urban form, and construction by which diverse human needs, values, and aspirations have been addressed in response to cultural, climatic, ecological, technological, socioeconomic, and public health constraints.

Acceptable topics include historical movements in architecture; history of architecture, landscape architecture, and urbanism, history of building technology, and theory of architecture.

Courses in art history, cultural history, economic history, and political history are NOT acceptable in this category, but they are acceptable in General Education.

B. Human Behavior

Human Behavior is defined as the study of the characteristics, nature, and behavioral norms of diverse individuals and groups that relate to the economic, physical and spatial environments in which they function, and to the processes of environmental modification and change.

Acceptable topics include the study of environmental psychology, ergonomics, human behavior, post-occupancy studies, cultural diversity, social diversity, and social response to the environment.

Building Practices

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Satisfying deficiencies in History and Theory and Human Behavior

Relevant courses may be taken at any university, college, or community college that is accredited by one of the six regional accrediting associations in the United States: Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools, North Central Association of Colleges and Schools, New England Association of Schools and Colleges, Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities, Southern Association of Colleges and Schools, and Western Association of Schools and Colleges.

Courses taken at community or junior colleges are acceptable for satisfying deficiencies in the History and Theory and Human Behavior requirement.

All courses must be approved by NAAB in advance.

3. Building Practices

A total of at least 27 semester credit hours, with minimum requirements for each category as indicated:

- A. Structural Systems (6)
- B. Environmental Control Systems (6)
- C. Construction Materials and Assemblies (6)
- D. Building Service and Building Enclosure Systems (3)
- E. Technical Documentation (3)
- F. Financial Considerations (3)

A. Structural Systems

Structural Systems are defined as the study of the basic structural elements of buildings, their interaction as a support system, the forces that act on and in buildings, and the principles, theory, and appropriate applications of these systems.

Acceptable topics include analysis of structural systems, construction, construction assemblies, determinate and indeterminate systems, equilibrium, forces and force systems, free body diagrams, gravity, lateral and seismic forces, loads, mechanics of materials, resolution of external forces, shear and bending moments, sizing of structural members, stability, statics, strength of materials, stress and strain, structural elements, structural systems in wood, steel and concrete, and theory of structures.

B. Environmental Control Systems

Environmental Control Systems are defined as the study of building elements that pertain to the modification of the microclimate for purposes of human use and comfort.

Acceptable topics include acoustics, air conditioning, building core systems, energy, energy efficiency, energy transmission, environmental systems, active and passive heating and cooling systems, lighting (natural and artificial), solar geometry, natural ventilation, indoor air quality, solar energy utilization, and sustainability.

C. Construction Materials and Assemblies

Construction Materials and Assemblies are defined as the study of the basic principles and appropriate selection and application of interior and exterior construction materials, finishes, products, components, and the assemblies based on their inherent performance, including environmental impact and reuse

Acceptable topics include physical properties of building materials, fenestration, sustainable material selection, installation characteristics of material assemblies, associated assembly cost for labor and materials, and material use and detailing.

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D. Building Service and Building Enclosure Systems

Building Service and Building Enclosure Systems are defined as the study of the appropriate selection and application of building service systems including lighting mechanical, plumbing, electrical, communication, vertical transportation, security, fire protection, non-thermal mechanical, control, circulation, and signal systems and application of building enclosure systems relative to fundamental performance, aesthetics, moisture transfer, durability, and energy.

Acceptable topics include curtain wall systems, sustainability, construction methods, facades, plumbing, electrical, vertical transportation, security, control, communication, and fire protection and life safety systems.

E. Technical Documentation

Technical documentation is defined as the study of preparing technically clear and accurate drawings, preparing outline specifications, and models illustrating and identifying the assembly of materials, systems, and components appropriate for a building design.

F. Financial Considerations

Financial considerations are defined as the study of building economics and the fundamentals of building costs, project financing, methods, and feasibility.

Acceptable topics include building costs, cost and benefit analysis, cost control, development costs, estimating, finance, life-cycle costing, site acquisition and development, and value engineering.

Satisfying Deficiencies in Building Practices

Courses to satisfy deficiencies in this category may be taken at either:

- Four-year institutions that offer a professional degree program accredited by NAAB or CACB/CCCA. A list of institutions with NAAB- and CACB/CCCA-accredited programs can be found [here](#); or
- Four-year institutions that offer a pre-professional degree in architecture but do not also offer a NAAB- or CACB/CCCA-accredited program. Courses taken at community or junior colleges are NOT acceptable for satisfying deficiencies in building practices.

All courses must be approved by NAAB in advance.

If a U.S. regionally-accredited academic institution grants credit in relevant subjects on the basis of equivalency examinations administered by the institution, and if that credit is listed on an official transcript issued by that institution, then that credit can be used to satisfy these subject area requirements.

4. Design

A total of at least 42 semester credit hours with a minimum of eight (8) hours in each area. The remaining 10 hours may be in one or more areas of Design:

- A. Fundamental Design (8)
- B. Programming and Site Design (8)
- C. Research and Investigative-Based Design (8)
- D. Integrated Design (8)

Design is defined as collection of data or information, the analysis, synthesis, use of judgment, and development and communication tools and methods that architects use to understand, assess, bring together, and express the ideas that lead to a built project.

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A. Fundamental Design

Learning experiences that require students to raise clear and precise questions, use abstract ideas to interpret information, consider diverse points of view, reach well-reasoned conclusions, and test alternative outcomes against relevant criteria and standards; use basic formal, organizational and environmental principles and the capacity of each to inform two-dimensional and three-dimensional design; application of the fundamentals of both natural and formal ordering systems and the capacity of each; and articulating effectively and using representational media appropriate for the assignment.

B. Programming and Site Design

Learning experiences in which students are required to prepare a comprehensive program for an architectural project that includes an assessment of client and user needs; an inventory of spaces and their requirements; an analysis of site conditions (including existing buildings); a review of the relevant building codes and standards, including relevant sustainability requirements, and an assessment of their implications for the project; and a definition of site selection and design assessment criteria; to respond to site characteristics, including urban context and developmental patterning, historical fabric, soil, topography, ecology, climate, and building orientation, in the development of a project design.

C. Research and Investigative-Based Design

Learning experiences that require students to utilize methods for gathering, assessing, recording, and comparatively evaluating relevant information and performance in order to support conclusions related to a specific project or assignment; to use theoretical and applied research methodologies and practices necessary in the design process; to examine and comprehend the fundamental principles present in relevant precedents and make informed choices about the incorporation of such principles into architecture projects.

D. Integrated Design

Learning experiences that require the student to evaluate options and reconcile the implications of design decisions across systems and scales; to synthesize variables from diverse and complex systems into an integrated architectural solution, while responding to environmental stewardship goals across multiple systems including building design and detailing, planning, programming with integrated structural, mechanical, environmental, building services systems, accessibility, site conditions, life safety, building enclosure systems and assemblies.

Satisfying Deficiencies in Design

All deficiencies in design must be satisfied in studio courses offered either within a professional degree program accredited by the NAAB or the CACB/CCCA or in a pre-professional architecture degree program offered at a four-year institution accredited by a U.S. regional accrediting agency.

Studios must be administered or monitored by a member of the design faculty and must be taken for academic credit.

A list of NAAB- and CACB/CCCA-accredited programs can be found at www.naab.org/architecture_programs/home.

Courses in graphic communication, computer-assisted design, and digital design media (e.g. building information modeling programs) may be used to fulfill Levels II-IV when they are clearly integrated with studio courses. If such courses are taken on their own and without integration in a specific studio, they will be allocated as electives. Completion of a comprehensive studio in Level IV or Level V is required.

All design studio courses must be approved by NAAB in advance.

Professional Practice

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5. Professional Practice

A total of at least 12 semester credit hours are required with a minimum of three (3) in Laws and Regulations and three (3) in Ethics and Professional Conduct. The remaining six (6) must be distributed across the other three categories.

- A. Stakeholder Roles in Architecture (3 max)
- B. Project Management (3 max)
- C. Business Management (3 max)
- D. Laws and Regulations (3 min)
- E. Ethics and Professional Conduct (3 min)

A. Stakeholder Roles in Architecture

Stakeholder Roles in Architecture is defined as the study of the relationships among key stakeholders in design process (client, contractor, architect, user groups, and local community) and the architect's role to reconcile stakeholder needs.

Acceptable topics include: Urban and community center design practice studios, and special topic courses on public good projects and professional practice courses identifying the roles and responsibilities of stakeholders.

B. Project Management

Project Management is defined as the study of the entire range of activities involved in a typical architectural design project as it moves from inception through completion of construction including methods for selecting consultants and assembling teams; identifying work plans, project schedules, and time requirements; and recommending project delivery methods.

Acceptable topics include bidding and negotiation, client relationships, leadership and collaboration, construction documents, construction management, contracts, design development, problem identification, project management, programming, site analysis, building code and accessibility analysis, and specifications.

C. Business Management

Business Management is defined as the study of the concepts, standards, and practices related to different forms of organization for architectural practice.

Acceptable topics include business management, financial management, risk management, office management, office organization, customer service, legal agreements, marketing, negotiating legal agreements, legal and licensure responsibilities, professional liability, risk management, and rules of professional conduct.

D. Laws and Regulations

Laws and Regulations are defined as the study of the body of common law, legislation, codes and standards, and regulation in the United States that affect architectural practice.

Acceptable topics include accessibility standards, barrier-free design, building codes, laws affecting architectural practice, environmental regulation, life-safety systems, professional liability, professional service contracts, professional registration, tax laws, and zoning regulations. Courses in foreign law are NOT acceptable, but may be acceptable in the Electives subject area.

E. Ethics and Professional Conduct

Ethics and Professional Conduct are defined as the study of ethical issues involved in the exercise of professional judgment in architectural design and practice. This also includes the role of the NCARB Rules of Conduct and the AIA Code of Ethics in defining professional conduct.

Optional Studies

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Satisfying Deficiencies in Professional Practice

Relevant courses may be taken at any university, college, or community college that is accredited by one of the six regional accrediting associations in the United States: Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools, North Central Association of Colleges and Schools, New England Association of Schools and Colleges, Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities, Southern Association of Colleges and Schools, and Western Association of Schools and Colleges.

All courses must be approved in advance by the NAAB.

If a U.S. regionally-accredited academic institution grants credit in relevant subjects on the basis of equivalency examinations administered by the institution, and if that credit is listed on an official transcript issued by that institution, then that credit can be used to satisfy these subject area requirements.

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6. Optional Studies

The minimum number of semester credit hours in each subject area listed above total 138 semester credit hours. The additional 12 semester credit hours may be in any one or more of the five subject areas and/or acceptable Optional Studies.

Acceptable topics in this area include architecture, business administration, computer science, engineering, interior design, landscape design, law, public administration, urban design, and other subjects that in the opinion of NAAB are acceptable toward Optional Studies.

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Both NCARB and the National Architectural Accrediting Board (NAAB) offer a number of programs and services for architects, licensure candidates, and those serving the profession.

Questions about your NCARB Record, NCARB Certification, the Education Alternative or Foreign Architect Path to Certification?

Contact Customer Relations via email at customerservice@ncarb.org or by telephone at 202-879-0520, Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Eastern Time. Letters may be addressed to:

NCARB Customer Relations

1801 K Street NW, Suite 700K
Washington, DC 20006

Questions About EESA?

You'll find more details about EESA at www.eesa-naab.org. Any questions about the EESA-NCARB Education Evaluation application process, required documents, and fees, should be directed to NAAB at eesa@naab.org or 202-638-3372, or by writing:

EESA

National Architectural Accrediting Board, Inc.
1101 Connecticut Ave NW, Suite 410
Washington, DC 20036

Additional Resources

NCARB

www.ncarb.org

- [Architectural Experience Program](#)
- [Architect Registration Examination](#)
- [Registration Board Licensing Requirements](#)
- [Certification](#)
- [Reciprocity](#)
- [Education Alternative](#)
- [Foreign Architect Path to Certification](#)

NCARB GUIDELINES

[Certification Guidelines](#)

[AXP Guidelines](#)

[ARE Guidelines](#)

NAAB

www.naab.org

NAAB ACCREDITED ARCHITECTURAL PROGRAM:

www.naab.org/r/schools/search.aspx

EESA

www.eesa-naab.org

CACB/CCCA

www.cacb-ccca.ca

ACSA

www.acsa-arch.org