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ARE update

NCARB



Hi there,

Several policies related to online proctoring for the Architect Registration Examination® (ARE®) have been implemented today, June 1, 2026. The new [ARE 5.0 Guidelines](#), effective today, reflects the latest information and online proctoring policies, including the new secondary camera requirement and Windows Operating System policy.

Download the Guidelines

Remember—these updates are intended to enhance the security of online-proctored exams, and **do not** impact the exam’s content, format, or fees. Learn more about the changes.

Secondary Camera on Mobile Device

Effective today, June 1, all candidates testing via online proctoring must set up a mobile device as a secondary camera. This extra camera is a new exam security measure that will be used **in addition to** the webcam on the computer that you use to take the test. [Watch this video for a step-by-step guide to setting up your secondary camera.](#)

The device you use for the secondary camera must be a fully charged smartphone that is connected to a power outlet or adaptor and connected to the internet through WiFi. During the online check-in process, you will scan a QR code that appears on your computer screen to begin the secondary camera setup. After allowing access to your microphone and camera, you will use your phone to verify your ID and complete a room scan. At this point, PSI’s online check-in specialist will help you adjust your device’s position.

You may prop up your device with an [approved secondary camera support item](#), such as a sturdy, adjustable phone stand or heavy object. [Learn more about the requirements for testing with a secondary camera on your mobile device.](#)

If you previously scheduled an online-proctored appointment and are not able to comply with the secondary camera policy, you may reschedule your appointment at no cost to you. If you need help rescheduling your appointment, please [contact us](#).

Windows Operating System

For any online-proctored appointments, you must now use a device with a native (OEM) Windows Operating System (i.e., not a Mac device running Windows). [Learn more about technical requirements for online-proctored exams.](#) **If you previously scheduled an online-proctored appointment and will not be able to secure a device with a Windows Operating System, you may reschedule your appointment at no cost to you.** If you need help rescheduling your appointment, please [contact us](#).

New: Integrated Webcams Allowed

Because all online-proctored appointments will include a secondary camera, you will no longer be required to use an external webcam as your primary camera. **Integrated webcams will be acceptable for use as a primary camera, providing a front-facing view.**

If your computer or monitor does not have an integrated webcam, you must use an external webcam as your primary camera. If your computer has multiple webcams, disable or disconnect any cameras not being used for testing prior to launching the exam. It is still recommended to use a monitor with a display that is at least 19 inches—smaller monitors or lower resolutions reduce image clarity and may require additional scrolling. Learn more in the new [ARE Guidelines](#).

In addition to reviewing the updated *Guidelines* and scheduling a [free test run](#), you should also take time to review NCARB’s and PSI’s [Online Proctoring Experience Quick Guide](#) before your next online-proctored appointment.

Questions?

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