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ARE update



Dear Candidate,

NCARB has issued sanctions for several candidates who violated the Architect Registration Examination® (ARE®) [Candidate Agreement](#), which outlines policies regarding exam confidentiality that all candidates are obligated to uphold. **Individuals who violate the ARE Candidate Agreement are subject to serious repercussions, including having exam scores invalidated and being suspended from testing in the future.**

[Review the Candidate Agreement](#)

About the Case

As part of NCARB's data forensic analysis, our psychometricians alerted NCARB to potential testing anomalies in the performance of several ARE candidates. An in-depth investigation revealed that the candidates were copying, sharing, or receiving exam questions, a violation of Category 1: Seeking or Failing to Report Disclosed ARE Content of the [Policy for the ARE: Exam Candidate Conduct](#).

Following NCARB's standard review process, as outlined in the [Professional Conduct Committee: Rules of Procedure](#) and [Policy for the ARE: Exam Candidate Conduct](#), each candidate received individual sanctions, including a public reprimand, suspension of testing, and exam score invalidations. More information about the candidates involved and the disciplinary actions taken by the NCARB Board of Directors can be found on [the NCARB website](#).

NCARB is dedicated to reviewing and strengthening the role of ethics in the regulation of architecture and maintains [a public database](#) of all disciplinary actions receiving a public reprimand. The recent candidate misconduct has been reported to the appropriate licensing boards, which may take additional disciplinary actions warranted by the individual cases.

Maintaining Exam Security

The ARE plays an important role in ensuring public health, safety, and welfare by affirming that candidates have the required knowledge and skills to competently practice architecture.

Please keep in mind that NCARB uses advanced psychometric data forensics to analyze your exam results for unusual testing behavior, performance irregularities, or other abnormalities that may raise questions about the validity of your exam score. This technology has advanced significantly over the last several years, allowing NCARB to detect candidate misconduct, including attempts to cheat on the exam.

Reporting Concerns

Help us protect the integrity of the exam. If you see or hear anything that you reasonably believe to be a security violation—such as disclosure of exam content—please let us know by contacting us at ARESecurity@ncarb.org. Violations could include conduct on online forums, in study groups, and at your firm.

All emails and calls will remain confidential, and NCARB will not disclose your identity unless required by law.

Exam Updates Now in Effect

Several changes to the ARE have gone into effect today (February 27, 2024), including updates to the ARE Candidate Agreement, code references, item types, and more. To learn about the coming changes, download the new [ARE 5.0 Guidelines](#) or read the [details on the NCARB Blog](#).

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