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ARE update

NCARB



Hi there,

A new version of the *Architect Registration Examination® (ARE®) 5.0 Guidelines* that reflects upcoming changes to the exam, effective on April 27, 2026, is now available. [Download the ARE Guidelines](#) to learn more about minor adjustments to 12 out of the 91 exam objectives, clarifying revisions to several objective descriptions, and formatting changes to case studies.

The changes will not impact the ARE's overall division structure, number of items per division, or testing time per division. Candidates' passed divisions, including divisions reinstated through the retirement of the former rolling clock policy, will **not** be impacted.

Learn More About ARE Updates

Exam Objective and Description Adjustments

As part of NCARB's effort to align the ARE with the [NCARB Competency Standard for Architects](#), 12 of the 91 exam objectives identified in the *ARE 5.0 Guidelines* have been adjusted. Three objectives include minor revisions to narrow the competency expectations assessed in the exam, and nine objectives include

paragraphs have also been updated as appropriate.

The following objectives have been updated:

- **Practice Management:** 3.3, 4.1, and 4.2
- **Project Management:** 4.1, 4.3, 5.2, 5.3, and 5.4
- **Programming & Analysis:** 4.5
- **Project Planning & Design:** 5.2 and 5.3
- **Construction & Evaluation:** 1.1

All ARE items are written to one of the 91 objectives. The descriptive paragraphs are provided to assist candidates in preparing for their exams but are not used in the exam development process. [Learn more about how the ARE is developed.](#)

The descriptive paragraphs have been updated for the following objectives, but the objectives themselves have not been updated:

- **Project Development & Documentation:** 5.1
- **Construction & Evaluation:** 1.2 and 1.3

NCARB does not expect that these changes will affect your study materials or other exam preparation. [Learn more about specific updates to the exam objectives and descriptions.](#)

Refreshed Case Studies

The format of the exam's case studies has also been refined, with an end goal of reducing exam loading times as well as time spent reviewing case study resources during the exam. Effective April 27, case studies will feature fewer items per case study and one to two resources per individual case study, rather than three to six resources. You should still expect to see approximately the same total number of case study items per exam division.

Updates to the *Guidelines* include changes to the ARE 5.0 Case Studies section (pages 60 to 63), as well as updates to each division's number of case studies and case study items—each division includes the same maximum number of case study items, but no longer includes a range.

Updated Practice Exams

NCARB will release updated practice exams that reflect all these changes in late February. The updates to the [ARE Guidelines](#) will become effective on April 27,

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