



ARE Timing

Q: If examination is offered concurrent with internship, what becomes the final threshold in obtaining licensure?

A: No change is necessary in the requirements for licensure. Only the sequencing of these requirements needs to be revised. The candidate must first complete an NAAB accredited professional degree. Following the education phase, experience and examination may proceed in tandem. Some interns may continue to choose to initiate their exams following completion of IDP, in which case the ARE is the final threshold. In cases however where a candidate completes all divisions of the ARE prior to completion of internship, recording their experience in the Intern Development Program becomes the final threshold.

Q: If the ARE is offered concurrent with IDP, wouldn't it invalidate the practice based nature of the exam?

A: On the contrary, eligibility for the ARE concurrent with IDP would empower interns to further synergize the knowledge and skills gained in practice with ongoing studies for the exam. This scenario would further validate the practice based nature of the exam while reinforcing the value of the IDP through benchmarks and feedback on critical strengths and weakness derived from exam performance.

Q: How does this impact the rolling clock for ARE eligibility?

A: The five year rolling clock is further supported by allowing candidates to sit for the ARE upon completion of a NAAB accredited degree. The 2005 Internship & Career Survey, co-sponsored by AIA, ArchVoices, and NCARB, revealed that the NCARB IDP takes four to five years to complete on average. The study also noted that the average time to complete the ARE is two years. This introduces the potential for the ARE and IDP to serve complementary roles in the development and verification of the professional skill set. The rolling clock for any candidate would commence with the first ARE division administered to that candidate. In this scenario a typical candidate choosing to start the ARE within one to two years of graduation would be on track to complete the ARE and IDP simultaneously.

Q: How does this impact the sequencing of divisions of the ARE?

A: Sequencing of the nine division exam is currently left to the individual candidate. This freedom of sequencing is further emphasized and supported when candidates may sit for the exam concurrent with internship.

Q: Should candidates be eligible for only certain divisions of the ARE prior to completion of IDP?

A: The nine division Architect Registration Examination is bound by no particular hierarchy. As such, all divisions build upon experience obtained in practice. Enabling the individual intern to sit for any division at his or her discretion will foster an active pursuit of the practice experiences necessary fully understand and complete the exam successfully. Freedom to choose when to sit for any division is therefore crucial to meet the needs of candidates employed in highly diversified practice settings. Furthermore, maintaining the importance of the rolling clock demands that individual candidates have the flexibility to take any division when they feel most familiar with the material. Limiting initial eligibility for certain divisions at certain points during the experience phase will yield conflicts with the rolling clock and place implied and undesirable guidelines on the content and sequencing of the internship experience.

Q: How does ARE eligibility upon graduation from a NAAB accredited program affect state to state reciprocity?

A: Given ARE eligibility concurrent with IDP the future of interstate reciprocal licensure would depend upon individual NCARB member boards accepting all divisions of the ARE regardless of when they were taken. In 2003 the Collateral Internship Management Group recognized that facilitating the success of this model was contingent upon a new NCARB policy making this recommendation to all state member boards. In cases where the candidate for reciprocal licensure has received an NCARB certificate there should be no effect on state to state licensure eligibility.

Q: How does ARE eligibility upon graduation from a NAAB accredited program affect international reciprocity?

A: Once NCARB has determined that a candidate has completed the required phases of education, experience and examination and awards an NCARB certificate, there should be no cause for concern over the candidate's eligibility for international reciprocal licensure. It is important to note that Canadian interns with a Canadian Architectural Certification Board Certificate recognizing a degree from an accredited Canadian university architecture program may sit for all nine divisions of the ARE prior to completion of practical training or internship in order to obtain license to practice in the United States.

Q: How will changes in the timing of eligibility for the ARE affect aspects of public health, safety and welfare meant to be safeguarded by the exam?

A: To date there is no well documented correlation between when a candidate for licensure takes a division of the exam and any level of negligence or frequency of malpractice incidents stemming from the later practice of that architect. It is intuitive that pass rates for certain divisions of the exam may rise as candidates gain more years of experience. There is no need however to maintain experience requirements in advance of examination which only serve to impede the most committed, intelligent and capable candidates who could otherwise begin and complete the exam sooner. Candidates, who are capable of successfully passing all divisions of the exam, regardless of when they do so, have proven their ability to uphold the health safety and welfare of the public by virtue of the very nature and intent of the exam. It is important to note that passing all divisions of the exam takes a significant amount of time. The 2005 Internship & Career Survey, co-sponsored by AIA, ArchVoices, and NCARB, revealed that the average candidate takes 2.6 years to successfully complete all nine divisions.