

**North Carolina Board of Architecture  
Nonbinding Interpretative Statement Regarding IDP & ARE**

This Interpretative Statement has been adopted pursuant to GS 150B-2(8a)(c). The substance of this Statement was approved by the Board at its February 13, 2009 meeting. Pursuant to this Statement the Board concludes that since the applicable statutes and rules adopt NCARB's IDP guidelines by reference, North Carolina ARE applicants may take portions of the exam prior to completion of IDP to the extent permitted in the recently revised NCARB IDP guidelines and NCARB Model Law.

Discussion:

NCGS 83A-7 requires as "pre-qualifications" for licensure, passage of the ARE and experience as prescribed in the NCARB's IDP program. The pertinent part of the statute (GS 83A-7(a)) prescribes the following:

- (1) The qualification requirements for registration as a duly licensed architect shall be:
  - a. Professional education and at least three years practical training and experience as specified by rules of the Board.
  - b. The successful completion of a licensure examination in architecture as specified by the rules of the Board.
- (2) The Board shall adopt rules to set requirements for professional education, practical training and experience, and examination which must be met by applicants for licensure and which may be based on the published guidelines of nationally recognized councils or agencies for the accreditation, examination, and licensing for the architectural profession.

Thus the statute, itself, does not mandate completion of the entire IDP program before taking any part of the ARE. The statute does authorize the Board to adopt by reference the published guidelines of "nationally recognized councils" such as NCARB.

The rules adopted by the Board pursuant to that statutory authority provide in relevant part:

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(a) Licensure Examination. ...

- (2) Qualifications. The pre-qualifications necessary for an applicant's admission to the Architectural Registration examination (ARE) are as follows:

...

(D) all applicants who apply for architectural registration shall be required to follow the Intern Development Program (IDP) through the National Council of Architectural Registration Boards or an equivalent program approved by the North Carolina Board of Architecture in order to satisfy the requirements of this Section.

...

- (c) Practical Training. Practical training means practical experience and diversified training as defined by the Intern Development Program (IDP) through the National Council of Architectural Registration Boards. However, the Board reserves the right to judge each case on its own merits.

Thus, the rules do not, in and of themselves, make completion of the IDP program a pre-requisite for admission to the ARE. Instead, the rules only mandate that exam applicants must "follow" NCARB's IDP. Since NCARB's IDP now allows ARE applicants to take part of the ARE under certain conditions prior to completion of IDP, it is apparent that the North Carolina Board, without rule making, can interpret the statutes, rules and NCARB IDP guidelines to allow North Carolina applicants to benefit from the permissive changes that NCARB has adopted and published.

In the past the North Carolina Board of Architecture has required that completion of the NCARB IDP program is a pre-requisite for an application to sit for any part of the Architect Registration Examination. This requirement was consistent with previously existing NCARB requirements. Recently, NCARB determined that candidates could be permitted to take certain portions of the ARE prior to completion of the IDP program provided certain conditions are met.

Therefore, effective July 1, 2009, a North Carolina ARE applicant may be approved to sit for portions of the ARE prior to completion of his/her IDP program subject to the same requirements and limitations established by NCARB and its IDP program. As provided in NCARB's IDP program and NCARB's ARE requirements, to be approved for the examination the applicant must:

- (1) be enrolled in and have completed a minimum of 250 units in the National Council of Architectural Registration Board's (NCARB) Intern Development Program (IDP),
- (2) complete a NAAB accredited degree in architecture, and
- (3) submit application to take the ARE with supporting documentation to the North Carolina Board of Architecture.

This the 20<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2009.



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President, North Carolina Board of Architecture



Cathe M. Evans,  
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