



THE AMERICAN  
INSTITUTE  
OF ARCHITECTS

# Issue Brief

The American Institute of Architects • Government Advocacy • Current Issue Position and Analysis

## ARE Timing

### Key Points:

- *Passage of the ARE prior to completion of the IDP does not excuse interns from completing their internship requirements before they receive their licenses.*
- *The 2005 Internship & Career Survey, confirmed that the time to complete the IDP is four to five years, considerably longer on average than the three years it is designed to take*
- *In 2003, the Collateral Internship Management Group (CIMG) stated that “Critical to the success of this model would be a new NCARB policy recommending that all of its member boards “accept all examination divisions regardless of when they are taken”.*
- *Currently, nine jurisdictions allow some form of overlap of internship and examination eligibility (CA, TX, WI, KY, FL, AZ, AL, VT and Puerto Rico).*
- *In the 2004, the AIA’s ARE Timing Study among 1600+ respondents to the Firm Leaders Survey—a majority felt that ARE following graduation and concurrent with formal internship does not bear a negative affect on the protection of the public’s health safety and welfare.*

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## ARE Timing and Reciprocity

### AIA Position

The American Institute of Architects (AIA) supports architectural registration boards’ allowing interns for licensure candidacy to take the ARE following their graduation from a NAAB-accredited degree program and concurrent with enrollment in the Intern Development Program (IDP), as NCARB voted to approve in June 2007. In addition, The American Institute of Architects (AIA) supports the Council’s intent for all jurisdictions to accept NCARB certification as a basis for reciprocal registration without the application of any other state requirements applicable to initial licensure in such state.

### Action Sought

Individual state licensure boards are encouraged to enact regulatory amendments permitting interns to take the all divisions of the ARE following graduation from a National Architectural Accrediting Board (NAAB) accredited degree program and concurrent with enrollment in the IDP. In states where examination eligibility is assessed as a matter of statutory compliance, the AIA advocates for the initiation of a timely process by which such statutes may be amended. Where model language is needed for regulatory modification, the AIA will provide examples of existing and proposed language from states where such eligibility currently exists or is pending. In addition, the AIA urges NCARB member boards to accept NCARB certification as a basis for reciprocal registration, without the application of any other state requirements applicable to initial licensure, such as ARE and IDP concurrency rules or statutes following NCARB’s Model Law.

### Explanation and Justification

In the majority of states, the pathway to licensure as an architect requires candidates to complete a three-step process of education, experience and examination. Allowing interns the ability to take any and all divisions of the ARE concurrent with enrollment in IDP will mitigate an impediment to obtaining licensure and further enable the kind of individualized career development for which the IDP was intended. In this way, promoting the gaining of experience in tandem with examination allows candidates to focus on the substance of their professional development while maintaining all existing requirements of licensure which have been established to safeguard public safety. By enacting regulatory amendments permitting ARE – IDP Concurrency, each state licensing board will more closely match NCARB’s Model Law, streamlining the reciprocity process and creating a more uniform set of guidelines for each candidate seeking reciprocal registration in additional jurisdictions.

To date there is no 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. 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. The nine division ARE is bound by no particular hierarchy. As such, all divisions build upon experience obtained in practice. Freedom to choose when to sit for any division is therefore crucial to meet the needs of candidates employed in highly diversified practice settings. It is for this reason that no reciprocity candidate should be denied a reciprocal license based on when a candidate completed the ARE in relation to enrollment and completion of the Intern Development Program.

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