

OKLAHOMA BOARD OF GOVERNORS OF THE LICENSED ARCHITECTS,
LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTS AND REGISTERED INTERIOR DESIGNERS

220 N. E. 28th
Board Room
Oklahoma City, OK 74105
September 3, 2014
9:30 a.m.

AGENDA ITEM # 2-a-1

NOV 05 2014

STATE BOARD OF ARCHITECTS

Agenda

1. PUBLIC COMMENTS ON CURRENT AGENDA ONLY. Time limit to five (5) minutes per individual with sign-in required five (5) minutes prior to meeting beginning.
2. CONSENT AGENDA
 - a. Board action as necessary on consent agenda items.
 1. Minutes from the March 12, 2014 meeting
 2. Minutes from the June 2, 2014 meeting.
3. ADMINISTRATIVE/INTERNAL BOARD ISSUES
 - a. Board welcomes Jeff Click as new Public Member, replacing Mark Dale.
 - b. Counsel's presentation for Board member orientation.
 - c. Board action as necessary concerning report from Tammie Kilpatrick on the legislative interim studies.
 - d. Board report from the Chair concerning discussions and meeting with Rep. Morrisette on legislation to exempt certain persons from liability for voluntary services performed due to a declared disaster and specifically for inspecting schools.
 - e. Board member explanations concerning financial processes incurred by the Board.
 - f. Board discussions and action as necessary concerning method to use to select scholarship persons and how much in revenues to dedicate to scholarships in this year's budget and the next.
 - g. Board discussions and actions as necessary concerning Operating Budget (Budget Work Program) 2014-2015 submitted and identifying any changes needed.
 - h. Board discussions and actions as necessary concerning proposed Projected Budgets (Budget Request) for fiscal years 2016 and 2017 and identifying any changes needed.
 - i. Board Chair to establish and appoint members to Board committees for this fiscal year, July 1, 2014-June 30 2015.
 - j. Board discussions and action as necessary concerning impact of the new Administrative Procedures Act.
 - k. Board action as necessary on proposed policy clarifying when a certificate of authority is not needed and when professional liability issues are covered by an employer.
 - l. Board discussion and action as necessary to consider changes to the following licensing programs:
 1. Broadly Experienced Architect (known as the BEA program)
 2. Broadly Experienced Foreign Architect (known as the BEFA program)
 3. Intern Development Program (known as the IDP program)

Board of Architects

Agenda

September 3, 2014

Page 2

m. Board discussions and actions as necessary, if any, concerning “shipping containers architecture” for residential, office, commercial, apartments, homes, homeless facilities, etc.

n. Board discussions and actions as necessary concerning the State Auditor and Inspector’s Audit Report for the Board from January 1, 2009 to June 30, 2013 and management’s responses.

4. CLARB/NCARB/CIDQ/ORGANIZATIONS, ISSUES AND REPORTS

a. Report from NCARB

b. Report from CLARB

c. Report from CIDQ

d. Report on AIA Architect activities

e. Report on ASLA Landscape Architect activities

f. Report on OIADC/ASID Interior Designer activities

Adjourn

OKLAHOMA BOARD OF GOVERNORS OF THE LICENSED ARCHITECTS,
LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTS AND REGISTERED INTERIOR DESIGNERS
220 N. E. 28th
Board Room
Oklahoma City, OK 74105
September 3, 2014
9:30 a.m.

Minutes

The Board of Governors of the Licensed Architects and Landscape Architects and Registered Interior Designers of Oklahoma met on Wednesday, September 3, 2014 with the following members and guests present:

David Hornbeek, Architect, Chairman
Jim Hasenbeck, Architect, Vice-Chairman
Mark Taylor, Registered Interior Designer
Nate Baker, Architect
Jeff Click, Public Member
Brian Dougherty, Landscape Architect
Bradley Gaskins, Architect
Ben Graves, Architect
James Loftis, Architect
Randy Weatherly, Landscape Architect
Brad Klepper, Counsel
Jean Williams, Executive Director
Leslie Hanska, Executive Assistant
Tammie Kilpatrick, Consultant
Ryan Kilpatrick, Consultant
Jan Loftis, Guest

Mr. Jim Bruza was absent.

1. a. There were no public comments.

CONSENT AGENDA

2. a. Mr. Loftis moved to approve the consent agenda. Motion seconded by Mr. Weatherly. Voting aye: Voting nay: Motion unanimously approved.

ADMINISTRATIVE/INTERNAL BOARD ISSUES

3. a. Chairman welcomed the new Public Member Jeff Click.
3. b. Counsel presented the Board with Board Member orientation and handbook. Director and Counsel were requested to develop a conflict of interest policy statement defined in the Board Member handbook and forms.

Board of Architects, Landscape Architects & Registered Interior Designers

Minutes

September 3, 2014

Page 2

3. c. Ryan Kilpatrick presented legislative report on interim studies.
3. d. The Chair gave a report concerning discussions and meeting with Rep. Morrissette on legislation to exempt certain persons from liability for voluntary services performed due to a declared disaster and specifically for inspecting schools. Representative Morrissette and Senator Holt are drafting a revision, streamlining the process and making it straight forward with the goal of getting it passed.
3. e. Mr. Hasenbeck presented an explanation of the financial processes incurred by the Board. The Director was requested to contact OMES (State Finance) to create a report indicating budget, monthly expenses, and year to date expenses and balance from budget.
3. f. Mr. Dougherty suggested working with the Oklahoma City Community Foundation to help provide guidance to develop policy and procedure. Further discussion concluded that all three professions must be represented and included in the front end due diligence process. No action taken.
3. g. Mr. Hasenbeck moved to approve the Budget (Budget Work Program) 2014-2015 submitted. Motion seconded by Mr. Weatherly. Voting aye Messrs. Hasenbeck, Graves, Dougherty, Weatherly, Click, Baker, Loftis, Taylor and Hornbeek. Voting nay: None. Abstaining: Mr. Gaskins. Motion approved.
3. h. Mr. Hasenbeck moved to approve the proposed Projected Budgets (Budget Request) for fiscal years 2016 and 2017. Motion seconded by Mr. Loftis. Voting aye Messrs. Hasenbeck, Graves, Dougherty, Weatherly, Click, Baker, Gaskins, Loftis, Taylor and Hornbeek. Voting nay: None. Motion unanimously approved.
3. i. Board Chair appointed the following members to Board committees for this fiscal year, July 1, 2014-June 30 2015:
 - Finance: Hasenbeck, Weatherly, Bruza, Gaskins and Executive Director
 - Investigation: Hasenbeck, Counsel and Executive Director
 - Act & Rules: Hasenbeck, Weatherly, Baker, Counsel & Executive Director
 - Scholarship: Taylor, Loftis, Baker, Bruza, Dougherty (committee chair) and Executive Director.
 - Architect/Engineering: Hasenbeck, Click, Weatherly, Counsel and Executive Director
 - Building Officials/Fire Marshal: Architect/Engineering Committee and Graves.⁷
3. j. The new Administrative Procedures Act requires hiring of a second attorney for cases either to investigate and counsel Board staff and prosecute or to advise the Board during hearings. No action taken.
3. k. Mr. Loftis moved to approve the proposed policy clarifying when a certificate of authority is not needed and when professional liability issues are covered by an employer. Motion

seconded by Mr. Hansenbeck. Voting aye Messrs. Hasenbeck, Graves, Dougherty, Weatherly, Click, Baker, Gaskins, Loftis, Taylor and Hornbeek. Voting nay: None. Motion unanimously approved.

3. 1. The Board discussed NCARB's proposed changes to the BEA, BEFA and IDP. BEA (Attachment A) the Board agreed with proposed change numbers 1 and 2, however felt the number 3 was discriminatory. BEFA (Attachment B) the Board agreed with the all proposed changes. IDP (Attachment C) the Board the stipulated that all three years of training are needed and can re-align to exam. No action taken.

3. m. The Board discussed whether or not there are any concerns with "shipping containers architecture" for residential, office, commercial, apartments, homes, homeless facilities, etc. The Board was in agreement that they still have to meet all codes and meet architectural requirements based on use.

3. n. Mr. Hasenbeck moved to accept the State Auditor and Inspector's Audit Report for the Board from January 1, 2009 to June 30, 2013 and management's responses. Motion seconded by Mr. Taylor. Voting aye Messrs. Hasenbeck, Graves, Dougherty, Weatherly, Click, Baker, Gaskins, Loftis, Taylor and Hornbeek. Voting nay: None. Motion unanimously approved.

NCARB/CLARB/CIDQ/ORGANIZATIONS, ISSUES AND REPORTS

4. a. NCARB - no report as issues discussed in previous agenda item.

4. b. Report from CLARB -Randy Weatherly is slated for President-Elect of CLARB. CLARB's annual meeting is later this month in Reston, VA.

4. c. CIDQ - no report.

4. d. Report on AIA Architect activities - AIA annual meeting was held in Chicago. Oklahoma license architect, Jana Phillips was awarded FAIA.

4. e. Report on ASLA Landscape Architect activities - no report

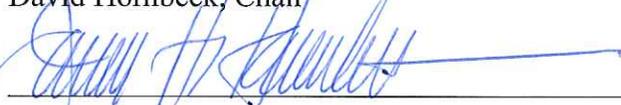
4. f. Report on OIADC/ASID Interior Designer activities - no report

Adjourn

THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS OF THE LICENSED ARCHITECTS, LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTS AND REGISTERED INTERIOR DESIGNERS OF OKLAHOMA



David Hornbeek, Chair



James H. Hasenbeck, Secretary-Treasurer

Proposed Changes Broadly Experienced Architect Program (BEA)

WHAT ARE THE PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE BEA?

An applicant for NCARB certification who does not meet the NCARB Education Requirement (a degree from a program in architecture accredited by the National Architectural Accrediting Board (NAAB)) shall:

1. meet a member board's education and experience requirements for initial licensure (NEW), and
2. successfully complete the Architect Registration Examination® (ARE®), and
3. maintain a license to practice architecture in the jurisdiction of initial licensure in good standing without disciplinary action, for one year (NEW).

WHY SHOULD THIS CHANGE BE IMPLEMENTED?

Existing Program Requirements

The current BEA program requires an architect to demonstrate learning through experience for six to ten years after they obtain initial licensure depending on the architect's level of education. The applicant's education is evaluated by the NAAB in the Education Evaluation Service for Architects to identify "education deficiencies." The applicant documents satisfaction of education deficiencies through projects completed post licensure in an education dossier. The dossier is reviewed by the BEA Committee.

The Conversation

What is the relevancy of documenting years of learning through post-licensure experience? Member Boards issuing an initial license have already performed the necessary due diligence to ensure that all newly licensed architects have demonstrated the required level of learning through experience prior to licensure to competently practice architecture independently.

Architects who have obtained licensure through a combination of education and extended experience requirements have in fact met the education and experience requirements of an NCARB Member Board for initial licensure. They have had the required "opportunity" to demonstrate learning through experience for additional years beyond the IDP requirements for an NCARB Member Board to be confident they are competent to practice architecture independently upon obtaining licensure.

This proposal maintains that the additional *pre-licensure experience* warrants the reduction of the requirement for six, eight or ten years of post-licensure experience to one year; and the elimination of the education evaluation, education dossier, and dossier review.

Proposed Changes Broadly Experienced Architect Program (BEA)

RATIONALE

The research team focused on four principal areas of licensure:

- Regulation of Initial Licensure
- Education *and* Experience
- Post Licensure Experience
- Internship *is* Learning through Experience

Regulation of initial Licensure

All NCARB Member Boards have three requirements for initial licensure in common: education, experience, and examination. All Boards:

1. accept the professional degree in architecture from a program accredited by the National Architectural Accrediting Board (NAAB) as satisfaction of the education requirement,
2. accept participation in the Intern Development Program (IDP) as a primary means for the satisfaction of the experience requirement,
3. require completion of the Architect Registration Examination® (ARE®) to satisfy the examination requirement,

NCARB's *Model Regulations* include the following:

“100.301 Initial Registration Standards

To be granted registration ... an applicant must meet the requirements set forth in 100.301–305.

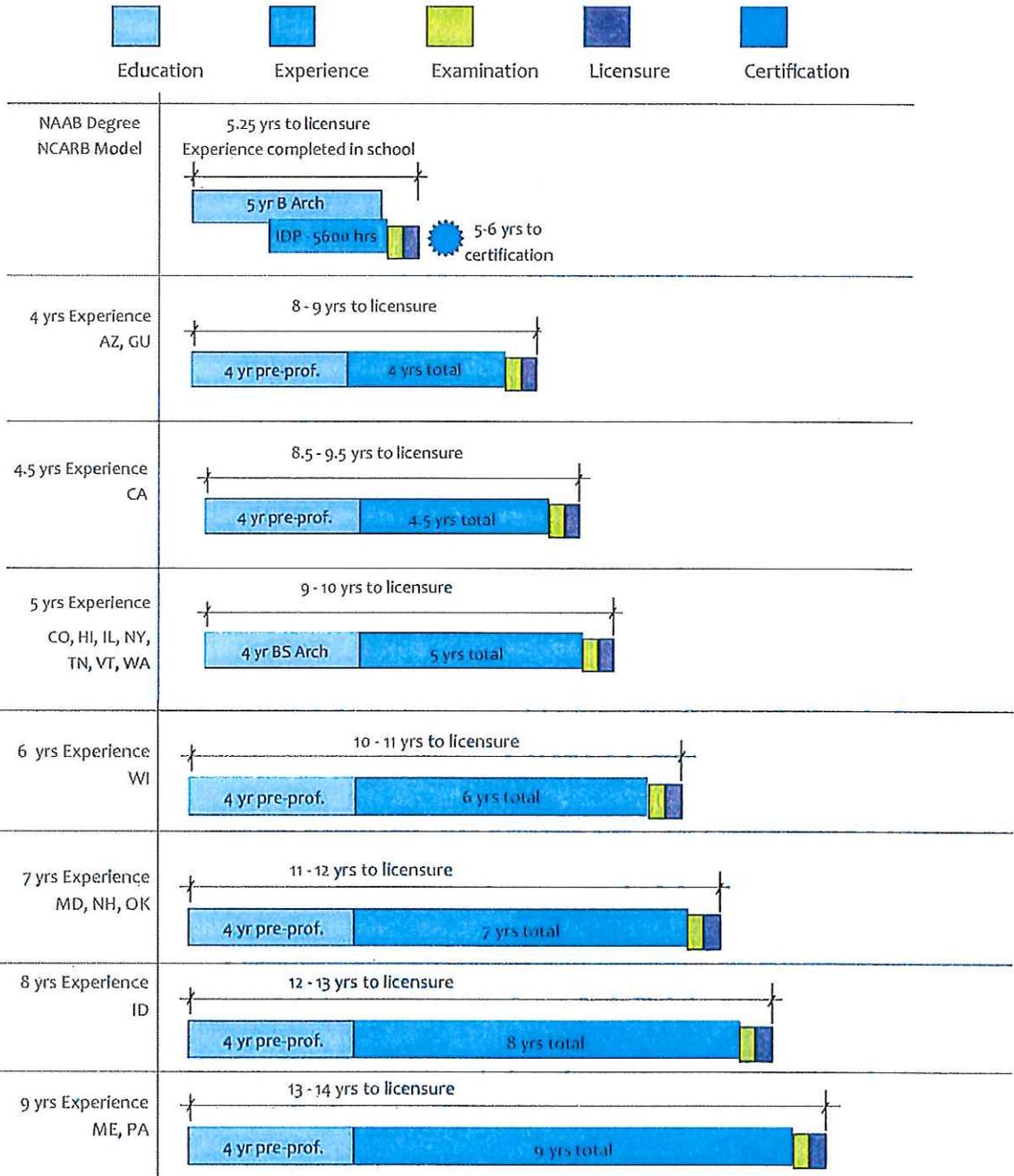
(B) Other experience may be substituted for the registration requirements set forth in 100.303 only insofar as the Board considers it to be equivalent to or better than such requirements. The burden shall be on the applicant to show by clear and convincing evidence the equivalency or better of such other experience.

Education and Experience

There are 17 Member Boards that do not **require** education from a program accredited by the NAAB; however, every one of those boards **require additional years of experience** under the supervision of an architect **prior to obtaining initial licensure**. The minimum number of years of pre-licensure experience varies from four years to 13 years, depending on the jurisdiction and level of education obtained. In essence, these boards are requiring substantial equivalency among all interns prior to initial licensure.

Proposed Changes Broadly Experienced Architect Program (BEA)

The following chart outlines the path(s) an intern travels to obtain initial licensure in the 17 jurisdictions that allow experience to supplement the education requirement. This chart, for comparison purposes, assumes an intern has obtained a four-year pre-professional degree in architecture (62% of applicants for certification have obtained this degree)

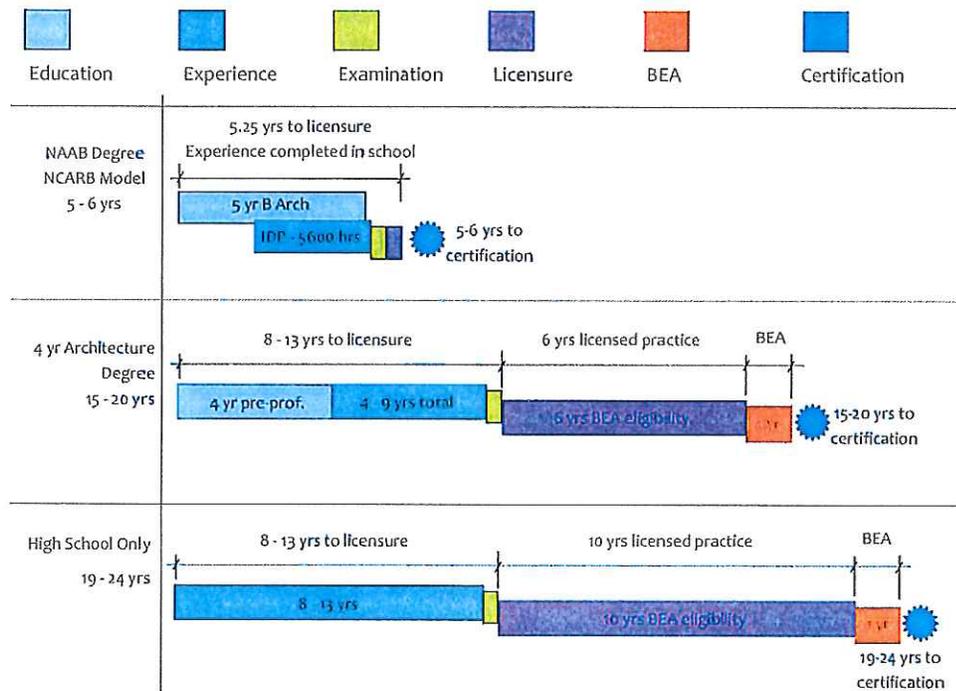


Proposed Changes Broadly Experienced Architect Program (BEA)

The Council’s BEA program requires a *licensed* architect to:

1. prove additional experience, as an architect, for another six, eight, or ten years, depending on the level of education obtained prior to initial licensure; and
2. “demonstrate learning through experience” post licensure to indicate how they overcame what are identified as education deficiencies.
(This is achieved through the development, submission, and review of an education dossier).

The following chart outlines the typical paths leading to application for NCARB certification through the BEA program, dependent on education obtained prior to experience:



Responsible Control

The objective of the education dossier is to allow architects to **demonstrate their learning through experience** as a registered architect to meet the requirements of the *NCARB Education Standard* as an alternative to the professional degree from a NAAB-accredited program. Applicants must describe their practice experience as a registered architect through which they **gained learning through experience**. Architects must select practice experience for which they were personally responsible that meets the definition of *responsible control*.

Proposed Changes Broadly Experienced Architect Program (BEA)

The *NCARB Legislative Guidelines and Model Law/Model Regulations* define “responsible control” as:

*“That amount of **control over** and **detailed professional knowledge** of the content of technical submissions during their preparation as is ordinarily exercised by a registered architect **applying the required professional standard of care**, including but not limited to an architect’s **integration** of information from manufacturers, suppliers, installers, the architect’s consultants, owners, contractors, or other sources the architect reasonably trusts that is incidental to and intended to be incorporated into the architect’s technical submissions if the architect has **coordinated** and **reviewed** such information. Other review, or review and correction, of technical submissions after they have been prepared by others does not constitute the exercise of responsible control because the reviewer has neither control over nor detailed professional knowledge of the content of such submissions throughout their preparation.”*

The definition of *responsible control* does not indicate that an architect is to **demonstrate learning** through the experience of being **in responsible control**. It states that the architect in fact must have “detailed professional knowledge.”

***Responsible control* does not represent a learning opportunity. *Responsible control* is not evidence of overcoming an education deficiency.**

Internship is Learning through Experience

The *NCARB Practice Analysis of Architecture* findings are significant to the profession and help **determine the knowledge and skills necessary to practice** architecture independently and protect the public’s health, safety, and welfare. The survey content addressed specific tasks and knowledge/skills related to pre-design, design, project management, and practice management, as well as general knowledge and skills. The knowledge/skills and tasks identified in the findings have been used to:

1. **Drive** the Architect Registration Examination® (ARE®)
2. **Inform** the Intern Development Program (IDP)
3. **Guide** NCARB’s contribution to the National Architectural Accrediting Board (NAAB) Accreditation Review Conferences (ARC) and the Council’s future continuing education policies

The *NAAB’s Student Performance Criteria* (SPC,) are linked seamlessly into the subject areas defined in the *NCARB Education Standard*. Further, the NAAB’s SPC are linked seamlessly to the knowledge/skills necessary to perform the tasks required by the *Intern Development Program (IDP)*.

Proposed Changes Broadly Experienced Architect Program (BEA)

Therefore, it is logical to assume that an architect having participated in the IDP and having completed education combined with additional experience required by a member board has demonstrated learning through experience at the time of initial licensure.

Architects who have obtained licensure through a combination of education and extended experience requirements have in fact met the education and experience requirements of an NCARB Member Board for initial licensure. NCARB facilitates licensure. The NCARB Certificate facilitates reciprocal licensure. The NCARB Certificate must acknowledge the rigor imposed on applicants for initial licensure by Member Boards.

IMPETUS FOR STUDY

Years of pulsing you, our members, asking "why", and challenging conventional wisdom are leading to sustainable change. Change that embraces "rigor for a reason," rather than rigor for the sake of rigor. This approach has led to a discussion of proposed changes to the BEA program that recognizes the rigor imposed by each member board in the reciprocal licensing of architects that ensures protection of the public's health, safety, and welfare.

These proposed changes are designed to acknowledge each member boards' responsibility to determine that an applicant for reciprocal licensure is competent to practice architecture independently. Feedback received in response to the request will be used to inform discussions by the Board of Directors at the September and December meetings.

Concerns that the BEA program contains extensive requirements that are difficult for architects to comprehensively understand; is overwhelmingly resource intensive to administer; and often takes architects significantly longer to complete than intended led to the formation of a multi-department special research team in August 2013. The team was tasked with thoroughly analyzing the Broadly Experienced Architect Program and providing the NCARB Board of Directors with an in-depth analysis of options identifying ways to improve requirements for NCARB certification while ensuring the program is objective, attainable, sustainable, and defensible.

The multi-departmental research team was formed to ensure that diverse would be taken into consideration. In addition, leaders of the team engaged BEA and Education Committee members, architects who have participated in the program, and architects that would like to pursue certification in conversations on various requirements of the current program. The goal of these conversations was to garner feedback from key stakeholders that could assist the team in identifying the options that Member Boards and key stakeholders might feel most comfortable adopting.

Proposed Changes Broadly Experienced Architect Program (BEA)

An exhaustive review of historic decisions, interviews of key stakeholders, and the use of agile project management approaches has delivered proposals that preserve the rigor of BEA but addresses elements which unnecessarily complicate the process of meeting the programs' goals. These changes can be characterized as a "course correction," mindful of the many years spent by volunteers in designing programs to address concerns of Member Boards. The Board of Directors enter into these iterations understanding that unanimous adoption will surely not happen immediately, and that some jurisdictions may prefer a more gradual implementation. The Board of Directors strongly feel that our work over several years of strategic planning, surveying, brainstorming, and consultation with Member Boards has laid the foundation for significant streamlining of programs and reflects the consensus of the Council's many stakeholders.

Proposed Changes Broadly Experienced Foreign Architect Program (BEFA)

Foreign architects are defined, for the purpose of the BEFA program, as individuals credentialed to practice architecture in a foreign country, through that country's requirements for education, experience, and examination, if any.

WHAT ARE THE PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE BEFA?

An applicant for NCARB certification who is licensed/credentialed in a country other than the U.S. or Canada shall:

1. Hold a current license/credential as an architect in a country that has a formal record keeping method for disciplinary actions for architects, and
2. **Education**: Hold a recognized education credential that leads to the lawful practice of architecture in a country other than the U.S. or Canada, and
3. **Experience (NEW)**: Document two years of active licensed/credentialed practice in the country of licensure/credential; or
Document two years working in the U.S. under the direct supervision of an architect in responsible control, and
4. **Examination (NEW)**: Complete the Architect Registration Examination® (ARE®)

WHY SHOULD THIS CHANGE BE IMPLEMENTED?

NCARB must have a certification model that acknowledges a foreign architect's competence to practice in their country of licensure. However, NCARB and its Member Boards should hold a higher value of their demonstration of competence earned through experience under the supervision of U.S. architects. Every Member Board expects competence at the point of initial licensure. Demonstrating competence to independently practice architecture in a U.S. environment is a basic element of our licensure requirements.

Further, NCARB Member Boards do not allow experience to be substituted for satisfaction of the examination requirement for any U.S. applicant for initial or reciprocal licensure. NCARB and its Member Boards should hold a higher value of their demonstration of competence earned through completion of the ARE. Demonstrating acquisition of knowledge and skills through examination to practice in a U.S. jurisdiction is a basic element of our licensure requirements.

Proposed Changes Broadly Experienced Foreign Architect Program (BEFA)

This proposal maintains that a foreign architect credential and U.S. experience warrants the reduction of the requirement for seven years of post-licensure foreign experience to two years in a foreign country or the United States. Completion of the ARE warrants the elimination of the experience dossier, dossier review, and interview.

RATIONALE

Current Program Requirements

Foreign architects applying for NCARB certification are given the opportunity to demonstrate competence to independently practice architecture, while protecting the public health, safety, and welfare, to meet the examination requirement of NCARB certification. Applicants for certification through the BEFA **do not document education, experience, or examination**. They demonstrate competence solely through projects represented in their Experience Dossier, relating their experience to the content areas of the ARE.

Foreign architects are eligible to apply for an NCARB Certificate through the Broadly Experienced Foreign Architect (BEFA) Program if they:

1. Have **graduated with a recognized education credential** from an **officially recognized architecture program**, and
2. Are currently credentialed as an architect in a country other than the United States and Canada (NCARB provides certification for architects registered in Canada) that:
 - o Has a formal record keeping method for disciplinary actions for architects, and
3. Have completed a minimum of **seven years of comprehensive, unlimited practice as a credentialed architect** over which the applicant **exercised responsible control** in the foreign country where the applicant is credentialed

Applicants must prepare an ‘experience dossier,’ which is distinct from a professional portfolio of work in that it allows a foreign architect to demonstrate competence to practice architecture independently rather than documentation of registration and professional qualifications.

Proposed Changes Broadly Experienced Foreign Architect Program (BEFA)

The specific areas of the BEFA dossier require project documentation based on the content areas of the Architect Registration Examination® (ARE®)

1. Programming, Planning, & Practice
2. Site Planning & Design
3. Building Design & Construction Systems
4. Schematic Design
5. Structural Systems
6. Building Systems
7. Construction Documents & Services

The dossier must include a detailed, written description of specific examples of experience as a credentialed architect and provide supporting documentation that is relevant to the experience areas. The projects included in the dossier must be completed projects located in the foreign country where the foreign architect is credentialed.

Comprehensive practice and **responsible control** must be clearly explained both in the written descriptions and in the supporting documentation. The applicant must also **describe the general nature of modifications necessary to comply with U.S. building codes and laws including accessibility laws.**

Comprehensive Practice means an architectural practice that regularly involves familiarity with all of those areas tested on the Architect Registration Examination, including programming, design, technical and construction documents production, and construction administration.

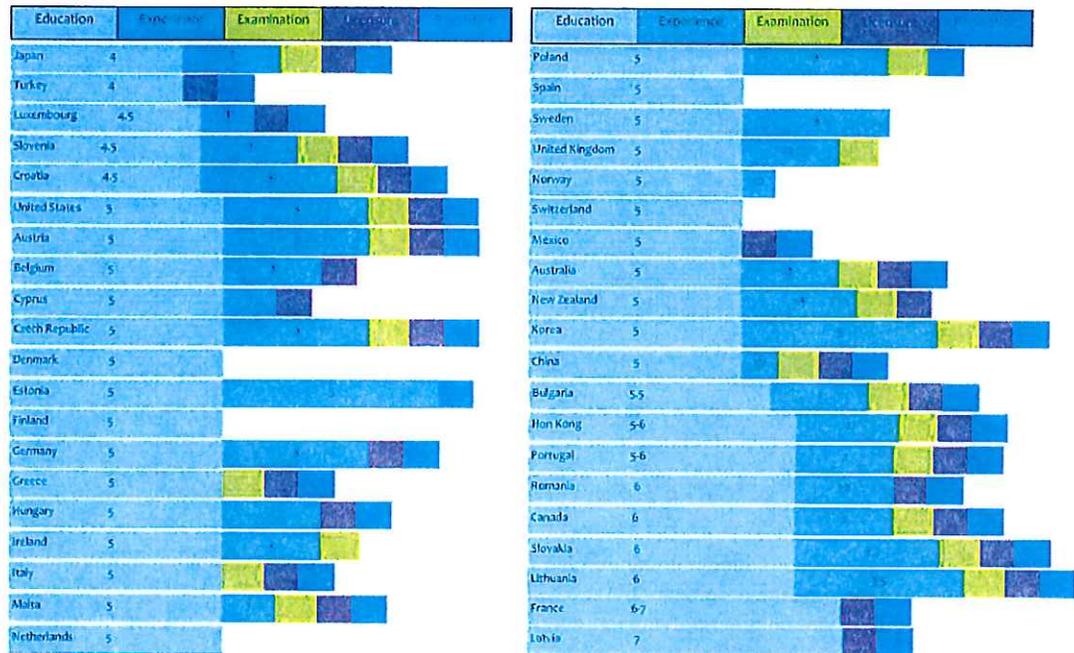
Responsible Control means that amount of control over and detailed professional knowledge of the content of technical submissions during their preparation as is ordinarily exercised by a registered architect applying the required professional standard of care.

Applicants must describe the general nature of modifications necessary to **comply with U.S. building codes and laws** including accessibility laws. Most applicants are currently working in the U.S.

Foreign Architects: Education, Experience, and Examination

Architecture education varies from country to country. Experience requirements vary, if required at all. Examination requirements vary also, if required at all. The following chart outlines typical requirements in many countries:

Proposed Changes Broadly Experienced Foreign Architect Program (BEFA)



Applicants for the BEFA are required to have **practiced in their country** where credentialed for a **minimum of seven years**. Many foreign architects who have expressed interest in the BEFA program left their country of credentialed practice soon after they completed their country’s requirements, to settle in the U.S. Most of these individuals, working legally in the U.S. as “interns,” have years of experience working in a U.S. firm under the supervision of a U.S. architect. As noted above, applicants must annotate submitted documents to indicate the general nature of modifications necessary to comply with U.S. building codes and laws including accessibility laws. Because **most applicants are currently working in the U.S**, it seems **more logical** to allow, or require, **documentation of experience developing buildings here in the U.S. under the supervision of a U.S. architect.**

The Council has developed a number of programs over the years to address the different requirements in various countries. For example, the BEFA, the MRA with the European Union, and APEC Architect Project were all developed in parallel around the same time. The basis for eligibility in all three programs was similar and based on the numbers 14 and seven:

14 total years including formal education + training, leading to registration + practice; seven of which must be in certified, unlimited, post-registration practice.

Most recognized foreign education programs are five years long – similar in length to the NAAB-accredited Bachelor of Architecture. When the path to licensure was linear – Education + Experience + Examination – IDP was

Proposed Changes

Broadly Experienced Foreign Architect Program (BEFA)

considered to take three years and the ARE was expected to take two years – a “ten year” unofficial path. The “12 year” unofficial path appears to be reflected by those member boards that utilize a system of education credits to qualify for initial and/or reciprocal licensure.

The project team acknowledges that there is no single consistent path in foreign countries, however the team’s research found there has been **no consistency in “how long” the path to licensure should be**. The project team **could not find** any official documentation to **support a requirement for seven years of practice** in a foreign country.

All Member Boards require successful completion of the Architect Registration Examination® (ARE®) by candidates applying for initial licensure. While some jurisdictions do allow additional experience to supplement education requirements, none allow experience as a substitute for the examination requirement. The **ARE is** viewed by the Member Boards as **‘the great equalizer,’ assessing a candidate’s acquisition of the necessary knowledge and skills** to practice architecture independently. Further, the addition of the ARE requirement provides assurance as to familiarity with U.S. codes and facility with the English language.

NCARB must have a certification model that acknowledges a foreign architect’s competence to practice in their country of licensure. However, NCARB and its Member Boards should recognize the value of an applicant’s demonstration of competence earned through experience under the supervision of U.S. architects and completion of the ARE. Demonstrating experience in a U.S. environment and acquisition of knowledge and skills through examination are basic elements of our licensure requirements.

IMPETUS FOR STUDY

Years of pulsing you, our members, asking “why”, and challenging conventional wisdom are leading to sustainable change. Change that embraces “rigor for a reason,” rather than rigor for the sake of rigor. This approach has led to a discussion of proposed changes to the BEFA program that recognizes the rigor imposed by each member board in the reciprocal licensing of architects that ensures protection of the public’s health, safety, and welfare.

These proposed changes are designed to acknowledge each member boards’ responsibility to determine that an applicant for reciprocal licensure is competent to practice architecture independently. Feedback received in response to the request will be used to inform discussions by the Board of Directors at the September and December meetings.

Proposed Changes

Broadly Experienced Foreign Architect Program (BEFA)

Concerns that the BEFA program contains extensive requirements that are difficult for foreign architects to comprehensively understand; is overwhelmingly resource intensive to administer; and often takes architects significantly longer to complete than intended led to the formation of a multi-department special research team in August 2013. The team was tasked with thoroughly analyzing the Broadly Experienced Foreign Architect Program and providing the NCARB Board of Directors with an in-depth analysis of options identifying ways to improve requirements for NCARB certification while ensuring the program is objective, attainable, sustainable, and defensible.

The multi-departmental research team was formed to ensure that diverse would be taken into consideration. In addition, leaders of the team engaged BEA and Education Committee members, foreign architects who have participated in the program, and foreign architects that would like to pursue certification in conversations on various requirements of the current program. The goal of these conversations was to garner feedback from key stakeholders that could assist the team in identifying the options that Member Boards and key stakeholders might feel most comfortable adopting.

An exhaustive review of historic decisions, interviews of key stakeholders, and the use of agile project management approaches has delivered proposals that preserve the rigor of BEFA but addresses elements which unnecessarily complicate the process of meeting the programs' goals. These changes can be characterized as a "course correction," mindful of the many years spent by volunteers in designing programs to address concerns of Member Boards. The Board of Directors enter into these iterations understanding that unanimous adoption will surely not happen immediately, and that some jurisdictions may prefer a more gradual implementation. The Board of Directors strongly feel that our work over several years of strategic planning, surveying, brainstorming, and consultation with Member Boards has laid the foundation for significant streamlining of programs and reflects the consensus of the Council's many stakeholders.

Intern Development Program Changes

Phase 1 - Streamlining the IDP:

- Does your Board agree, disagree, or have no position on the proposed change to focus solely on the required, or “core” hours, to complete the program?
- If your Board disagrees, what are your concerns?
- Does your Board need more time to address the proposed streamline change? If so, when do you expect to be able to provide us feedback?
- Do you believe your Board will adopt the proposed change if approved?

Phase 2 – Overhaul the IDP:

- Does your Board agree, disagree, or have no position on the proposed change to align the required programmatic experience areas with the phases of contemporary practice?
- If your Board disagrees, what are your concerns?
- Does your Board need more time to address the proposed overhaul change? If so, when do you expect to be able to provide us feedback?
- Do you believe your Board will adopt the proposed change if approved?

Broadly Experienced Architect Changes Proposed for Discussion

- Does your Board agree, disagree, or have no position on the proposed change to the requirements for certification through the BEA program?
- If your Board disagrees, what are your concerns?
- Does your Board need more time to address the proposed change? If so, when do you expect to be able to provide us feedback?
- Do you believe your Board will adopt the proposed change if approved?

Broadly Experienced Foreign Architect Changes Proposed for Discussion

- Does your Board agree, disagree, or have no position on the proposed change to the requirements for certification through the BEFA program?
- If your Board disagrees, what are your concerns?
- Does your Board need more time to address the proposed change? If so, when do you expect to be able to provide us feedback?
- Do you believe your Board will adopt the proposed change if approved?

All comments, including “no comments”, should be received by 5:00 P.M. on **Friday, September 5, 2014.** To submit your comments please click on the following link and complete the survey:

<http://www.surveygizmo.com/s3/1693931/Proposed-changes-to-the-IDP-BEA-and-BEFA>