

MEETING NOTES

Operation: Reach, Retain, and Develop Session 3

Path to Licensure: Education, Experience, and Examination

Check-in

- Meeting bi-weekly, 30-minute virtual meetings
- Helped student find internships and externships
- Discussed things student wants to achieve with this relationship
- Encouragement to step-out of your comfort zone

Referenced [Resources Page](#) on aiava.org/mentoring

Moderated Panel Discussion

- **Harry M. Falconer, Jr., FAIA, NCARB, HonD, Hon. FCARM**, Vice President of Experience + Education at NCARB
- **Jared Zurn, AIA, NCARB, CAE**, Vice President of Examination at NCARB
- **Robert Boynton, FAIA**

[Virginia Licensing Board](#) is the governmental arm for licensing requirements and regulations.

[NCARB](#) is a member organization of the licensing board. They create programs to support licensure through AXP and ARE.

What are the benefits of being licensed?

- It demonstrates to the public and others that you are competent to practice architecture
- You can call yourself an architect
- Leverage in job searches and your career path
- When recessions happen, non-licensed professionals may get laid off first
- Your name is included on your work
- Protecting the Health, Safety and Welfare of the public
- Pay scale is higher

What is state licensing?

- Prohibits practicing across state lines
- You can still do work in other states if you are not signing/sealing docs
- Reciprocity – having a license in one state and a NCARB Certificate can make it easier to get licensed in another state
- To look for work in another state, you need to be licensed in that state

How to get licensed?

1. Education (NAAB accredited degree program)
2. Experience (AXP)
3. Examination (ARE)

Certain states can require more hours/tests. Contact applicable state licensing board for more information about that states' requirements.

Costs/logistics of licensure

- Starting your NCARB record \$100 first year (\$85 renewal fee)
- Exam expense \$235 to sit for each exam. You can pre-purchase seat credits
- License cost is \$55/2-years
- Exam prep materials and courses – costs vary and there are many resources and cost savings available through AIAS and AIA.
- Note – many first will pay for/reimburse for licensure expenses
- Coming soon from NCARB!!! Practice exams

When can you start sitting for exams (in Virginia)?

- Graduate of NAAB-accredited program
- Enrolled in AXP
- iPal schools can give you a head start – coming to a Virginia school soon

How are the questions developed?

- Written by licensed architects (120-150 volunteers each year)
- Reviewed by licensed architects
- All workgroups are balanced to remove bias

How to get experience

- What questions should I ask a firm when I apply for internships?
 - How does firm support licensure?
 - Make sure mentor/supervisor is a licensed architect
 - Does firm have a connection to NCARB through a licensing advisor? AIA and AIAS also have licensing advisors
 - Keep up with your documentation
 - Don't be afraid to ask all the questions!
- What do I do if it's a dream firm, but it's not a paid internship?
 - That's ILLEGAL! And unethical. It is a federal crime to not pay people for billable work
- Look at "O" setting for AXP – you can get some credit for service experiences. Check the NCARB site for specific AXP guidelines

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