



STATE BOARD OF REGISTRATION FOR ARCHITECTS & LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTS

November 2014 - INDIANA BOARD OF REGISTRATION FOR ARCHITECTS AND LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTS – David Rausch, AIA – Board of Registration for Architects and Landscape Architects Member

The Indiana Board of Registration for Architects and Landscape Architects primarily serves to govern architectural (and landscape architecture) licensing through education, examination, and experience. In the eight years I have served on the board, we have been able to make incremental progress toward improving the path to licensure for architectural candidates while also reinforcing our architects' responsibility in protection of the health, safety and welfare of the public through implementation of continuing education requirements. The following are a few notable and recent actions of the board:

ARE

Although this may be 'old news' to many in the profession, I have been regularly surprised to hear from interns and employers alike who are not aware intern architects now have the opportunity to sit for the exam immediately upon enrollment in the Intern Development Program (IDP) program. Not that long ago, a candidate was required to complete the minimum three year IDP requirement prior to sitting for the licensure exam (ARE). The length of time to complete the IDP plus the multi-phase exam became an obstacle to timely licensure, and the Indiana Board pro-actively supported a change to NCARB model law, and implemented changes to its own rules, to allow for architectural candidates to begin taking the exam at the time they are eligible for the IDP. Effectively, this allows for a parallel process to successfully pass the exam and afford the opportunity to become registered immediately upon completing the IDP.

IDP

Most recently, the Indiana Board has voted to support a much needed simplification to the IDP program. For 30 years, IDP has been the standard accepted means of meeting the experience requirement for Indiana and other state boards. However, recognizing the complexity and extensive requirements that have made the program difficult to administer, and often requiring an excessive number of years to complete, NCARB has unveiled a plan to streamline and simplify the program.

Currently, the IDP program requires a total of 3740 hours in 17 practice areas plus 1860 additional 'elective' hours in each of the practice areas. NCARB proposes to change from the 5,600 hours and 17 practice areas to 3740 core hours and 6 practice areas (practice management, project management, programming and analysis, planning and design, project development and documentation, and construction and evaluation). Further, the streamlined program will only provide *recommendations* for distribution of experience per practice area will be made; IDP fulfillment will be measured by total hours, not hours per practice area.

The Indiana Board supports the simplification but has not affirmed the reduction in total hours, feeling that the complexity of professional practice warrants such investment of time. If ratified by its member boards, changes to the program will become effective in mid to late 2016.

Continuing Education (CE)

As a reminder, Indiana's mandatory Continuing Education requirements require all Indiana registered architects to complete a minimum of 24 continuing education hours for each two year license renewal period. You are encouraged to review your current CE activities and hours completed to date.

Continuing Education Model Regulations adopted in June 2011 by the National Council of Architectural Registration Boards (NCARB) have been adopted by many states allowing architects, particularly those registered in multiple states, to more easily track and fulfill the more uniform requirements. Although the Indiana board's rules currently remain unchanged, requiring 24 total hours and 16 HSW hours over a two year period, compliance with the NCARB regulations, will assure compliance in Indiana.

Under the NCARB model regulation, the fulfillment of Continuing Education will take place on a calendar year basis, rather than the two year renewal period: instead of completing 24 hours over two years, architects will complete 12 hours of all HSW structured continuing education every calendar year. In order to align with calendar year renewals and simplify continuing education recordkeeping for its licensees, the Indiana Board of Registration for Architects and Landscape Architects recently revised its renewal period to the end of every odd calendar year, effective December 31, 2015.

As with the previous policy, there is no carry-over of credits from year to year. Architects are responsible for keeping accurate records, including certificates of completion or transcripts from professional associations.

The Board will continue to conduct random compliance audits. CE logs submitted without certificates of completion, AIA transcripts, or appropriate documentation will not be accepted. It is the architect's responsibility to obtain certificates for all courses or an AIA transcript. Architects found to have falsely claimed completion of the requirement on their renewal applications have been subject to a variety of penalties.

Structured courses are defined as “educational activities in which at least 75% of an activity’s content and instructional time must be devoted to health, safety, and welfare (HSW) subjects related to the practice of architecture and provided by qualified individuals or organizations, whether delivered by direct contact (e.g., courses or seminars) or distance learning methods” (e.g., online courses, including Architectural Record articles and NCARB Monographs.) All 12 hours must be Health, Safety and Welfare (HSW) hours. The definitions of HSW have been updated and are listed in the attached rules. Architects will find that many practice-related courses still qualify for HSW hours, including codes, zoning, ethics, insurance to protect owners and the public, documents and construction administration.

Requiring all HSW hours simplifies compliance for architects licensed in multiple states, as there are several significant jurisdictions that accept only HSW hours. All states accept HSW hours; many states do not accept non-HSW hours.

Self-reported activities, such as teaching, publishing, and professional service to the community are no longer eligible for continuing education credit. In addition, the AIA no longer recognizes self-reported activities. Many states do not recognize self-reported activities.

Medical, military and emeritus architect exemptions are still available upon request to practitioners. An Exemption Request form can be downloaded from the Forms page of the Board’s website. An exemption in Ohio may not be accepted by another state; it is the architect’s responsibility to check with other states.

The Ohio board recognizes courses and programs related to the built environment and offered by providers pre-approved by NCARB, the American Institute of Architects, universities and many other organizations, including the State Architects Office and the Ohio Board of Building Standards.

Background:

- Board of Registration of Architects and Landscape Architects
- 3,385 active architect licenses and about 150 landscape architects
- Board composition: 5 Architect | 2 Landscape Architect | 1 Public member
- Bimonthly meetings & new executive director (Amy Hall)
- Cooperative relationship with AIA Indiana who helps communicate business of board
- Board provides a liaison to state attorney general for confidential review of all unlicensed practice through consumer complaints
- Click on the following link to learn more: <http://www.in.gov/pla/architect.htm>

Recent business/action/policy:

- Established communication with State Department of Homeland Security design release process to catch inactive applicants (formerly, validity of certification seal was not checked)

- Changed bi-annual license renewal period to end of year (instead of November 30th) to coincide with 12 month continuing education standard
- Secured rule change through Office of Management and Budget, with assistance from AIA Indiana, for \$20 increase in dues for investigative fund for unlicensed practice
- Established protocol for board to initiate consumer complaints for expired licenses resulting in unlicensed practice violations which come back to board for disciplinary action. Placed 7 individuals on probation after found to be practicing with expired license which usually involves notifications to affected clients but no financial penalty.
- Enacted electronic participation policy to allow for members to participate remotely if necessary to establish quorum
- CE audit of 85 individuals led to 7 found to be in non-compliance

Current business/action/policy:

- Considering rules change to convert to 12 months CE policy. (Note: with enacted change of renewal period, all registrants who meet the 12/12 will meet Indiana, but not necessarily the other way)
- Establish fine protocol for continuing education non-compliance (with one current case considering implication of falsifying renewal form)
- Confirming/establishing board authority to conduct investigative action (as opposed to attorney general) with new investigative fund

Upcoming business:

- Establish annual report/ mailing
- Governance in cases of unlicensed practice
- Initiate rules change for Continuing education (12-18 month process)