The Registered Architect (RA) credential is offered by the National Council of Architectural Registration Boards (NCARB) for all 55 states and territories. Below are the major steps to becoming a registered architect:

- Attain a master’s degree from a National Architectural Accrediting Board college or university.
- Successfully complete the Architectural Experience Program. This is a 3,740-hour training program under a licensed architect broken up over six categories to help candidates prepare for the exam.
- Complete an initial registration with your state to gain permission to take the Architectural Registration Exam (ARE).
- Successfully complete all six parts of the ARE.
- Complete any additional requirements your state may have. Some states require additional exams or specific courses. Check with your local jurisdiction.
- Apply for your NCARB certificate to ease the process of reciprocity in other states.

**TEST FORMAT**

The ARE is comprised of six practice-based divisions:

- PcM – Practice Management
- PjM – Project Management
- PA – Programing & Analysis
- PPD – Project Planning & Design
- PDD – Project Development & Design
- CE – Construction & Evaluation

**PUBLICATIONS AND RESOURCES**

The following resources and publications are provided as the top references to assist candidates in preparation for this exam. Additional resources can be found in the NCARB ARE 5.0 Handbook Reference Matrix and through the NCARB (ncarb.org) website.

- **Professional Practice: A Guide to Turning Designs into Buildings**
  Paul Segal, FAIA
  The Construction Specifications Institute
- **The HOK Guidebook to Sustainable Design**
  Sandra F. Mendler, William Odell, and Mary Ann Lazarus
- **ICC A1171.1-2009 Accessible and Usable Buildings and Facilities**
  International Code Council
- **International Building Code (2018)**
  International Code Council

**CONTINUING EDUCATION**

Each state sets their own continuing education requirements, so once you obtain your license check with your local jurisdiction for the requirements. The NCARB website has a great tool for checking these requirements. Items to look for:

- Whether Continuing Education Units (CEUs) are required for your state.
- Number of CEUs per renewal cycle required by your state.
- Specific types of CEUs required:
  - Health Safety Welfare (HSW)
  - Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)
  - Sustainability

**LIKELY CANDIDATES FOR CREDENTIAL**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Likely Candidate</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Military - Officer</td>
<td>Yes</td>
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<tr>
<td>Military - Enlisted</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Industry</td>
<td>Yes</td>
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<td>Government</td>
<td>Yes</td>
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