

The logo features the letters 'AIA' in white, bold, sans-serif font inside a red circle. To the right of the circle, the words 'Washington Council' are written in a larger, white, bold, sans-serif font.

AIA Washington Council

Summer 2025 | EP Q2 Newsletter

A close-up photograph of several hands of different skin tones being joined together in a circle, symbolizing unity and support. The background is softly blurred with warm, golden light.

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Support from AIA

National Associates Committee (NAC)

It is a vital resource and leadership platform within the American Institute of Architects (AIA), dedicated to supporting Associate Members and young professionals on the path to licensure or exploring alternative career trajectories in architecture. As a national committee composed entirely of emerging professionals, the NAC advocates for the needs of Associates through thought leadership, policy recommendations, and strategic initiatives. NAC provides valuable opportunities for engagement, mentorship, and professional development. Its Work Groups—focused on areas like equity, climate action, and advocacy—allow emerging professionals to directly shape the future of the profession while developing leadership skills. Through a national network of State/Territory Associate Representatives (STARs), NAC connects local voices to national conversations, making it a powerful tool for amplifying Washington state's emerging professional community. Whether you are navigating licensure, seeking mentorship, or looking to expand your impact, NAC offers a collaborative environment to grow your voice and career. For Washington-based Associate AIA members, participating in NAC initiatives or connecting with our state STAR representative can be a meaningful way to engage with the broader AIA network and contribute to a more inclusive, innovative, and connected profession.

More Information:

- [National Associates Community - AIA Community Hub](#)
- [National Associate Committee - 2024 Handbook](#)
- [STAR Position](#)
- NAC News Bites
 - [Q1 2025](#)
 - [Fall 2024](#)
 - [Summer 2024](#)
 - [May 2024](#)
 - [April 2024](#)
 - [March 2024](#)
 - [February 2024](#)
- [Join AIA as an Associate New Graduate member - for up to 18 months free](#)
- [AIA Emerging Professionals](#)





Licensure

Before you can officially call yourself an architect, you'll need to earn a license. Achieving licensure demonstrates to your firm, clients, and community that you're qualified to safeguard the health, safety, and welfare of those who interact with the built environment. While each state licensing board sets its own requirements, the path doesn't have to be confusing. NCARB offers a range of tools and resources designed to help you meet your jurisdiction's specific requirements across these three key areas:

EDUCATION

The journey to becoming an architect typically begins with enrolling in a professional architecture program accredited by the [National Architectural Accrediting Board \(NAAB\)](#). With over 120 accredited schools nationwide, NAAB can help you find a program that aligns with your vision and career goals. But if you don't have a degree from a NAAB-accredited program, don't worry—some jurisdictions offer alternative paths to licensure. Ready to take the first step toward your architectural education? You'll find everything you need in this document.

Bonus: AIA Washington Council recently hosted a townhall focused on alternative licensure pathways. If you missed it, you can [\[watch the recording here\]](#).

EXPERIENCE

In addition to education, aspiring architects must gain hands-on experience under the guidance of a licensed architect. The Architectural Experience Program® (AXP®) offers a structured path to help you track and complete your professional experience, covering areas from site design to project management. You can begin logging experience as early as after high school or an equivalent education. To support you along the way, NCARB provides helpful tools—including a free mobile app—to make tracking your hours and understanding program requirements easier. Since AXP completion is also a key step toward earning your NCARB Certificate, you'll be building momentum toward certification from day one. For more details, check out the [AXP Guidelines](#).

EXAMINATION

Another essential step on the path to licensure is passing the Architect Registration Examination® (ARE®). Designed to reflect modern architectural practice, the ARE evaluates your ability to independently protect the public through competent design and project execution. It's a major milestone on your journey to becoming a licensed architect. To support you along the way, NCARB offers tips, guides, and success stories to help you prepare with confidence. Ready to dive in? Start planning with the [ARE Guidelines](#).



Support for Emerging Professionals

ARE Study Material and Practice Exams

- [NCARB Free Practice Exams ARE 5.0](#)
- [NCARB Free SPD Exam Guide Practice Exams ARE 4.0](#)
- [NCARB Free BDCS Exam Guide Practice Exams ARE 4.0](#)
- [NCARB Free SS Exam Guide Practice ARE 4.0](#)
- [NCARB Free BS Exam Guide Practice ARE 4.0](#)
- [NCARB Free SD Exam Guide Practice ARE 4.0](#)
- [Free Blackspectable questions](#)
- [ARE/CSE California Study Hub](#)

Workshop and Study Group

[AIA Seattle workshops: Young Architects Forum - Licensing Workshops Registration Deadline](#) | AIA Seattle

[AIA Charlotte](#): ARE Study Group

[NOMA NW ARE Study Group](#): Get Connected

Networking and Mentorship Program

[AIA Seattle Laddership Program](#)

[AIA International Mentorship Program](#)

Scholarships and Grants

[The Architects Foundation](#)

The Architects Foundation harnesses the power of design to tackle challenges, improve lives, and shape a better future.

As the philanthropic arm of the AIA, the Architects Foundation empowers and supports the next generation of designers and the diverse communities they impact.

- [Jason Pettigrew Memorial ARE Scholarship](#)
- [Student Loan Relief Grant](#)