

ARCHITECTURAL EXAMINING BOARD[193B]

Adopted and Filed

Rulemaking related to continuing education

The Architectural Examining Board hereby rescinds Chapter 3, “Continuing Education,” Iowa Administrative Code, and adopts a new chapter with the same title.

Legal Authority for Rulemaking

This rulemaking is adopted under the authority provided in Iowa Code chapter 272C and section 544A.29.

State or Federal Law Implemented

This rulemaking implements, in whole or in part, Iowa Code chapters 17A, 272C and 544A.

Purpose and Summary

This chapter sets forth continuing education requirements for licensed architects to ensure continuing competency. It includes definitions related to continuing education, the required number of hours of continuing education that licensees are required to obtain, and the types of continuing education courses that are permissible. The intended benefit of continuing education is to ensure that architects maintain up-to-date practice standards and, as a result, provide high-quality services to Iowans.

Public Comment and Changes to Rulemaking

Notice of Intended Action for this rulemaking was published in the Iowa Administrative Bulletin on January 10, 2024, as **ARC 7437C**. Public hearings were held on January 30 and 31, 2024, at 11:50 a.m. at 6200 Park Avenue, Suite 100, Des Moines, Iowa, and virtually. No one attended the public hearings. No public comments were received. No changes from the Notice have been made.

Adoption of Rulemaking

This rulemaking was adopted by the Board on March 21, 2024.

Fiscal Impact

This rulemaking has no fiscal impact to the State of Iowa.

Jobs Impact

After analysis and review of this rulemaking, no impact on jobs has been found.

Waivers

Any person who believes that the application of the discretionary provisions of this rulemaking would result in hardship or injustice to that person may petition the Department of Inspections, Appeals, and Licensing for a waiver of the discretionary provisions, if any, pursuant to 481—Chapter 6.

Review by Administrative Rules Review Committee

The Administrative Rules Review Committee, a bipartisan legislative committee which oversees rulemaking by executive branch agencies, may, on its own motion or on written request by any individual or group, review this rulemaking at its [regular monthly meeting](#) or at a special meeting. The Committee’s meetings are open to the public, and interested persons may be heard as provided in Iowa Code section 17A.8(6).

Effective Date

This rulemaking will become effective on May 22, 2024.

The following rulemaking action is adopted:

ITEM 1. Rescind 193B—Chapter 3 and adopt the following **new** chapter in lieu thereof:

CHAPTER 3
CONTINUING EDUCATION

193B—3.1(544A,272C) Continuing education. The following rules adopted by the architectural examining board are in compliance with Iowa Code chapter 544A and section 272C.2 requiring professional and occupational licensees to participate in a continuing education program as a condition of license renewal.

193B—3.2(544A,272C) Definitions. The following definitions apply as used in Iowa Code chapter 544A and this chapter of the architectural examining board rules, unless the context otherwise requires.

“Continuing education” or *“CE”* means postlicensure learning that enables a licensed architect to increase or update knowledge of and competence in technical and professional subjects related to the practice of architecture to safeguard the public’s health, safety, and welfare.

“Continuing education hour” or *“CEH”* means one continuous instructional hour (50 to 60 minutes of contact) spent in structured educational activities intended to increase or update the architect’s knowledge and competence in health, safety, and welfare subjects. If the provider of the structured educational activities prescribes a customary time for completion of such an activity and if the prescribed time is not deemed unreasonable by the board, then such prescribed time will be accepted for CEH purposes as the architect’s time irrespective of actual time spent on the activity.

“Distance learning” means any education process based on the geographical separation of student and instructor. “Distance learning” includes computer-generated programs, webinars, and home-study/correspondence programs.

“Health, safety, and welfare subjects” means technical and professional subjects that the board deems appropriate to safeguard the public and that are within the following enumerated areas necessary for the proper evaluation, design, construction, and utilization of buildings and the built environment.

1. Building systems: structural, mechanical, electrical, plumbing, communications, security, and fire protection.
2. Construction contract administration: contracts, bidding, and contract negotiations.
3. Construction documents: drawings, specifications, and delivery methods.
4. Design: urban planning, master planning, building design, site design, interiors, safety and security measures.
5. Environmental: energy efficiency, sustainability, natural resources, natural hazards, hazardous materials, weatherproofing, and insulation.
6. Legal: laws, codes, zoning, regulations, standards, life safety, accessibility, ethics, and insurance to protect owners and the public.
7. Materials and methods: construction systems, products, finishes, furnishings, and equipment.
8. Occupant comfort: air quality, lighting, acoustics, and ergonomics.
9. Predesign: land use analysis, programming, site selection, site and soils analysis, and surveying.
10. Preservation: historic, reuse, and adaptation.

“Not engaged in active practice” means that an architect is not engaged in the practice of architecture or earning monetary compensation by providing professional architectural services in any licensing jurisdiction of the United States or a foreign country.

“Retired from active practice” means the same as “not engaged in active practice.”

“Structured educational activities” means educational activities in which at least 75 percent of an activity’s content and instructional time is to be devoted to health, safety, and welfare subjects related to the practice of architecture, including courses of study or other activities under the areas identified as

health, safety, and welfare subjects and provided by qualified individuals or organizations, whether the courses of study or other activities are delivered by direct contact or distance learning methods.

193B—3.3(544A,272C) Basic requirements.

3.3(1) To renew licensure, an architect must, in addition to meeting all other requirements, complete a minimum of 24 CEHs for each 24-month period since the architect’s last renewal of initial licensure or be exempt from these continuing education requirements as provided in rule 193B—3.5(544A,272C). Failure to comply with these requirements may result in nonrenewal of the architect’s license.

3.3(2) All 24 CEHs must be completed in health, safety, and welfare subjects acquired in structured educational activities. CEHs may be acquired at any location. Excess CEHs cannot be credited to the next renewal.

3.3(3) An architect will complete and submit forms as required by the board certifying that the architect has completed the required CEHs. Forms may be audited by the board for verification of compliance with these requirements. Documentation of reported CEHs will be maintained by the architect for two years after the period for which the form was submitted. Any discrepancy between the number of CEHs reported and the number of CEHs actually supported by documentation may result in a disciplinary review. If, after the disciplinary review, the board disallows any CEHs, or the licensee has failed to complete the required CEHs, the architect will have 60 days from notification of the board to either provide further evidence of having completed the CEHs disallowed or remedy the disallowance by completing the required number of CEHs (provided that such CEHs are not used for the next renewal). An extension of time may be granted on an individual basis and must be requested by the licensee within 30 days of notification by the board. If the licensee fails to comply with the requirements of this subrule, the licensee may be subject to disciplinary action. If the board finds, after proper notice and hearing, that the architect willfully disregarded these requirements or falsified documentation of required CEHs, the architect may be subject to disciplinary action.

3.3(4) An architect who holds licensure in Iowa for less than 12 months from the date of initial licensure or who is reinstating to active status is not required to report CEHs at the first license renewal. An architect who holds licensure in Iowa for 12 months or more, but less than 23 months from the date of initial licensure or who is reinstating to active status, is required to report 12 CEHs earned in the preceding 12 months at the first license renewal.

193B—3.4(544A,272C) Authorized structured educational activities. The following list may be used by all licensees in determining the types of activities that may fulfill CE requirements if the activities are conducted as structured educational activities on health, safety, and welfare subjects:

1. Short courses or seminars sponsored by colleges or universities.
2. Technical presentations held in conjunction with conventions or at seminars sponsored or accredited by the American Institute of Architects (AIA), Construction Specifications Institute, Construction Products Manufacturers Council, National Council of Architecture Registration Boards (NCARB), or similar organizations devoted to architectural education.
3. Distance learning sponsored by the AIA, NCARB, or similar organizations.
4. College or university credit courses. Each semester hour equals 12 CEHs. A quarter hour equals 8 CEHs.

193B—3.5(544A,272C) Exemptions.

3.5(1) As provided in Iowa Code section 272C.2(4), a licensed architect will be deemed to have complied with the continuing education requirements set forth in this chapter if the architect attests in the required affidavit that for not less than 21 months of the preceding two-year period of licensure, the architect:

- a.* Has served honorably on active duty in the military service; or
- b.* Is a resident of another state or district having a continuing education requirement for licensure as an architect and has complied with all requirements of that state or district for practice therein; or

c. Is a government employee working as an architect and assigned to duty outside the United States.

3.5(2) Architects who so attest on their affidavits that they are retired from active practice or are not engaged in active practice may maintain their licenses in retired or inactive status without satisfying CE requirements. Such architects may, however, reenter practice only after satisfying the board of their proficiency. Proficiency may be established by any one of the following:

a. Submitting verifiable evidence of compliance with the aggregate continuing education requirements for the reporting periods attested as retired from active practice or not engaged in active practice up to a maximum of 48 CEHs.

b. Retaking the architectural registration examination.

c. Fulfilling alternative reentry requirements determined by the board that serve to assure the board of the current competency of the architect to engage in the practice of architecture.

3.5(3) The board may make exceptions for reasons of individual hardship, including health (certified by a medical doctor) or other good cause. More information is contained in 193—Chapter 5.

These rules are intended to implement Iowa Code section 272C.2.

[Filed 3/25/24, effective 5/22/24]

[Published 4/17/24]

EDITOR'S NOTE: For replacement pages for IAC, see IAC Supplement 4/17/24.