

CHAPTER 2 LICENSURE

[Prior to 7/13/88, see Architectural Examiners, Board of[80]]

Chapter rescission date pursuant to Iowa Code section 17A.7: 5/22/29

193B—2.1(544A,17A) 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.

“Applicant” means an individual who has submitted an application for licensure to the board.

“Approved education program” means a degree accredited by an organization that provides an accreditation system for architecture programs or education deemed equivalent by the board to the National Council of Architectural Registration Boards (NCARB) Education Standard that has been evaluated and found to be an equivalent standard based on the NCARB Alternatives to Education Requirement as identified in the NCARB Certification Guidelines demonstration of successful completion of an Education Evaluation Services for Architects.

“Architectural intern” or *“intern architect”* means an individual who has completed or is completing an approved education program, has completed or is currently enrolled in the NCARB Architectural Experience Program (AXP), and intends to actively pursue licensure by completing the Architect Registration Examination.

“ARE” means the current Architect Registration Examination, as prepared and graded by the NCARB.

“AXP applicant” means an individual who has completed the AXP training requirements set forth in the NCARB Architectural Experience Program Guidelines and has submitted an application for licensure to the board.

“Examination” means the current Architect Registration Examination (ARE) accepted by the board.

“Inactive” means that an architect is not engaged in Iowa in any practice for which a certificate of licensure is required, including architects who have retired from active practice.

“Issuance” means the date of mailing of a decision or order or the date of delivery if service is by other means unless another date is specified in the order.

“NCARB” means the National Council of Architectural Registration Boards. The NCARB Architect Registration Examination Guidelines, NCARB Architectural Experience Program Guidelines, and NCARB Certification Guidelines are available through the National Council of Architectural Registration Boards, 1401 H Street NW, Suite 500, Washington, D.C. 20005; NCARB’s website, www.ncarb.org; or the architectural examining board.

“NCARB Architect Registration Examination (ARE) Guidelines” means the edition of a document by the same title published by the National Council of Architectural Registration Boards in April 2026. The document outlines the requirements for examination.

“NCARB Architectural Experience Program Guidelines” means the edition of a document by the same title published by the National Council of Architectural Registration Boards in November 2025. The document outlines the requirements for training.

“NCARB Certification Guidelines” means the edition of a document by the same title published by the National Council of Architectural Registration Boards in January 2026. The document outlines the requirements for licensure as an architect.

“NCARB Education Guidelines” or *“NCARB Education Standards”* means the edition of a document by the same title published by the National Council of Architectural Registration Boards in January 2026. The document outlines the requirements for licensure as an architect.

[ARC 7757C, IAB 4/17/24, effective 5/22/24; ARC 0232D, IAB 4/29/26, effective 6/3/26]

193B—2.2(544A,17A) Licensure. All applicants for licensure will complete an online application form.

2.2(1) Initial licensure. To be eligible for initial licensure by examination, all applicants will have satisfied the architecture education requirements as detailed in paragraph 2.2(1)“a,” have passed all divisions of the ARE as provided by the NCARB, have completed the NCARB AXP as detailed in paragraph 2.2(1)“a,” and have established an NCARB council record. A completed NCARB council

record shall be transmitted to and filed in the board office. Upon receipt of the council record from NCARB, the board will provide the applicant with an application for licensure form, which must be completed and returned to the board within three months of receipt of the council record. The board shall issue a license number to the applicant upon receipt of the completed application form and appropriate fee.

a. The education and experience requirements are met when an applicant completes one of the following:

(1) A professional degree in architecture from a program that satisfies the NCARB Education Standard or education deemed equivalent by the board and completion of the NCARB AXP one time.

(2) A degree from a four-year bachelor's degree program that includes at least 60 semester credit hours in architecture-related subjects as referenced in the NCARB Certification Guidelines in the Education Alternative section and completion of the NCARB AXP two times.

(3) A two-year associate degree program that includes at least 30 semester credit hours in architecture-related subjects as referenced in the NCARB Certification Guidelines in the Education Alternative section and completion of the NCARB AXP three times.

(4) A high school degree or its equivalent and completion of the NCARB AXP four times.

NOTE: To complete each multiple of the NCARB AXP, the candidate must meet the full program requirements for each multiple as defined in the AXP Guidelines. For example, if a candidate is completing the AXP four times, the candidate must document the required number of hours in each experience area four times. Minimum and maximum hours in each experience setting apply.

b. Examinations for licensure as an architect shall be conducted by the board or its authorized representative.

(1) The board shall make use of the ARE prepared and graded by NCARB under a plan of cooperation with the architectural examining boards of all states and territories of the United States.

(2) The board may make use of a testing service selected by NCARB to administer the examination, provided the examination is held in at least one location within the boundaries of this state.

c. Examination admittance requirements.

(1) An applicant will have established an NCARB record.

(2) NCARB shall notify the testing service of the applicant's eligibility prior to the applicant's scheduling of an examination.

d. AXP eligibility requirements will be verified and satisfied in accordance with the NCARB Architectural Experience Program Guidelines. Documentation of AXP training units will be submitted on AXP report forms published by NCARB and will be verified by signatures of the licensed architects serving as the intern architect's supervisors in accordance with the requirements outlined in the NCARB Architectural Experience Program Guidelines. The completed AXP report form shall demonstrate attainment of an aggregate of the minimum number of value units in each training area and shall be submitted to NCARB for evaluation.

2.2(2) Reciprocity. The board or the board administrator may waive examination requirements for applicants who, at the time of application, are licensed as architects in a different jurisdiction and hold an active NCARB certificate. All such applicants who hold an active NCARB certificate are deemed to possess qualifications that are substantially equivalent to those required of applicants for initial licensure in this state. An active NCARB council certificate shall be transmitted to and filed in the board office. Upon receipt of the certificate from NCARB, the board will provide the applicant with an application for licensure form, which must be completed and returned to the board within three months of receipt of the council certificate.

2.2(3) Verification. The board may grant registration via verification as provided for in 193—Chapter 14.

2.2(4) Military service and veteran reciprocity. The board may grant registration for military service applicants, spouses, and veterans as provided for in 481—Chapter 7.

2.2(5) Applicants seeking architectural commission in Iowa. A person seeking an architectural commission in this state may be admitted to this state for the purpose of offering to provide architectural services, and for that purpose only, without first being licensed in this state if:

a. The person holds an NCARB certificate; and

- b. The person holds a current and valid license issued by a licensing authority recognized by this state; and
- c. The person notifies the board in writing on a form provided by the board that the person:
 - (1) Holds an NCARB certificate and a current and valid license issued by a licensing authority recognized by this state,
 - (2) Is not currently licensed in this state but will be present in this state for the purpose of offering to provide architectural services on a temporary basis, and
 - (3) Has no previous or pending disciplinary action by any licensing authority; and
- d. The person delivers a copy of the notice referred to in paragraph 2.2(5) “c” to every potential client to whom the person offers to provide architectural services; and
- e. The person provides the board with a sworn statement of intent to apply immediately to the board for licensure if selected as the architect for a project in this state.

The person is prohibited from actually providing architectural services until the person has been issued a valid license in this state.

2.2(6) Board refusal to issue license. The board may refuse to issue a certificate of licensure to any person otherwise qualified upon any of the grounds for which a license may be revoked or suspended or may otherwise discipline a licensee based upon a suspension, revocation, or other disciplinary action taken by a licensing authority in this or another jurisdiction. For purposes of this subrule, “disciplinary action” includes the voluntary surrender of a license to resolve a pending disciplinary investigation or proceeding. A certified copy of the record or order of suspension, revocation, voluntary surrender, or other disciplinary action is prima facie evidence of such fact.

[ARC 7757C, IAB 4/17/24, effective 5/22/24; ARC 0232D, IAB 4/29/26, effective 6/3/26]

193B—2.3(17A,272C,544A) Renewal of certificates of licensure.

2.3(1) Active status. Certificates of licensure expire biennially on June 30. In order to maintain authorization to practice in Iowa, a licensee is required to renew the certificate of licensure prior to July 1 of the year of expiration. A licensee who fails to renew by the expiration date is not authorized to practice architecture in Iowa until the certificate is reinstated as provided in rule 193B—2.4(544A,17A).

a. A licensee whose last name begins with the letter A through K will renew in even-numbered years, and a licensee whose last name begins with the letter L through Z will renew in odd-numbered years. However, a license issued on or after May 1 but before June 30 will not expire until June 30 of the next renewal. For example, a license issued on May 17, 2020, would not expire until June 30, 2022.

b. It is the policy of the board to send to each licensee a notice of the pending expiration date at the licensee’s last-known address approximately one month prior to the date the certificate of licensure is scheduled to expire. The notice, when provided, may be by email communication. Failure to receive this notice does not relieve the licensee of the responsibility to timely renew the certificate and pay the renewal fee. A licensee should contact the board office if the licensee does not receive a renewal notice prior to the date of expiration.

c. Upon the board’s receipt of a timely and sufficient renewal application as provided in 193—subrule 7.40(3), the board’s administrator will issue a new certificate of licensure reflecting the next expiration date unless grounds exist for denial of the application.

d. If grounds exist to deny a timely and sufficient application to renew, the board will send notification to the applicant. Grounds may exist to deny an application to renew if, for instance, the licensee failed to satisfy the continuing education as required as a condition for licensure. If the basis for denial is pending disciplinary action or disciplinary investigation that is reasonably expected to culminate in disciplinary action, the board will proceed as provided in 193—Chapter 7. If the basis for denial is not related to a pending or imminent disciplinary action, the applicant may contest the board’s decision as provided in 193—subrule 7.40(1).

e. When a licensee appears to be in violation of mandatory continuing education requirements, the board may, in lieu of proceeding to a contested case hearing on the denial of a renewal application as provided in rule 193—7.40(546,272C), and after or in lieu of giving the licensee an opportunity to come into compliance under 193B—subrule 3.3(3), offer a licensee the opportunity to sign a consent order. While the terms of the consent order will be tailored to the specific circumstances at issue, the consent order will

typically impose a penalty between \$50 and \$250, depending on the severity of the violation; establish deadlines for compliance; and require that the licensee complete hours equal to double the deficiency in addition to the required hours; and may impose additional educational requirements on the licensee. Any additional hours completed in compliance with the consent order cannot again be claimed at the next renewal. The board will address subsequent offenses on a case-by-case basis. A licensee is free to accept or reject the offer. If the offer of settlement is accepted, the licensee will be issued a renewed certificate of licensure and will be subject to disciplinary action if the terms of the consent order are not complied with. If the offer of settlement is rejected, the matter will be set for hearing, if timely requested by the applicant pursuant to 193—subrule 7.40(1).

f. The board may notify a licensee whose certificate of licensure has expired. The failure of the board to provide this courtesy notification or the failure of the licensee to receive the notification will not extend the date of expiration.

g. A licensee who continues to practice architecture in Iowa after the license has expired may be subject to disciplinary action. Such unauthorized activity may also be grounds to deny a licensee's application for reinstatement.

2.3(2) Inactive status. This subrule establishes a procedure under which a person issued a certificate of licensure as an architect may apply to the board to be licensed as inactive. Licensure under this subrule is available to a license holder who is not engaged in Iowa in any practice for which licensure as an architect is required. A person eligible to be licensed as inactive may, as an alternative to such licensure, allow the certificate of licensure to lapse. During any period of inactive status, a person may use the title "inactive architect" or "retired architect," but may not use the sole title of "architect" or any other title that might imply that the person is offering services as an architect by such an action in violation of Iowa Code section 544A.15. The board will continue to maintain a database of persons licensed as inactive, including information that is not routinely maintained after a certificate has lapsed through the person's failure to renew. A person who is licensed as inactive will accordingly receive renewal applications, board newsletters and other mass communications from the board.

a. Affirmation. The renewal application form will contain a statement in which the applicant affirms that the applicant will not engage in any of the practices in Iowa that are listed in Iowa Code section 544A.16 without first complying with all rules governing reinstatement to active status. A person in inactive status may reinstate to active status at any time pursuant to rule 193B—2.5(544A).

b. Renewal. A person licensed as inactive may renew the person's certificate of licensure on the biennial schedule described in this rule. This person shall be exempt from the continuing education requirements and will be charged a reduced renewal fee as provided in rule 193B—2.9(544A,17A). An inactive certificate of licensure will lapse if not timely renewed.

c. Permitted practices. A person may, while licensed as inactive, perform for a client, business, employer, government body, or other entity those services that may lawfully be provided by a person to whom a certificate of licensure has never been issued. Such services may be performed as long as the person does not in connection with such services use the title "architect" or any other title restricted for use only by architects pursuant to Iowa Code section 544A.15 (without additional designations such as "inactive" or "retired"). Restricted titles may be used only by active architects who are subject to continuing education requirements to ensure that the use of such titles is consistently associated with the maintenance of competency through continuing education.

d. Prohibited practices. A person who, while licensed as inactive, engages in any of the practices described in Iowa Code sections 544A.15 and 544A.16 is subject to disciplinary action.

e. Exemption. A person whose license as an architect has been placed on probation, suspended, revoked, or voluntarily surrendered in connection with a disciplinary investigation or proceeding shall not be eligible for inactive status unless, upon appropriate application, the board first reinstates the license to good standing.

[ARC 7757C, IAB 4/17/24, effective 5/22/24]

193B—2.4(544A,17A) Reinstatement of lapsed certificate of licensure to active status. An individual may reinstate a lapsed certificate of licensure to active licensure as follows:

2.4(1) Pay the current renewal fee.

2.4(2) Pay the reinstatement fee of \$100 plus \$25 per month or partial month of expired licensure up to a maximum of \$750. All applicants for reinstatement shall be assessed the \$100 reinstatement fee. The \$25 per month shall not be assessed if the applicant for reinstatement did not, during the period of lapse, engage in any acts or practices for which an active architect license is required in Iowa. Falsely claiming an exemption from the monthly fee is a ground for discipline; in addition, other grounds for discipline may arise from practicing on a lapsed certificate, license or permit to practice.

2.4(3) Provide a written statement outlining the applicant's professional activities performed in Iowa during the period in which the individual was unlicensed. The statement shall include a list of all projects with which the applicant had involvement and shall explain the service provided by the applicant.

2.4(4) Submit documented evidence of completion of 24 continuing education hours, which should have been reported on the June 30 renewal date on which the applicant failed to renew, and 12 continuing education hours for each year or portion of a year of expired licensure up to a maximum of 48 continuing education hours. All continuing education hours must be completed in health, safety, and welfare subjects acquired in structured educational activities and be in compliance with requirements in 193B—Chapter 3. The hours reported shall not have been earned more than four years prior to the date of the application to reinstate to active status. The continuing education hours used for reinstatement may not be used again at the next renewal.

[ARC 7757C, IAB 4/17/24, effective 5/22/24]

193B—2.5(544A) Reinstatement from inactive status to active status. An individual may reinstate an inactive license to an active license as follows:

2.5(1) Pay one-half of the current active license fee.

2.5(2) Submit documented evidence of completion of 24 continuing education hours in compliance with requirements in 193B—Chapter 3. All continuing education hours must be completed in health, safety, and welfare subjects acquired in structured educational activities. The hours reported shall not have been earned more than four years prior to the date of the application to reinstate to active status. The hours used to reinstate to active status cannot again be used to renew.

a. At the first biennial renewal date of July 1 that is less than 12 months from the date of the filing of the application to restore the certificate of licensure to active status, the person shall not be required to report continuing education hours.

b. At the first biennial renewal date of July 1 that is 12 months or more, but less than 24 months, from the date of the filing of the application to restore the certificate of licensure to active status, the person shall report 12 hours of previously unreported continuing education hours.

2.5(3) Provide a written statement in which the applicant affirms that the applicant has not engaged in any of the practices in Iowa that are listed in Iowa Code section 544A.16 during the period of inactive licensure.

[ARC 7757C, IAB 4/17/24, effective 5/22/24]

193B—2.6(544A,17A) Finding of probable cause for unlicensed practice. The board may find probable cause to file charges for unlicensed practice if the individual continues to offer services defined as the practice of architecture outlined in Iowa Code section 544A.16 while using the title “architect,” “architectural designer,” or similar designation during the period of lapsed licensure.

[ARC 7757C, IAB 4/17/24, effective 5/22/24]

193B—2.7(544A,272C) Responsibility for accuracy of applications. The architect is responsible for verifying the accuracy of the information submitted on an application regardless of how the application is submitted or by whom it is submitted. For instance, if the office manager of an architect's firm submits an application for renewal on behalf of the architect and that information is incorrect, the architect will be held responsible for the information and may be subject to disciplinary action.

[ARC 7757C, IAB 4/17/24, effective 5/22/24]

193B—2.8(544A,272C) Application denial. An application may be denied on the grounds provided in Iowa Code chapter 544A and in rule 193—7.39(546,272C). The administrative processing of an application shall not prevent the later initiation of a contested case to challenge a licensee's qualifications for licensure.

The board may also deny a license on the grounds of submitting a false statement or submission of material fact on an application for licensure.

[ARC 7757C, IAB 4/17/24, effective 5/22/24]

193B—2.9(544A,17A) Fee schedule. Under the authority provided in Iowa Code chapter 544A, the following fees are hereby adopted:

Examination fees:

Fees for examination subjects shall be paid directly to the testing service selected by NCARB.

Initial license fee	\$50
(plus \$5 per month until renewal)	
Reciprocal application and license fee	\$200
Verification application and license fee	\$200
Biennial renewal fee	\$200
Biennial renewal fee (inactive)	\$100
Reinstatement of lapsed individual license	\$100 + renewal fee + \$25 per month or partial month of expired license
Reinstatement of inactive individual license	\$100
Duplicate wall certificate fee	\$50
License predetermination fee	\$25
Fee for return of payment	\$30

All fees are nonrefundable.

[ARC 7757C, IAB 4/17/24, effective 5/22/24]

These rules are intended to implement Iowa Code chapters 544A and 17A.

[Filed 10/1/76, Notice 9/8/76—published 10/20/76, effective 12/8/76]

[Filed 3/15/78, Notice 11/30/77—published 4/5/78, effective 5/10/78]

[Filed 1/23/81, Notice 9/3/80—published 2/18/81, effective 3/25/81]

[Filed 5/8/81, Notice 4/1/81—published 5/27/81, effective 7/1/81]

[Filed 2/7/83, Notice 12/22/82—published 3/2/83, effective 4/6/83]

[Filed 9/13/85, Notice 6/19/85—published 10/9/85, effective 11/13/85]

[Filed 10/8/87, Notice 7/15/87—published 11/4/87, effective 12/9/87]

[Filed 6/24/88, Notice 3/9/88—published 7/13/88, effective 8/17/88]

[Filed 3/30/89, Notice 1/25/89—published 4/19/89, effective 5/24/89]

[Filed 9/15/89, Notice 7/12/89—published 10/4/89, effective 11/8/89]

[Filed 2/15/91, Notice 1/9/91—published 3/6/91, effective 4/10/91]

[Filed 12/6/91, Notice 10/30/91—published 12/25/91, effective 1/29/92]

[Filed 3/12/93, Notice 2/3/93—published 3/31/93, effective 5/5/93]

[Filed 1/14/94, Notice 11/10/93—published 2/2/94, effective 3/23/94]

[Filed 2/6/95, Notice 12/7/94—published 3/1/95, effective 4/5/95]

[Filed 4/5/96, Notice 1/3/96—published 4/24/96, effective 5/29/96]

[Filed 9/20/96, Notice 7/31/96—published 10/9/96, effective 11/13/96]

[Filed 4/30/98, Notice 12/31/97—published 5/20/98, effective 6/24/98]

[Filed 11/12/98, Notice 6/17/98—published 12/2/98, effective 1/6/99]

[Filed 11/12/98, Notice 8/12/98—published 12/2/98, effective 1/6/99]

[Filed 5/13/99, Notice 2/24/99—published 6/2/99, effective 7/7/99]

[Filed 1/12/00, Notice 10/20/99—published 2/9/00, effective 3/15/00]

[Filed 9/12/01, Notice 6/27/01—published 10/3/01, effective 11/7/01]

[Filed 9/26/02, Notice 6/12/02—published 10/16/02, effective 11/20/02]

[Filed 1/30/03, Notice 12/11/02—published 2/19/03, effective 3/26/03]
[Filed 7/21/04, Notice 6/9/04—published 8/18/04, effective 9/22/04]
[Filed 9/20/05, Notice 7/6/05—published 10/12/05, effective 11/16/05]
[Filed 9/20/05, Notice 8/3/05—published 10/12/05, effective 11/16/05]
[Filed 11/22/06, Notice 10/11/06—published 12/20/06, effective 1/24/07]
[Filed 7/20/07, Notice 4/25/07—published 8/15/07, effective 9/19/07]
[Filed 9/21/07, Notice 8/15/07—published 10/10/07, effective 2/11/08]
[Filed ARC 7737B (Notice ARC 7545B, IAB 2/11/09), IAB 5/6/09, effective 6/10/09]
[Filed ARC 8638B (Notice ARC 8392B, IAB 12/16/09), IAB 4/7/10, effective 5/12/10]
[Filed ARC 1210C (Notice ARC 0978C, IAB 8/21/13), IAB 12/11/13, effective 1/15/14]
[Filed ARC 1504C (Notice ARC 1282C, IAB 1/8/14), IAB 6/25/14, effective 7/30/14]
[Filed ARC 1624C (Notice ARC 1501C, IAB 6/11/14), IAB 9/17/14, effective 10/22/14]
[Filed Emergency ARC 1985C, IAB 4/29/15, effective 4/10/15]
[Filed ARC 2674C (Notice ARC 2480C, IAB 3/30/16), IAB 8/17/16, effective 9/21/16]
[Filed ARC 3332C (Notice ARC 3170C, IAB 7/5/17), IAB 9/27/17, effective 11/1/17]
[Filed ARC 5563C (Notice ARC 5355C, IAB 12/30/20), IAB 4/21/21, effective 5/26/21]
[Filed ARC 7757C (Notice ARC 7436C, IAB 1/10/24), IAB 4/17/24, effective 5/22/24]
[Filed ARC 0232D (Notice ARC 0070D, IAB 2/18/26), IAB 4/29/26, effective 6/3/26]