

Becoming a Licensed Architect in New York State

In the United States, a license to practice architecture is granted by the individual states. New York State, like the other states, require a combination of education, experience and examination. However, the states delegate some of these responsibilities to the National Council of Architectural Registration Boards (NCARB). NCARB administers the Architectural Experience Program (AXP) and Architecture Registration Examination (ARE). The following is a summary of the requirements.

NYS Board of Architecture requires a candidate for licensure earn 12 units in a combination of education and experience. The Board classifies our BTech degree in category D which gives a maximum of five units. Therefore, our graduates need a minimum of seven years of full time work experience under the supervision of a **lawfully** practicing architect (emphasis by board). Some of this work can be done in a setting related to architecture, such as an engineer's or contractor's office, government agency. Work done while a student is in school or on summer vacations generally does not count towards the years required. However, if a student takes longer than four years to complete the BTech degree, some concurrent work experience may count. This is at the discretion of the Secretary for Board of Architecture. **Any experience gained must be lawful** (emphasis by board).

If a City Tech graduate earns a MArch degree from a program accredited by the National Architectural Accrediting Board (NAAB), they earn 9 units for education (Category A) and thus need 3 years of experience. For earning a master's degree in a field related to architecture, such as urban planning, construction management, or sustainability, an additional unit is earned and therefore approximately one year less of experience is required. Degrees in other areas, such as a MBA or real estate, do not add units. Verify that the program will be accepted by New York State for additional units.

NYS Board of Architecture requires 12 units combining education and experience

Degree	Units for education	Units required for experience
BTech	Maximum 5 units	Minimum of 7 years
MArch (approved by NAAB)	Maximum 9 units	Minimum of 3 years
Other master's degree in architecturally related field	Maximum 1 unit added to original degree	Minimum of 6 years

A candidate files an application with the NYS Board of Architecture when almost four years of work experience has been acquired. The application will include forms which document the candidate's work experience. The forms must be sent by the supervising architect directly to the Board of Architecture. Upon evaluation, the candidate will be permitted to start taking the ARE. A license will be granted when all sections of the ARE passed and when approximately seven years of experience, which includes AXP (if the work is done after graduation), are completed.

As part of the required work experiences, New York State mandates that candidates complete the Architectural Experience Program (AXP) which is administered by the National Council of Architectural Registration Board (NCARB). The Architectural Experience Program (AXP) spreads 3,740 training hours across six skill categories. Each category has a minimum number of hours to be earned.

The categories are as follows:

- Practice Management - 160 hours
- Project Management - 360 hours
- Programming & Analysis - 260 hours
- Project Planning & Design – 1,080 hours
- Project Development & Documentation -1,520 hours
- Construction and Evaluation – 360 hours

Half of the documented experience must be gained while employed by an architectural firm and under the supervision of a licensed architect. Experience may be gained in other settings, such as an engineering or contractor’s office. These years count towards the years of experience required by NYS only if the hours were acquired after graduation and supervised by a **lawfully practicing** registered architect.

Unlike New York State, AXP hours can be accrued while attending college, even if it is a work study situation. However, experience must be reported within eight months or it is lost.

New York State has experience requirements that differ from NCARB. You complete AXP, but submit separate documentation to NYS in order to be admitted to the ARE.

A comparison of New York State and NCARB requirements

	New York State	NCARB
Type of work experience	Supervised by architect; evaluated by Board	Supervised by architect; hours divided into four categories
Length of experience required	See experience table; time is concurrent with AXP	None; completion of AXP which can take several years
Experience during school attendance	No, unless the time to graduate is greater than four years	Yes
Time limits to report work experiences	None	8 months maximum
When to start record/folder	After almost 4 years of work experience, submit form 1	After employment by a registered architect
Cost	\$ 377	\$ 100 to open record for one year, then \$ 85 /year to maintain record

New York State Office of the Professions Architecture <http://www.op.nysed.gov/prof/arch/archlic.htm>

NCARB Intern Development Program <https://www.ncarb.org/gain-axp-experience/experience-requirements>

Architectural interns may begin taking the Architect Registration Examination (ARE) if an applicant has a combination of education and experience equaling a degree from an NAAB accredited program, typically totaling 9 of the 12 required units for licensure. Once a City Tech graduate has worked for almost 4 years, apply to NYS to take the licensing exam. The ARE is a difficult series of examinations. 35% of candidates took more than 3 years to complete the ARE

Every attempt has been made to provide accurate information. However, you should verify all information. Every situation is different and regulations change.

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