



**IDFPR**

Illinois Department of  
Financial and Professional Regulation

Division of Professional Regulation

# License Qualifications

## For:

# Architect

## (001)

Effective: 6/2018

Revised: 09/2025

## READ ME FIRST

The Division of Professional Regulation hopes that you will find the below useful in successfully applying for registration in the State of Illinois. Carefully review this information as it will assist you in applying for your certification and eliminate any processing delays.

### Important:

- An application is active for three years from the date of receipt by the Department.
- Before contacting the Department, please review our [FAQs](#) for answers to most questions.
- If your question is not addressed in our FAQ's, please contact the department at 1-800-560-6420 or email us at [FPR.DesignUnit@Illinois.gov](mailto:FPR.DesignUnit@Illinois.gov)

## QUALIFICATIONS

### EDUCATION:

- Initial (first) licensure:
  - A NAAB or CACB Accredited degree or EESA evaluation equivalency.
- Endorsement of your current license:
  - Must meet the educational requirement in effect at the time of original licensure. Currently, A NAAB or CACB Accredited degree, NCARB MRA or NCARB evaluation equivalency via the EESA, Education Alternative or International Architect program.
  - Foreign Educated applicants:
    - Must either apply through one of the accepted NCARB MRAs, have an EESA evaluation of their degree (meeting NCARB requirements) or NCARB evaluation equivalency via the Education Alternative or International Architect program.

### EXAMINATION:

- Illinois utilizes the NCARB ARE exam for licensure as an Architect.
- All examinations must be taken through NCARB.

### EXPERIENCE:

- Initial licensure:
  - Must meet the current NCARB AXP requirement to be licensed.

- All experience is required to be documented through NCARB via the AXP Program.
- Endorsement of license:
  - Must meet the experience requirement in effect at the time of original licensure.
  - Can be listed as part of the NCARB record or uploaded during application via department form [VE-ARC](#).

## REQUIRED SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

Endorsement applicants not submitting an NCARB Record must submit the following items.

### OFFICIAL TRANSCRIPTS:

- Applicants must upload official transcripts showing the conferral date for any degree you wish to claim.

### EXAM & LICENSE CERTIFICATION:

- Applicants must certify they have requested ARE exam scores and license certifications from the original jurisdiction to be sent to the Illinois Board via email at [FPR.DesignUnit@Illinois.gov](mailto:FPR.DesignUnit@Illinois.gov). Note: Unofficial copies are not accepted.

### EXPERIENCE:

- The form is available here:  
<https://idfpr.illinois.gov/content/dam/soi/en/web/idfpr/forms/dpr/2024-ve-arc.pdf>
- A separate form for each supervisor/place of employment must be completed by the supervisor. Complete the top portion of the form and have your supervisor complete the remainder of the form, sign & date it, then return to you to upload as a PDF.
- If you have no supervisor, you may self-verify your experience using your current license from the date of initial licensure.

## MRA APPLICANTS

- No additional supporting documents are necessary for initial review.
- Applicants must request an NCARB Record to be sent to the Illinois Board.

## IMPORTANT INFORMATION ONCE LICENSED

- Upon satisfying the applicable requirements, your application will be approved and you will receive an email notification that your license has been issued and will include a link to download your license.
- All Professional Engineer licenses expire on November 30th of odd-numbered years, regardless of issuance date.
- It is your responsibility to update your contact information including email address with the Department to ensure that you receive all courtesy renewal email reminders and other notifications.
- We highly recommend that you review the Code Enforcement Manual as it will provide a sample of what your Illinois license seal/stamp should look like and other useful information regarding your profession.
- You may access the [manual](#).

## PROFESSIONAL DESIGN FIRM REQUIREMENT

- Any company that offers professional services in Illinois must be registered as a Professional Design Firm (PDF) with this Department.
- Professional services include Architecture, Professional Engineering, Structural Engineering, and/or Land Surveying.
- Offering services without a PDF registration is a violation of each of the four design profession Acts and subject to discipline by the Department.
- Applicants are encouraged to advise a company principal of this requirement.
- You may review the [requirements and apply](#).