



IDFPR
Illinois Department of
Financial and Professional Regulation
Division of Professional Regulation

Registration qualifications for: Interior Design (161)

**Effective: 6/2018
Revised: 12/2024**

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 registration 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](#)

REGISTRATION QUALIFICATIONS

Education & Experience:

1. Graduate of a 5-year accredited interior design program with at least 2 years of full-time interior design experience.
2. Graduate of a 4-year accredited interior design program with at least 2 years of full-time interior design experience.
3. Graduate of a 3-year accredited interior design program with at least 3 years of full-time interior design experience.
4. Graduate of a 2-year accredited interior design program with at least 4 years of full-time interior design experience.
5. Illinois Architect with an active license.

Foreign Educated applicants:

All documents submitted in a foreign language must be accompanied by an original official, notarized translation that has been performed by a person, other than the applicant, who is fluent in both English and the language of the document(s). The translator shall certify the above requirements as well as the accuracy of the translation.

Examination:

- Illinois utilizes the National Council for Interior Design Qualification (NCIDQ) examination for registration.
- All examinations must be taken through NCIDQ.

Illinois Architect Applicant:

Applicants applying as an Illinois Architect are exempt from the Education, Examination, and Experience requirements. The only requirement is to enter your active license number when asked.

REQUIRED SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

OFFICIAL TRANSCRIPTS:

- Applicants who graduated from a U.S. or Canadian University must upload official transcripts showing the conferral date for any degree you wish to claim.
- Non-Approved program graduates and foreign graduates must upload certification showing they satisfy the NCIDQ eligibility requirements under the Foreign Education Evaluation pathway or the Alternative Review Program (ARP).

EXAM CERTIFICATION:

Applicants must certify they have requested an NCIDQ exam certification to be sent to the Illinois Board from the jurisdiction where it was passed.

EXPERIENCE:

Applicants must certify they have requested their supervising interior designer, architect, appropriate supervisor or sponsor to email a completed VE-IND form to the [Design Unit](#).

Applicants applying via an Illinois architect license need not submit any of these items.

Applicants submitting a CIDQ certification in lieu of the transcripts and experience form must still submit the VE-IND form for experience.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ONCE REGISTERED

- All Interior Design registrations expire on August 31st of each odd-numbered year, 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
- A sample of the seal and requirements are available at the [Illinois Website](#)