

IDP 2.0

What is IDP 2.0?

IDP 2.0 updates the Intern Development Program (IDP) requirements to more closely align with the practice of architecture today. The proposed changes, which will be rolled out in phases over the next two years, will help ensure that interns acquire the comprehensive training that is essential for competent practice. The changes also offer many benefits to interns by allowing them to complete some of the IDP training requirements during periods of unemployment, expanding the definition of “direct supervision,” and simplifying the reporting process.

When will IDP 2.0 be implemented?

The first phase of IDP 2.0 will be implemented on 1 July 2009. The second phase, scheduled for implementation on 1 January 2010, is contingent on the passage of Resolution 2009-04. If a majority of NCARB’s Member Boards does not pass the resolution, the implementation of the program changes will be delayed. The third phase is scheduled for implementation on 1 January 2011.

What changes are being made to the IDP?

On 1 July 2009, the first phase of IDP 2.0 will be implemented and will:

- Allow interns—whether or not they are employed—to earn training units by completing the following architecture-related certificate programs:
 - LEED Accreditation—five supplementary education training units. (Note: to earn supplementary education training units for LEED Accreditation between 1 July 2008 and 1 July 2009, interns must have been employed in an IDP work setting.)
 - CSI Construction Documents Technologist (CDT)—five supplementary education training units.
 - CSI Certified Construction Specifier (CCS)—five training units toward the minimum required training units in Training Area 9, Specifications and Materials Research. (Note: this cannot be combined with EPC activities for satisfaction of minimum training units in this area.)
 - CSI Certified Construction Contract Administrator (CCCA)—five training units toward the minimum required training units in Training Area 12, Construction Phase—Office. (Note: this cannot be combined with EPC activities for satisfaction of minimum training units in this area.)
- Allow interns—whether or not they are employed—to earn two training units toward the minimum required training units in Training Area 15, Office Management, by reading the NCARB Professional Conduct monograph, and passing the related quiz. (Note: this cannot be combined with EPC Activities for satisfaction of minimum training units in this area.)
- Allow interns who are employed in qualified work settings to earn up to five training units toward the minimum required training units in each training area by completing qualified activities in the Emerging Professional’s Companion 2009 (EPC 2009). Interns can also earn supplementary education training units by completing qualified EPC exercises. The intern’s EPC activities and exercises must be reviewed by their IDP supervisor, and then reported through the e-EVR.

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- Allow interns—whether or not they are employed—to earn supplementary education training units by completing AIA-approved continuing education programs. Interns must provide NCARB with an AIA transcript to receive credit.

Phase two of IDP 2.0, scheduled for implementation on 1 January 2010, is contingent on the passage of Resolution 2009-04 at the Annual Meeting in June 2009. If a majority of NCARB's Member Boards does not pass the resolution, the implementation of phase two will be delayed.

The second phase of IDP 2.0 will:

- Change the definition of “direct supervision” to more adequately reflect current practice. Under the new definition, IDP supervisors will be allowed to supervise their interns through a mix of personal contact and remote communication (e.g. e-mail, online markups, webinars, and internet) such that “the IDP supervisor has control over the work of the intern and has sufficient professional knowledge of the supervised work so that the IDP supervisor can determine that the intern understands and is performing his or her work experience within the professional standard of care.”
- Change the definition of a “registered architect” for the purposes of defining an IDP supervisor to “a person registered to practice architecture in a U.S. or Canadian jurisdiction.” That means that a registered architect will be able to supervise an intern within their office even if they are not registered in the jurisdiction where the firm's office is located.
- Allow interns who have “contract employment” agreements or are “independent contractors” to earn training units if they are working under the direct supervision of a registered architect.
- Allow registered architects who have “contract employment” agreements or are “independent contractors” to serve as IDP supervisors if they maintain personal contact with their interns and have authority over their interns' daily work experience.
- Change the IDP Training Requirement from “700 Training Units” to “5,600 Training Hours.” The actual number of hours required to satisfy the IDP Training Requirement will remain the same, however interns will no longer have to convert the hours they spend in each training area into training units. This should make reporting work experience easier and more accurate.
- Allow interns—whether or not they are employed—to earn up to five training units toward the minimum required training units in each training area by completing qualified activities in the Emerging Professional's Companion 2009 (EPC 2009). Interns can also earn supplementary education training units by completing qualified EPC exercises. The intern's EPC activities and exercises must be reviewed by a registered architect who is serving as either their IDP supervisor or IDP mentor, and then reported through the e-EVR.

On 1 January 2011, a third phase of IDP 2.0 will be implemented. In this phase, the current IDP training areas will be aligned with the new experience areas required for the competent practice of architecture as identified in the 2007 Practice Analysis of Architecture.

Why is IDP changing?

Two years ago, NCARB invited over 50,000 architects from across the United States and Canada to participate in the 2007 Practice Analysis of Architecture. A record 9,835 practicing architects completed this extensive electronic survey to identify the tasks, knowledge, and skills that recently licensed architects, practicing independently, need to protect the health,

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safety, and welfare of the public. The results of this study were used as a basis for IDP 2.0, the most significant update of IDP since its inception over 30 years ago.

Why can't all the changes be implemented immediately?

All changes to the IDP require systems updates to ensure that the interns' experience can be accurately reported and verified. NCARB is aware that IDP 2.0 offers many benefits to interns, and is working to phase in the changes as quickly as possible. In fact, many of the program updates have been fast-tracked in response to the current state of the economy to allow interns—whether or not they are employed—to earn training units for qualified certification and continuing education programs.

Will there be a transition period?

No, as each phase of IDP 2.0 is implemented, all changes to the program will be applicable to all interns currently participating in the IDP. At no point during the rollout of IDP 2.0 will any intern lose experience hours that have already been reported and approved.

How is the definition of "direct supervision" changing?

Under the current definition of "direct supervision" an IDP supervisor must work in the same office as the intern where the supervisor has both control over and detailed professional knowledge of the work prepared under his or her supervision. On 1 January 2010*, an IDP supervisor will be allowed to supervise an intern through a mix of personal contact and remote communication (e.g. e-mail, online markups, webinars, and internet) such that "the IDP supervisor has control over the work of the intern and has sufficient professional knowledge of the supervised work so that the IDP supervisor can determine that the intern understands and is performing his or her work experience within the professional standard of care."

Can an IDP supervisor be an independent contractor?

Effective 1 January 2010*, registered architects who have "contract employment" agreements or are "independent contractors" can serve as an IDP supervisor if they maintain personal contact with their intern and have authority over the intern's daily work experience in accordance with the revised definition of direct supervision.

Can the intern be an independent contractor?

Effective 1 January 2010*, interns who have "contract employment" agreements or are "independent contractors" can earn IDP training units if they are working under the direct supervision of a registered architect in accordance with the revised definition of direct supervision.

Why are "training units" being converted to "training hours"?

Currently one training unit equals eight hours of acceptable training in an approved work setting. When reporting work experience, interns must convert their hours into units. Changing the IDP Training Requirement from "700 Training Units" to "5,600 Training Hours" makes the reporting process easier and more accurate. The actual number of hours required to satisfy the IDP will remain the same. This change will also make it easier for employers to develop electronic time sheet reporting systems that automatically print reports of an intern's training activities in hours.

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Will interns be able to earn training units if they are unemployed?

Yes, IDP 2.0 has several provisions that will allow unemployed interns to earn training units for qualified certification and continuing education programs.

Will interns be able to earn training units for architecture-related certificate programs completed prior to 1 July 2009?

No. Changes to the program are not retroactive.

What other changes are planned for IDP?

The third phase of IDP 2.0, scheduled for implementation on 1 January 2011, will align the current IDP training areas with the new experience areas required for the competent practice of architecture as identified in the 2007 Practice Analysis of Architecture.

What is Resolution 2009-04?

Resolution 2009-04, if passed by the Member Boards at the 2009 Annual Meeting and Conference in June, will transfer the detailed program requirements of the IDP from the *Handbook for Interns and Architects* to the *IDP Guidelines*. The *Guidelines* provide an overview of the program and serve as a user-friendly guide to the IDP requirements. NCARB's Committee on the Intern Development Program and Committee on Procedures and Documents have recommended this resolution to align the IDP to the approach that NCARB has long followed with the Architect Registration Examination® (ARE®). The passage of Resolution 2009-04 will facilitate the phased implementation of IDP 2.0 and make it possible to update IDP requirements more promptly in the future as architectural practice changes over time.

Currently, NCARB's e-EVR does not support submission of training units for supplementary education. Will this functionality be implemented?

Yes, effective 1 July 2009, interns will be able to use the e-EVR to report supplementary education training units.

Questions? Contact Harry Falconer, AIA at hfalconer@ncarb.org.

*The effect date is contingent on the passage of Resolution 2009-04 at the Annual Meeting in June.