

Architectural Licensure Roadmap

Bachelor of Science in Building Performance Degree

The California Architects Board (CAB) supports various pathways towards earning architectural licensure, which can seem confusing at first, particularly for people from other states or countries. One common misconception is that *“only a B.Arch degree from a National Architectural Accrediting Board (NAAB) accredited program will be accepted for the licensure education requirement”*, but this is not true in California. In fact, a pre-professional 4-year bachelor’s degree in a field related to architecture, such as the Bachelor of Science in Building Performance degree available at College of the Canyons, directly and completely satisfies a candidate’s educational experience requirement towards becoming a California licensed Architect. No matter which educational pathway or degree a candidate chooses, the combined architectural training and education experience required for licensure is always the same in California... *a total of eight years!*

In addition to earning the Bachelor of Science in Building Performance (BSBP) degree, candidates must work for 1 year with a licensed Architect in order to be eligible to take the Architect Registration Exam (ARE). As developed by the National Council of Architectural Registration Boards (NCARB), the ARE is the national architectural licensing exam required in California. Additionally, the California Supplemental Exam (CSE), as developed by the California Architects Board, is the final exam completed which test candidate’s competency for state specific legal and regulatory requirements. The CSE can be completed after a candidate completes 3 more years of work experience.

Based upon current CAB requirements, architectural licensure candidates must complete the following steps:

- While enrolled in college, establish an NCARB Record account for Architect Registration Exam eligibility. Candidates shall record and submit all Architectural Experience Program (AXP) hours through NCARB.
- In addition to the AXP requirement for exam divisions, a candidate must provide CAB with verification of a total of 5 years combined education/architectural work experience in order to be eligible for the ARE. Graduates receive 4 years of educational credit for the BSBP degree and must complete 1 year of work experience with a CA licensed Architect, which can be completed while in college, before taking the ARE.
- To qualify for the CSE exam, submit Employment Verification Forms to the CAB documenting work experience for satisfying the ARE educational requirement plus an additional 3 years of work experience.
- Work experience applied as an education substitute cannot be applied towards earning AXP credit hours.
- BSBP graduates may consider applying to an NAAB accredited 2-year M.Arch program after graduation to earn additional credit towards the ARE educational requirement.
- Similar to graduates from any architectural related program, BSBP graduates are encouraged to participate in a licensing exam study program in preparation for the ARE and the CSE.

Architectural Experience Program (AXP) Hours Required for Exam Divisions

PCM Practice Management	160
PJM Project Management	360
PA Programming & Analysis	260
PPD Project Planning & Design	1080
PDD Project Development & Documentation	1520
CE Construction & Evaluation	360
Total AXP Hours Required for Architectural Registration Exam Divisions	3740

Candidates may take ARE Divisions in any order upon completion of the individual AXP Division hours required.

For detailed info on requirements and application process for pursuing an architectural license in the state of California, please visit: www.cab.ca.gov/candidates. Upon completion of all licensure requirements, including education course work & AXP requirements, candidates may take the CA Supplemental Exam, and upon completing all CAB requirements will earn their Architects license.

Students interested in pursuing architectural licensure in the state of California should schedule an advising appointment with the Department Chair (Jason.Oliver@canyons.edu).