

National Council for Interior Design Qualification

Fact Sheet

NCIDQ Mission: To protect the public by identifying individuals who are competent to practice interior design.

How NCIDQ accomplishes this mission: Through a series of programs, as outlined below, all of which are focused on those aspects that protect the public health, safety and welfare.

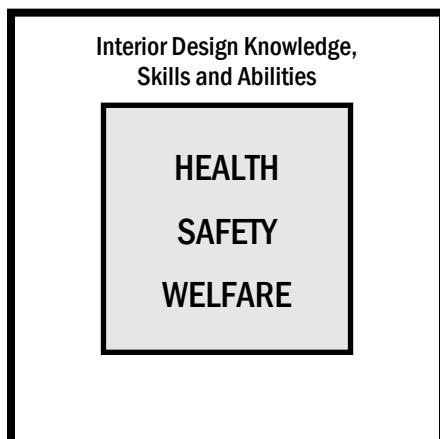
NCIDQ Members: The regulatory boards of the states and provinces within the United States and Canada referred to as “Member Boards.” There are no individual members of NCIDQ.

NCIDQ Leadership: Each Member Board appoints one individual to serve on NCIDQ’s Council of Delegates, which meets annually. An eight-person Board of Directors manages the Council’s activities throughout the year. Interior designers across North America donate their time to a dozen committees that assist the Board by providing input on numerous activities, including developing all examination questions and practicum problems.

NCIDQ Staff: A nine-person professional staff manages the functions of NCIDQ on a daily basis in the Council’s Washington, DC office.

NCIDQ Examination: The Examination is a test of minimum entry-level competence in interior design focused on those aspects of the profession that affect the public health, safety and welfare. The Examination is used by NCIDQ’s member boards as a basis for licensure and reciprocity across North America and is the only examination used by all U.S. and Canadian Boards. NCIDQ follows all widely accepted testing standards for professional examinations to ensure that the Examination is valid, reliable and defensible in determining entry-level competence.

- **Examination Eligibility:** There are two routes to admission to the Examination:
 - The most commonly used route is to apply directly to NCIDQ and meet all of NCIDQ’s requirements at the time of application. Upon successful completion of all sections, the individual is issued the NCIDQ Certificate.
 - The second route allows all of NCIDQ’s Member Boards to admit individuals to the Examination who meet the jurisdiction’s requirements whether or not the individuals meet NCIDQ’s requirements. In this instance, these individuals may receive a license from their jurisdiction, but they do not receive the NCIDQ Certificate and may not be eligible for reciprocal licensing in other jurisdictions.
- **Examination Content:** The Examination’s content is determined through a study, completed every five years, known as a “Practice Analysis.” This study involves the input of a panel of experts in the profession and a survey of practitioners that determines the Examination’s blueprint. NCIDQ takes the validity of the Examination very seriously and spends approximately \$100,000 on this study each time it is conducted. The most recent update was based on the *Practice Analysis Study for the Profession of Interior Design, 2003*. In addition, NCIDQ annually invests thousands of dollars to ensure that the Examination meets or exceeds all psychometric standards.



Copies of the *Practice Analysis* are available from the NCIDQ Office.

The diagram on the left shows two boxes. The larger, outer box represents all aspects of interior design knowledge necessary to practice successfully.

The inside box represents the core knowledge, skills and abilities of interior design practice that affect the public health, safety and welfare. The Examination focuses on this portion of the practice of interior design.

While it is important to possess more than health, safety and welfare knowledge to be a competent practitioner, the public is concerned only with the core attributes. Subject areas, such as furniture styles, aesthetics and architectural history do not affect public health and are therefore not tested in the NCIDQ Examination.

- **Examination Sections:** There are three sections in the Examination:
 - Section I - Principles & Practices of Interior Design, 150 Questions, 3.5 hours
 - Section II - Contract Documents & Administration, 125 Questions, 3 hours
 - Section III - Schematics & Design Development (Practicum Design), 4 hours for Part 1 and 3 hours for Part 2
- **2003/2004 Examination Pass Rates:** Listed below are the pass rates from NCIDQ and other design professions' examinations:

NCIDQ Examination – 2003	Landscape Architectural Registration Examination 2003	Professional Engineer April 2004	Architect Registration Examination – 2003
Section I, Spring – 71%	Section A – 63%	Civil – 63%	Pre Design – 77%
Section I, Fall – 71%	Section B – 83%	Electrical – 64%	General Structures – 73%
Section II, Spring – 85%	Section C – 36%	Mechanical – 65%	Lateral Forces – 92%
Section II, Fall – 78%	Section D – 64%	Structural I – 45%	Mechanical & Electrical Systems – 74%
Section III, Spring – 71%	Section E – 32%	Structural II – 49%	Materials & Methods – 86%
Section III, Fall – 62%			Construction Documents & Services – 85%
			Site Planning – 70%
			Building Planning – 68%
			Building Technology – 75%

Interior Design Experience Program: The Interior Design Experience Program (IDEP) is a monitored, documented experience program administered by NCIDQ for graduates of baccalaureate interior design education programs and graduates of other programs that include at least 60 semester or 90 quarter hours of interior design related coursework. IDEP assists entry-level interior designers in obtaining a broad range of quality, diversified professional experience. The program provides a structure for the essential transition between formal education and professional practice, recognizing the differences between classroom and workplace.

Certificate Holder Record Keeping: Individuals who have been accepted into the Examination by meeting NCIDQ's requirements and who have passed all sections of the Examination hold the NCIDQ Certificate. These Certificate Holders help advance interior design regulation by maintaining their records with NCIDQ each year. In exchange for their assistance in all of NCIDQ's activities, Certificate Holders receive discounts on NCIDQ publications and other benefits. One benefit of maintaining an active record with NCIDQ is free verification of the Certificate to any and all regulatory boards.

Continuing Education Unit Tracking: NCIDQ provides a transcript service to all interior designers (holding an NCIDQ Certificate is not required) that shows their continuing education activity. This transcript can be used to verify that continuing education has been completed for renewal of regulatory licensure and professional association membership.

Continuing Education Monographs: NCIDQ produces a series of self-study continuing education books and quizzes that interior designers can use to gain continuing education credit. These "Monographs" provide education that the interior designer may need for professional growth and to satisfy regulatory license renewal requirements and professional association membership.

Legislative Model Language: NCIDQ develops model language that states and provinces can use as a basis for legislation and regulations for the interior design profession. Model language also assists jurisdictions as they develop legislation in understanding what is accepted in various regulated jurisdictions.