

BUFFALO-WESTERN NEW YORK CHAPTER of the CONSTRUCTION SPECIFICATIONS INSTITUTE

Construction Specifications Institute, Inc.: www.csiresources.org

Northeast Region CSI: www.nercsi.com

Buffalo/WNY Chapter: www.csibwny.com

February/March 2025

Upcoming Events

Building Safe & Resilient Schools with ICF

Event Type: CSI Buffalo Chapter lunch presentation.

Date and Time: March 13, 2025, 11:45 am–1:00 pm

Location: Pearl Street Grill & Brewery, 76 Pearl St, Buffalo, NY 14202.

Presenter: Timothy Peters, Northeast Territory Manager, Alleguard, who has over 20 years of experience in building materials, working with architects, specifiers, and contractors. Mr. Peters has given more than 100 presentations for AIA continuing education.

Accreditation: 1.0 hour AIA LU, HSW.



Description: This presentation introduces insulated concrete form (ICF) as a construction method-

ology and addresses the benefits of ICF construction for architects, builders, and homeowners. By attending this presentation, participants will gain the information and knowledge required to design with ICF; and will be able to describe ICF and its components, identify how these contribute to a durable, safe, energy-efficient, and sustainable building practices; why energy efficient and resilient schools make sense; strategies for high performance energy and resilience. The session will include case studies and indicate the financial, environmental, and sustainable benefits of ICF construction and how ICF can contribute to obtain LEED credits.

Cost: Free for members, \$20 per person for non-

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CSI Buffalo-Western New York Chapter: www.csiwbny.com

CSI Northeast Region: www.nercsi.com

CSI-National: www.csiresources.org



The Scope

Newsletter of CSI's Buffalo-Western New York Chapter

The Scope is published approximately eight times per year, typically in September, October, December, January, February, April, May, and June, on or around the first day of the month. Submittals of articles and information of general interest to CSI's members and the design and construction community of Western New York, is always welcome. Submittals for this newsletter are due by the 15th of the previous month (approximately two weeks before publication). Please submit articles, information, and requests to the (Interim) Editor:

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716-207-0396

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Advertise in The Scope

Each issue of *The Scope* reaches approximately 650 people in the Buffalo-Western New York design and construction community, across a variety of disciplinary areas. An ad costs \$100 per year. Contact the Editor for additional information.

President's Message

Time and Effort for our Chapter's Events

By David Rood

We are well into 2025!

Our Architect Ski Day event on February 7th, was a great success, as further discussed in Jim Bourgeois's event report in this issue. Thanks to everyone who attended, as well as our sponsors whose financial assistance enabled the event. Gratitude is also due the Holiday Valley employees for their service and assistance. These, together with the fine facilities at Holiday Valley, contributed to make Architect Ski Day positive and memorable. The event was also due to the substantial efforts and contributions of many members of our Chapter's board, including Deb Seiner, Bob Rumble, Brad Vaillancourt, Bill Ferguson, Rob Fohl, Guy Falsetti, Bob Kimmel, and Jim Bourgeois. In addition, our event committee included former board member, Joanne Harris. The entire event committee contributed their talents and considerable time, benefiting all attendees.

On February 18, CSI's Northeast Region's CDT exam prep course commenced, which will run through late April. This year, two Buffalo-WNY Chapter members are involved: Jim Bourgeois is part of the leadership committee and Kevin O'Beirne continues to be one of the instructors. This year's course has approximately 50 participants, most of whom are from the Northeast Region, with several others from across the country.

It is great to have a board that works well together and possesses the vision to foresee problems that have potential to affect our Chapter and its events, and efficiently takes measures to avoid them. The board members possess an additional, necessary quality: the drive and initiative to see matters through to their conclusion. The board is always eager to receive ideas and suggestions for events and making our Chapter even better.

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Editorial

Meetings, conferences, events, oh my!

By Kevin O'Beirne

This issue of *The Scope* includes information on several new events, including a return to the Buffalo-Western New York Chapter's in-person lunch presentations, and information on upcoming regional and national conferences. With so much going on, and so many opportunities for education, networking, and socializing, what's a busy design professional, contractor, or building product sales representative to do? In general, this is not a bad problem to have.

Chapter lunch presentations are scheduled for March and April, with others planned for the coming months. These events need to be supported by members and friends of CSI's Buffalo-WNY Chapter to ensure the viability of such events and their continuance in the future. These days, every employer seems to be seeking new ways to reduce overhead costs and maximize profit, which tends to discourage attendance at events, like these, sponsored by technical societies such as CSI's Buffalo-WNY Chapter. Despite this, employers, as well as their employees, reap several benefits by actively participating in technical societies in general and CSI in particular. Among these benefits are opportunities for education, accreditation for renewal of professional licenses, networking, increased awareness of business opportunities in the region, and others. In short, if you don't go, then you won't be in the know, and neither will your employer. Again, the Chapter needs your attendance and support of its upcoming lunch presentations and other events.

The Chapter is a member of CSI's Northeast Region, which also includes the rest of New York State, New England, and New Jersey. Each spring, the Northeast Region holds its annual conference. While many members of the Buffalo-WNY Chapter have not previously attended a Region

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members. Includes lunch from event menu.

Reservations Due By: March 6, 2025.

To Make Reservations: [CSI Buffalo - WNY - Meeting/Event Information](#)

For Additional Information Contact: (716) 583-3612, Dave.Rood@srsdistribution.com, drood@weatherpanel.com

Annual WCNV Coatings and Corrosion Forum

Event Type: Day-long seminars, exhibits, and demonstrations.

Date and Time: March 14, 2025, 7:30 am-3:30 pm

Location: Painters and Allied Trade Union of Western and Central New York, 585 Aero Drive, Cheektowaga NY 14225.

Accreditation: Up to 5.0 PE PDHs

Description: Day-long educational seminars, exhibits, and demonstrations on topics related to high-performance coatings and associated surface preparation, corrosion protection, and related topics. Schedule of sessions and titles is available at the website indicated below.

Cost: Free of charge,. Advance registration is required.

To Make Reservations: [Home | Wnycoatingsexpo](#)

For Additional Information Contact: Frank Stento, 607-727-5208, fstento@dc4.org

Window Performance Requirements - Specifying Class & Grade

Event Type: CSI Buffalo Chapter lunch presenta-

tion.

Date and Time: April 10, 2025, 11:45 am-1:00 pm

Location: Pella Experience Center, 2410 Walden Ave, Cheektowaga NY 14225

Presenter: Robert Kimmel, CSI, Architectural Representative, Pella Windows & Doors of WNY

Accreditation: 1.0 hour AIA LU, HSW

Description: This presentation includes a building case study during a building windows performance case study, to determine what that building requires for wind and water performance, relative to windows. The presentation will also address how to specify window performance requirements for the case study. The presentation will address: indicate factors that

should be considered in determining design pressure; calculating the design pressure; testing requirements of performance classes; and specifying window performance class and performance grade. Lunch will be provided. Following conclusion of the presentation at approximately 1:00 pm a tour of Pella's showroom will be available, together with giveaways.



Cost: Free for members and non-members.

Reservations Due By: April 3, 2025.

To Make Reservations: text

For Additional Information Contact: (585) 480-2726, KIMMELRD@Pellabuffalo.com

CSI Northeast Region 2025 Annual Conference

Event Type: Educational seminars, exhibit hall, and Northeast Region meeting.

Date and Time: May 15-17, 2025.

Location: Hotel 1620 at Plymouth Harbor, 180 Water Street in Plymouth, Massachusetts .

Accreditation: Multiple presentations on May 16 will be accredited for AIA LU. See conference website for schedule and details.

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Description: Consider attending this event because the Buffalo-WNY Chapter is hosting this Conference in 2026. CSI Northeast Region's annual conference includes: Thursday 5/15—

registration open, welcome reception, hospitality suite. Friday 5/16—exhibit hall, multiple presentations for AIA-accredited sessions, and banquet. Saturday 5/17—annual meeting, CSI-National update, awards lunch, and CSI leadership workshops. Conference is all day Friday and Saturday.

Cost: Full Conference registration (including meals, banquet, and all conference events) is \$200 for CSI members and \$300 for non-members; prices increase by \$100 after April 1, 2025. Lower prices are available for attending one day of the Conference; see the Conference website for information. Hotel rate is approximately \$230 per night, including tax (one king bed); limited availability.

Reservations Due By: Prices increase after April 1. Registration is best completed by May 9, 2025 unless otherwise indicated on event website.

To Make Reservations Conference: [2025 Region Conference Attend - CSI Northeast Region](#); Make hotel reservations separately through Conference website.

CSI National Conference

Event Type: Educational seminars, exhibit hall, and CSI-National annual meeting.

Date and Time: October 15-17

Location: Cleveland, OH, conference address TBA.

Accreditation: Multiple presentations accredited for AIA LU HSW.

Description: CSI's annual national conference is being held only 190 miles from Buffalo along Interstate I-90 west. It is not often the annual conference is held this close to Western New York. The conference includes multiple days of educational sessions, exhibit hall, banquets, awards ceremony,

and networking opportunities. If you have never previously attended a CSI National Conference, 2025 is the year to strongly consider attending.

Cost: TBA

Reservations Due By: TBA

To Make Reservations: TBA

CSI Northeast Region 2026 Annual Conference

Event Type: Educational seminars, exhibit hall, and Northeast Region meeting.

Date and Time: TBA, most likely May 2026

Location: Buffalo, NY, location TBD.

Accreditation: Multiple presentations will be accredited for AIA LU.

Description: Hosted by CSI Buffalo-WNY Chapter. CSI Northeast Region's annual conference typically includes: Thursday - registration open, welcome reception, hospitality suite. Friday - exhibit hall, multiple presentations for AIA-accredited sessions, tour, and banquet. Saturday - annual meeting, CSI-National update, awards lunch, and CSI leadership workshops. Conference is all day Friday and Saturday.

Cost: TBA

Reservations Due By: TBA

To Make Reservations: TBA

For Additional Information Contact: (716) 583-3612, Dave.Rood@srsdistribution.com, drood@weatherpanel.com

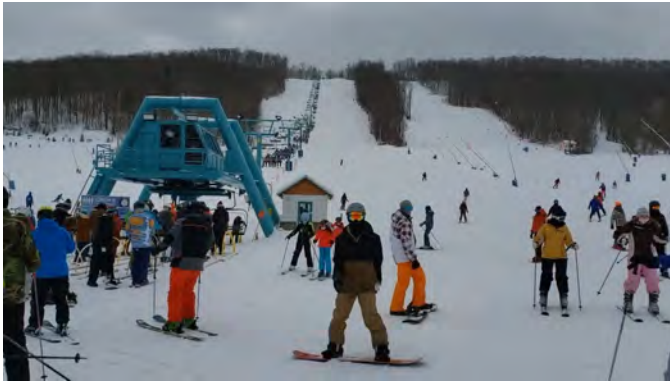
Report on Architect's Ski Day 2025

By Jim Bourgeois

On February 7, 2025, CSI's Buffalo-WNY Chapter held its annual ski day event at Holiday Valley Ski Resort in Ellicottville NY. Approximately 160 people

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ple registered for the event. The weather for skiing was very good, but cold, with sunny skies and a temperature of 18 degrees F.

In addition to skiing outdoors, the event again included an indoor exhibit area for sponsors, who were largely building product representatives. Pel-la windows was again the Gold Sponsor. CertainTeed was a first time sponsor this year. Other



sponsors contributed door prizes and basket raffle items. The chapter is grateful for the efforts of the sponsors, attendees, and Holiday Valley staff.

The event was financially successful for the chapter, and served as the chapter's principal fundraising event. Not all prior ski day events resulted in a net surplus for the chapter.

Los Angeles Wildfires Prompt Need for Large Scale Reconstruction

By Kevin O'Beirne

On January 7, 2025, multiple, severe wildfires, fueled by severe drought conditions and strong Santa Ana winds, broke out in various areas of Los Angeles, California. The fires burned for the balance of January, periodically stirred to char additional acreage, by recurring episodes of severe winds, sometimes reaching nearly 100 miles per hour.

The fires burned more than 57,000 acres, destroying or severely damaging approximately 18,000 buildings, resulting in approximately \$95-164 billion in property damage. As of February 7, estimates were preliminary, accounting for the large range in the estimated values.

The fires also had substantial environmental consequences, as hazardous materials were consumed and released into the environment, often spreading on wind-driven ash particles. Estimates of the environmental and health consequences of the blazes indicate that environmental cleanup will be significant and may take years to accomplish.

Driven in part by California's increasing risk of wildfires, in recent years, property insurance has become difficult to obtain in the Golden State. While the state offers a limited form of homeowners insurance for residents unable to obtain better, commercial property insurance, many buildings destroyed or damaged by the fires were uninsured. Nevertheless, as of February 7, the estimate of insurable losses arising from the fires was approximately \$75 billion.

The Los Angeles wildfires may eventually become the most expensive natural disaster in United States history. Currently, the most expensive natural disaster was Hurricane Katrina, which affected eastern Louisiana and western Mississippi in August 2005, costing \$125 billion.

Despite Buffalo NY being about 2,200 miles from Los Angeles, damage of the magnitude incurred in January will undoubtedly affect the construction materials and insurance market for everyone. Potential effects on construction in Western New York may include increased cost of materials and equipment, as well as increased time required for delivery of manufactured and fabricated items, especially when such items are either sourced from locations in the western half of the country or are in high demand for reconstructing the ravaged areas of southern California. Reconstruction will likely take several years. Many design professionals and contractors have recent experience with construction cost escalation and supply chain challenges and delays in the 2021-2023 post-pandemic period.

Property insurance costs are likely to increase across

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the country, as major, private property insurance carriers struggle to pay the massive claims arising from the Los Angeles blazes. On February 6, 2025, State Farm insurance indicated that it, alone, had incurred more than \$1 billion in claims in the recent disaster. Losses of such magnitude will inevitably result in increased property insurance and homeowners insurance premiums nationwide. It is also possible that the cost of builder's risk insurance for construction projects across the country may also increase as a result of the fires.

Unfortunately, the January fires were outside of California's normal wildfire season, in which most property losses occur between May through October. Therefore, additional losses are likely before the end of 2025, with corresponding potential to affect the national market for construction materials and insurance.

President's Message

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This issue of *The Scope* includes complete information on selected upcoming events, including the March 13th lunch presentation at the Pearl Street Grill and Brewery in Buffalo, and the April 10th lunch presentation at Pella Windows on Walden Ave in Cheektowaga.

For June, we are also planning an AIA-accredited after-work tour and a dinner. Details on the June tour and dinner are forthcoming via both email and the newsletter.

Considerable planning, phone calls, meetings, correspondence, and other effort are necessary for our Chapter's events, requiring time, effort, talent, and a volunteer spirit. Your registration and attendance make our events successful. Our Chapter's events are professional opportunities that, when taken, strengthen our knowledge and create connections with other industry professionals. We need such education and relationships to stay sharp and relevant in our industry. Please support our sponsors and the teams that put our events together.

I hope to see you on March 13.

Editorial

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meeting or conference, they can be surprisingly worthwhile uses of your time, enjoyable, and provide numerous opportunities for socializing with people you know, and others you'll get to know. All this is worthwhile in its own right but is doubly so for another, very important reason.

CSI's Buffalo-WNY Chapter is currently scheduled to host the Northeast Region annual conference in spring 2026. If the Chapter is going to host the conference, which typically has approximately 100 participants, then members need to be both active as well as knowledgeable on how a regional conference is planned and managed. A very good way to acquire some of this knowledge is to attend the Northeast Region's 2025 annual conference, in mid-May. Complete information on the 2025 regional conference is in this issue of *The Scope*. Despite the 2025 conference being a seven-hour drive away in Plymouth, Massachusetts, CSI Buffalo members should strongly consider attending. Organizing carpools will reduce travel costs and make a long drive seem considerably shorter.

CSI's next National Conference will be held October 15-17, 2025, in nearby Cleveland, Ohio. This is probably the closest to Western New York that any CSI National Conference is ever going to get. The National Conference should be attended by all CSI members at least once. With over 1,000 attendees, it is a premier event for networking, education, and being part of the larger national design and construction community. Basic information on the 2025 CSI National Conference is included in this issue, with additional details to be furnished as they become available for upcoming issues of this newsletter.

In conclusion, 2025 and spring 2026 is a time to ramp up your participation in Chapter, Region, and CSI-National events. Start making your plans now.

Landmark Structures

Seneca One, Buffalo, NY

By Kevin O'Beirne

This article was developed using information obtained from Wikipedia.org and the websites of Seneca One and Douglas Development.

The tallest, most visible building in Buffalo, New York, is Seneca One, a 40-story building towering over the lower end of Main Street in the central business district. It is unquestionably a landmark structure in Buffalo's cityscape. Seneca One is the tallest building in New York State outside of New York City.

The building's original architects and structural engineers were Skidmore, Owings & Merrill LLP, of Chicago, Illinois. The building's exterior architectural style is modern, comprised of glass and concrete panels, similar to the 33 South Sixth building in Minneapolis, also designed by Skidmore, Owings & Merrill.

Seneca One's first several floors feature a larger floor area than its central tower. The structure includes 27 elevators. Seneca One has approximately 1.2 million square feet of floor area, spanning the southern end of Main Street, along which the Buffalo Metro Rail passes beneath the building. Its original construction cost was \$50 million in 1972.

The Buffalo Metro Rail includes a station at the tower. In addition, the facility includes 465 parking spaces on two basement levels, together with 808 additional parking spaces in an adjacent ramp. The ramp is connected to Seneca One via an enclosed, climate-controlled pedestrian bridge.

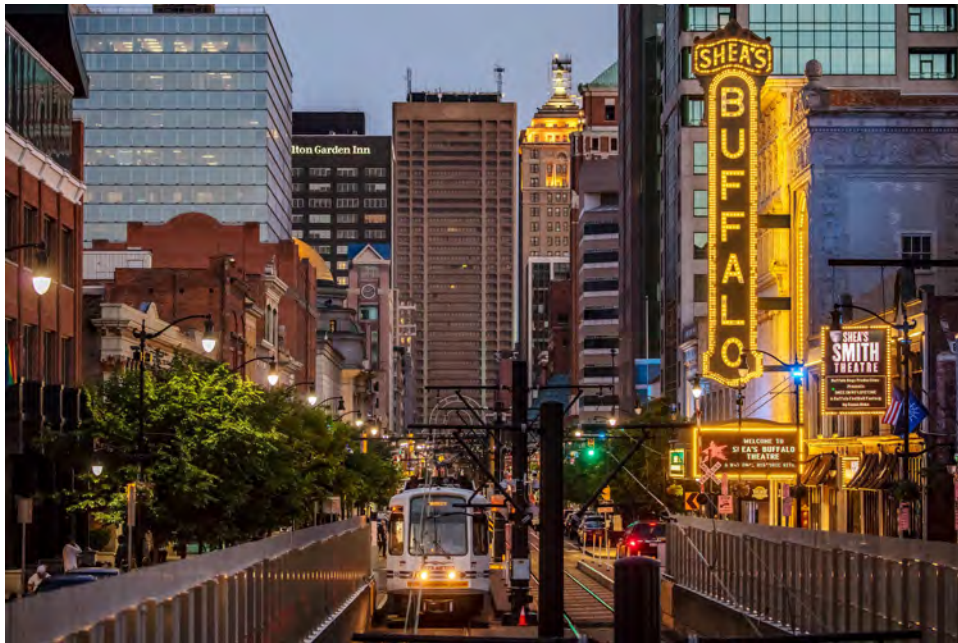
Construction of the 529-foot-tall building com-

menced in 1969. Principal construction was completed in 1972, followed by finishing work on interior spaces, with occupancy commencing in 1974. From 1972 to 1999, the building was named Marine Midland Center, when it was the world headquarters of Marine Midland Bank. After Marine Midland was acquired by the Hong Kong and Shanghai Banking Corporation, HSBC continued using the building as its United States headquarters until 1999, when its principal offices relocated to New York City. Starting in 1999, the building was renamed One HSBC Center and, until 2013, continued to house many HSBC staff not relocated.



HSBC vacated the building in 2013. It remained largely unoccupied until it was acquired for just \$12 million in 2016 by Douglas Development, of Washington, D.C. The new owner promptly announced a comprehensive plan to renovate, modernize, and repurpose the building. After approximately \$155 million in construction, the renamed Seneca One received its first new tenant in 2020. The renovations were completed in 2021. The building gained a paint scheme of terra cotta and gunmetal. Antunovich Associates' Buffalo office served as the architect for the renovations. The first tenant in the updated Seneca One was M&T Tech Hub, occupying 15 floors in the tower.

Douglas Development repurposed the building into a mixed-use facility, including office space for both large tenants and small, emerging businesses, 115 residences, and restaurant and retail space. The residential apartments include a mixture of studio apartments and one-, two-, and three-bedroom apartments, located on three floors on the western side of the facility's lower floors, below the tower.



The facility includes a food court-type area, together with a bar on the first floor and the Other Half microbrewery. The brewery is spacious, featuring two-story high windows to the adjacent street level.

Seneca One features a fitness center for its residents and a commercial gym/health club. The facility also includes a full-service automobile detailing business, serving tenants and other customers throughout the business week.

For 55 years, Seneca One has towered over downtown Buffalo. Like the city itself, the facility has seen its fortunes rise, fall, and be reborn as part of Buffalo's current renaissance. Today, Seneca One is a vital, 24-hour-per-day facility breathing renewed life into Buffalo's central business district.

[End]

In February 2025, Douglas Development's website indicated that the facility's 3.5-acre concrete plaza area and east annex, will be redeveloped into a 75,000-square-foot, multi-level retail mall, with a variety of outdoor seating. As of February 2025, Seneca One was approximately 80 percent occupied, according to Douglas Development.



Licensing Boards: Entities That Govern the Design Professions

Part 2 – Qualifications of Perspective Licensees and Licensing Exams

By Kevin O’Beirne

This is the second in a four-part series addressing licensing boards governing the design professions, comprised of: (a) Part 1 – Introduction to Licensing Boards and Revisions of Laws and Regulations; (b) Part 2 – Qualifications of Perspective Licensees and Licensing Exams; (c) Part 3 – Issuance of Licenses and Registrations; and (d) Part 4 - Enforcement.

This series of articles describes the basic functions of licensing boards governing the design professions and how their operations affect personnel engaged in architecture, engineering, and other design professions in the United States. In this series of articles, laws, rules, and regulations are referenced as either “laws and regulations” or “statutory requirements”.

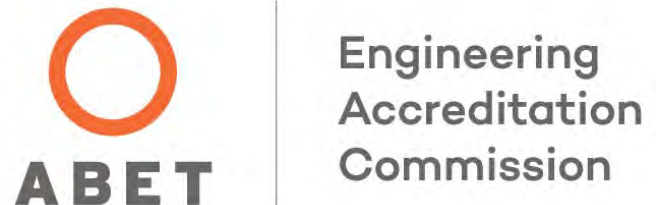
Three basic actions are necessary for an individual to become a licensed design professional: (1) completing accredited education in the subject design profession, (2) obtaining appropriate experience in the practice of the design profession, and (3) passing exams required for licensure. Each of these is discussed below. In addition, applicants must be, “of good character” and furnish references from other design professionals licensed in that jurisdiction.

Education

Education must be obtained in the appropriate field from an institution of higher learning with appropriate accreditation. For example, education in architecture



must be completed at an institution accredited by the National Architectural Accrediting Board (NAAB), and engineering education must be obtained from an institution accredited by the Engineering Accreditation Commission of ABET (EAC/ABET). ABET was originally the Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology, but its name was changed to simply “ABET” in 2005. Applicants for licensure must submit to the licensing board evidence of their successful completion of educa-



tion, typically including a transcript from the accredited college or university.

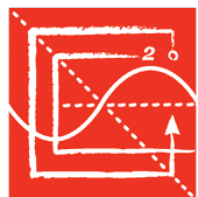
Engineering Qualifications and Exams

Engineering licensure requires the applicant to pass two, separate licensing exams: the “Fundamentals of Engineering” (FE) exam (sometimes known as the “Engineer in Training” or EIT exam) and the “Principles and Practice of Engineering” (PE) exam. Both exams are prepared and administered through the National Council of Examiners for Engineering and Surveying (NCEES).

The FE/EIT exam requires six hours, of which the exam proper occupies 5 hours, 20 minutes. Alternative versions of the FE/EIT exam are available for seven different, broad engineering disciplines: chemical, civil, electrical and computer, environmental, industrial and systems, mechanical, and “other disciplines”. An examinant needs to take and pass only one of these alternative exams. To be eligible for the FE/EIT exam, a person must be either in their senior year of undergraduate education in an EAC/ABET-accredited program, or have obtained either a bachelor of science or master’s degree from an EAC/ABET-accredited program.

In contrast, separate PE exams are available in 16 different engineering disciplines: Agricultural and Biological, Architectural, Chemical, Civil, Control Systems, Electrical and Computer, Environmental, Fire Protection, Industrial and Systems, Mechanical, Metallurgical and Materials, Mining and Mineral Processing, Naval Architecture and Marine, Nuclear, Petroleum, and Structural. An applicant needs to pass only one of these as part of the process of becoming a licensed professional engineer. The duration of the PE exam is typically about eight hours (plus one hour for an orientation tutorial and one 50-minute break), although the duration may be longer for certain types of engineering. For example, at the time of this writing, the PE exam for structural engineering was 10.5 hours, plus one hour for orientation plus a break.

To be eligible for the PE exam, an applicant must have demonstrated to the satisfaction of the licensing board one of the following: (1) a *“specific record of four years of progressive engineering experience after a qualifying [bachelor of science] degree is conferred”* (source: Section 130.10.2.a.3 of [NCEES's Model Law \(revised September 2021\)](#); bracketed text not present in the original); (2) three years of appropriate engineering experi-



NCEES

ence after a qualifying master's degree in engineering is conferred; or (3) two years of appropriate engineering experience after a qualifying doctorate in engineering is conferred. Laws and regulations in some jurisdictions may include other, more-specific requirements, and may allow an individual to qualify for the licensing exams without an engineering bachelor of science degree from an EAC/ABET accredited college or university

when a specific, greater extent of appropriate experience is documented and accepted by the licensing board.

Architecture Qualifications and Exams

To become a registered architect, an applicant must pass the Architect Registration Examination (ARE) administered by the National Council of Architecture Registration Boards (NCARB). Section R301.3.2 [NCARB's Model Laws and Regulations \(2022\)](#) requires, “(2) To qualify for the Approved Examination, an Applicant shall present satisfactory evidence to the Board of one of the following: a. An architecture degree from an Approved Educational Program; or b. Active enrollment in a NCARB-accepted Integrated Path to Architectural Licensure (IPAL) option within an Approved Educational Program.” At the time of this writing, NCARB's current exam is ARE 5.0, which includes six “divisions”, as indicated in Table 1, together with the exam duration for each.



Each Division of the ARE is a separate exam that may be taken in any order desired by the applicant, upon the licensing board's acceptance of the individual's application to take the exam. The various divisional exams need not be taken on consecutive days, although some licensing boards may establish that the exams all be

Table 1: ARE 5.0 Divisions

Division	ARE 5.0 Maximum Duration	NCARB AXP Experience Re-
Practice Management	2 hours, 40 minutes	160 hours
Project Management	3 hours	360 hours
Programming & Analysis	3 hours	260 hours
Project Planning & Design	4 hours, 5 minutes	1,080 hours
Project Development & Docu-	4 hours, 5 minutes	1,520 hours
Construction & Evaluation	3 hours	360 hours
TOTALS	19 hours, 50 minutes	3,740 hours

taken within a stipulated period, such as five years. While NCARB presents no experience requirement for eligibility to take the exams, beyond graduating from an approved educational program, most state licensing boards' regulations establish a mandatory experience requirement as a precondition for examination. The experience requirement varies by jurisdiction. For example, New York requires four years of relevant, documented architecture experience prior to taking the ARE; Pennsylvania requires three years; and both Massachusetts and Nebraska require completion of NCARB's Architectural Experience Program (AXP) as indicated in Table 1, above.

Section R301.2 of NCARB's Model Laws and Regulations (2022) includes the following requirements for experience necessary for licensure: *"An Applicant shall successfully complete the Approved Experience Program to obtain an initial License. An Approved Experience Program means the Architectural Experience Program (AXP) administered by NCARB."* At the time of this writing, NCARB's AXP requires documentation of not less than the minimum experience indicated in Table 1, above.

State architecture boards may establish additional or alternative experience requirements, often as a precondition for examination. For example, [Section 7304](#) of the New York State Education Law, governing the practice of architecture, requires documentation of not less than four years of appropriate, relevant architecture experience, together with a bachelor's degree in architecture from an accredited college or university, as a prerequisite for licensure. Section 7304 of the New York State Education Law further allows (bracketed text is not present in the original and is included here for clarity):

"In lieu of [bachelor's] degree and experience [four years] requirements specified in subparagraphs (2) and (3) of subdivision one of this section, twelve years of practical experience in architectural work of a grade and character satisfactory to the board may be accepted by the department, provided that each complete year

of college study satisfactory to the department may at the discretion of the board be accepted in lieu of two years of experience but not to exceed nine years toward the required total of twelve years."

Common Elements for Qualifications and Exams

Regardless of whether one is applying to take the Architect Registration Examination or the "Principles and Practice of Engineering" (PE) exam, documenting compliance with experience requirements can be challenging and time consuming. While working to accrue the necessary experience, applicants should keep appropriate records, including copies of time sheets, when available from their employer. Summaries of the applicant's experience must be written on the licensing board's application forms in sufficient detail to convince the licensing board that the experience is appropriate. The applicant must obtain from their supervisor, project manager, or other person supervising their work an endorsement that the applicant's summary of claimed experience is correct. It may be advisable to retain in the applicant's own file sufficient documentation to substantiate the experience claimed on the application submitted to the licensing board.



ted to the licensing board.

Experience summaries submitted to the licensing board should be focused on the types of experience necessary for the purpose. For example, an engineer's application to take the PE exam should typically document proper engineering

experience. Including other types of experience, no matter how apparently desirable they may seem to the applicant, such as performing construction observation, land surveying, or architecture (of whatever minor nature), has potential to result in the licensing board deeming such experience inapplicable and perhaps delaying the applicant's ability to take the PE exam. Similarly, applicants for licensure as an architect must document not less than the minimum required experience established by their associated architecture li-

censing board. Including other types of experience, especially experience that does not properly constitute the statutory definition of architecture, for the associated division (for jurisdictions requiring compliance with NCARB's AXP), has potential for the architecture licensing board to deem such experience as non-compliant relative to licensure eligibility.

It may be unwise to prepare and submit an application for examination or licensure documenting only the minimum experience necessary. Licensing boards may deem certain, claimed experience as insufficient. Thus, if the applicable experience requirement is four years, it may be advisable to document 4.5 or even 5 years of experience with an initial application.

Licensing exams are developed and administered by NCARB and NCEES, rather than the associated licensing board. Although the licensing board is responsible for determining an applicant's eligibility to take the associated exam, formal application for the exam is typically through NCEES or NCARB, as applicable. Exam fees are typically payable to NCARB or NCEES.

The architecture and engineering exams are each administered at third-party, commercial test centers. NCARB and NCEES each use a different test administrator, although each has hundreds of locations across the United States and, perhaps, in other nations, as well. The exams are closed-book, although a digital, searchable reference guide is available to all examinees for each exam. Because they are administered at third-party test centers, the ARE, FE/EIT, and PE exams may be taken on a date and time of the examinee's selection. In the past, the exams were administered only on a very limited number of days per year at very few locations in each state, whereas the current approach is much more convenient for examinees.

This article does not attempt to present complete, detailed information on the licensing exams and qualification requirements for any design profession. Readers considering applying for licensure and taking the exams should refer to official sources, including, as applicable, NCEES, NCARB, the

applicable state licensing board website, and the website of the third-party exam administrator.

Conclusions

Licensing boards have authority to establish suitable requirements for licensure and evaluate the qualifications of applicants. While requirements for licensure for architects and engineers vary somewhat, they include multiple, lengthy licensing exams and requirements for specific, progressive types of appropriate experience. Successfully documenting compliance with qualifications requirements can be challenging and time consuming. Although the licensing board serves as the gatekeeper for who can be admitted for examination and licensure, NCEES and NCARB develop the applicable licensing exams and separately retain independent entities to administer the licensing exams. Prospective applicants for licensure should carefully read, understand, and comply with board requirements for licensure.

Future installments in this series will include: Part 3 – Issuance of Licenses and Registrations; and Part 4 – Enforcement.

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