Occupational Licensing Study
50 State Comparison

State Architects Licensure Board

Registered Architect

Presented by the Pennsylvania Department of State
2020
Registered Architect

An individual registered by the state licensing board that engages in the profession of architecture.

The practice of architecture involves the design and construction of a structure or group of structures which have as their principal purpose human habitation or use, and the utilization of space within and surrounding such structures.

Other services include planning, providing preliminary studies, designs, drawings, specifications, and other design documents, construction management and administration of construction contracts.
Registered Architect

Degree Requirement

Degrees:
- Professional Degree from a NAAB-accredited program** is required
- Additional experience can be accepted as an alternative to the education requirement*

For further information on the conditions that states will accept additional experience as an alternative to the education requirement, please see Page 6 of the report.

**NAAB = National Architectural Accrediting Board

Examination Requirement

States with 1 required examination
States with 2 required examinations
The Architectural Experience Program (AXP) is a comprehensive training program created to ensure that candidates pursuing licensure in the architecture profession gain the knowledge and skills required for the independent practice of architecture. The program is developed, maintained, and administered by the National Council of Architectural Registration Boards.

Completion of the AXP Program

AXP Program is not required for licensure

Additional experience beyond completion of the AXP program is required. Please see Page 7 of the report for specific state requirements.

* To allow for comparison, CE requirements have been adjusted to 2-year reporting cycles.

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Registered Architect

Initial Licensing Fee

*To allow for comparisons, all fees have been adjusted to biennial renewal cycles

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>State</th>
<th>Fee Amount</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PA</td>
<td>$40.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>U.S. avg.</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

HIGHEST: $425.00 (Oklahoma)
MEDIAN: $125.00
LOWEST: $00.00 (Wyoming)

*Initial licensing fee comparison excludes examination fees, background check fees, and finger printing fees.

Renewal Fees

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fee Amount</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PA</td>
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<tr>
<td>U.S. avg.</td>
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</table>

HIGHEST: $380.00 (Connecticut)
MEDIAN: $140.00
LOWEST: $35.00 (Missouri)

*To allow for comparisons, all fees have been adjusted to biennial renewal cycles

*Colorado and Hawaii do not publish renewal fees on their state website or under their legislation
**Registered Architect**

**States with Reciprocity or Endorsement**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Endorsement</th>
<th>Reciprocity</th>
<th>Credentials</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Alaska</td>
<td>New Hampshire</td>
<td>New Jersey</td>
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<tr>
<td>Colorado</td>
<td>New Mexico</td>
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<tr>
<td>Connecticut</td>
<td>North Carolina</td>
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<td>Florida</td>
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<td>Hawaii</td>
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<td>Illinois</td>
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<td>Minnesota</td>
<td>Pennsylvania**</td>
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<td>Missouri</td>
<td>Rhode Island</td>
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<td>Nebraska</td>
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<td>New York</td>
<td>Vermont</td>
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<td>South Dakota</td>
<td>Washington</td>
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<td>Tennessee</td>
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<td>Vermont</td>
<td>Wyoming</td>
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<tr>
<td>Virginia</td>
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**Not Specified in Legislation**

Massachusetts

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**Act 41**, signed by Governor Wolf on July 2, 2019, allows for portability of out-of-state professional licensees coming to work in Pennsylvania. Act 41 does this by granting all boards and commissions within the Commonwealth the authority to immediately endorse licensees from other states, territories or jurisdictions (with substantially equivalent licensing requirements) who are active, in good standing and without discipline against their license or criminal conviction. If a licensee comes from a jurisdiction that does not have substantially equal requirements for licensure, then the boards/commissions may grant a provisional licenses for a period of such time to allow the new resident to meet the necessary requirements, allowing them access to gainful employment in the interim.
26 states regulate Architects under their own board:
Alabama, California, Connecticut, Delaware, Idaho, Illinois, Iowa, Louisiana, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Mississippi, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Texas, Utah, Vermont, Washington, West Virginia
(These states are depicted in red)

States that regulate Architects under the same board as other occupations:
Architects and Engineers: Nebraska
Architects, Engineers and Land Surveyors: Alaska, Colorado
Architects and Interior Designers: Florida, Georgia, Kentucky
Architects, Interior Designers and Residential Designers: Nevada
Architects, Engineers, Interior Designers and Landscape Architects: Tennessee
Architects, Engineers, Geologists, Land Surveyors and Landscape Architects: Kansas
Architects and Landscape Architects: Indiana, Montana, North Dakota, Ohio, Wyoming
Architects, Engineers, Land Surveyors and Landscape Architects: Hawaii, Missouri, South Dakota
Architects, Engineers, Interior Designers, Land Surveyors and Landscape Architects: Virginia, Wisconsin
Architects, Interior Designers and Landscape Architects: Arkansas, District of Columbia, Maine, Oklahoma
Architects, Engineers, Geologists, Geoscience, Interior Designer, Land Surveyors and Landscape Architects: Minnesota
Alarm Industry, Architects, Engineers, Geologists, Home Inspectors, Land Surveyors and Landscape Architects: Arizona
(These states are depicted in gray)

Fees:
Pennsylvania has the 3rd lowest initial licensing fees (Wyoming $0.00 and Alabama $10.00)
Pennsylvania (tied with Alaska, Idaho and North Carolina) has the 13th lowest biennial renewal fees

Continuing Education:
Only 5 states do not require any continuing education hours for Architects, Pennsylvania is one of them. Conversely, 40 states require 24 hours of continuing education.
Alternative to Education Requirement

- **Arizona** - Arizona accepts 60 months (five years) of experience in lieu of education to qualify a candidate for the ARE, and 96 months (eight years) of experience to qualify for initial registration with no higher education. Candidates with a four-year, architecture-related degree not accredited by the NAAB can document an additional 48 months (four years) of experience to qualify for initial registration.

- **California** - A candidate must contact the state board to see how much credit they may receive for their education and/or experience.

- **Colorado** - Applicants with a pre-professional or four-year degree in architecture must document 7,540 hours of experience as an alternative to the education requirement. Applicants with any other bachelor’s or associate’s degree must document between 11,300 to 15,060 hours depending on the type of degree. Applicants with a high school education must document 18,800 hours.

- **Hawaii** - Applicants with a four-year degree or higher (including pre-professional architecture degrees) must document five years of experience to satisfy the education requirement. Applicants with a high school education must document 11 years of experience to satisfy the education requirement.

- **Idaho** - Applicants without a degree from a NAAB-accredited program must document eight years of experience and completion of the AXP to satisfy the education requirement.

- **Maryland** - Applicants with a four-year, pre-professional degree in architecture must document four years of experience as an alternative to the education requirement. Applicants with a four-year design-related degree must document five years of experience. Applicants with any other bachelor’s degree or higher education must document six years of experience. Applicants with a high school education only must document 13 years of experience.

- **Maine** - Applicants with a four-year, pre-professional degree in architecture must document nine years of experience as an alternative to the education requirement. Applicants with any other bachelor’s degree or higher education must document 11 years of experience. Applicants with a high school education only must document 13 years of experience.

- **New Hampshire** - Candidates who hold a four-year, pre-professional degree in architecture must have seven years of experience to qualify for initial registration. Candidates with a bachelor’s degree or high school diploma must have 13 years of experience to qualify for initial registration.

- **New York** - Applicants with a four-year, pre-professional degree in architecture must document 5 years of experience. Applicants with a high school education must document 12 years of experience. Applicants with any other degree type should contact the board for more information.

- **Oklahoma** - Candidates who hold a four-year, pre-professional degree in architecture must document four years of training to satisfy the education requirement, plus three additional years of experience. Candidates who hold any other bachelor’s degree or higher must document six years of training, plus three additional years of experience. Candidates who only have a high school education must document 10 years of training, plus three additional years of experience.

- **Pennsylvania** - If a candidate holds a National Architectural Accrediting Board (NAAB) accredited degree, they will be required to complete a minimum of three years of experience through the Architectural Experience Program (AXP) and pass all sections of the ARE. If a candidate does not hold a NAAB accredited degree, they must apply to the State Board for pre-approval to take the ARE and must have at least 3 years of experience through the AXP completed, plus and additional 6 years of experience before they can become eligible for licensure.

- **Tennessee** - Candidates with a four-year, pre-professional degree must have five years of experience to satisfy the education requirement. Candidates with any other architecture-related degree must have seven years of experience to satisfy the education requirement.

- **Vermont** - Applicants with a four-year, pre-professional degree in architecture can document five years of experience as an alternative to the education requirement. Applicants with a high school education only must document nine years of experience.

- **Washington** - Applicants with four-year architecture-related degree must document four years of experience including the AXP. Applicants with any other bachelor’s degree must document five years or more depending on their education credit including the AXP. Applicants with a high school diploma must document eight years including the AXP.

- **Wisconsin** - Candidates with a four-year, pre-professional degree must have three years of experience to satisfy the education requirement. Candidates with any other bachelor’s degree must have four years of experience to satisfy the education requirement. Candidates with only high school education must have seven years of experience to satisfy the education requirement.
Additional Experience Beyond AXP Program

- **Arizona** - Applicants must also provide the board with additional documentation of experience to total 96 months (eight years). Candidates can obtain up to 60 months of credit depending on applicant's education.
- **Hawaii** - Additional experience is required for applicants without a degree from a NAAB-accredited program.
- **New Hampshire** - Candidates must complete the AXP and document the required experience per the education requirement.
- **New Jersey** - In addition to the AXP, candidates must also complete a minimum of three years of experience.
- **New York** - Case-by-case basis, applicant would have to contact the Board directly.
- **Pennsylvania** - If a candidate holds a National Architectural Accrediting Board (NAAB) accredited degree, they will be required to complete a minimum of three years of experience through the Architectural Experience Program (AXP) and pass all sections of the ARE. If a candidate does not hold a NAAB accredited degree, they must apply to the State Board for pre-approval to take the ARE and must have at least 3 years of experience through the AXP completed, plus and additional 6 years of experience before they can become eligible for licensure.
- **Tennessee** - Candidates must also document at least three years of experience.
- **Virginia** - Candidates must also complete a minimum of three years of experience.
- **Vermont** - In addition to the AXP, candidates must also complete a minimum of three years of experience.
- **Washington** - Before starting the AXP, applicants must have at least six years of verified education and/or experience.
Sources: 
State Licensing Boards

Alabama 

Alaska 

Arizona 
https://btr.az.gov/resources/forms/application-forms

Arkansas 
https://asbalaid.arkansas.gov/forms

California 
https://www.cab.ca.gov/general_information/forms/cabnnddate.shtml

Colorado 

Connecticut 

Delaware 

District of Columbia 
https://design.dcopla.com/account/login/?ReturnUrl=%2f

Florida 

Georgia 
http://www.sos.ga.gov/index.php/licensing/online_licensure_applications

Hawaii 

Idaho 

Illinois 
https://www.idfpr.com/Renewals/Apply/Forms/AR-END.pdf

Indiana 
https://forms.in.gov/Download.aspx?id=4623

Iowa 
https://iowaplb.force.com/IPLB_login

Kansas 
https://www.ksbtp.ks.gov/professions/architects

Kentucky 
https://boa.ky.gov/Pages/docs.aspx

Louisiana 
https://lsbae.com/licensure/forms/

Maine 

Maryland 
https://www.dllr.state.md.us/license/arch/archapply.shtml

Massachusetts 

Michigan 
https://www.michigan.gov/lara/0,4601,7-154-89334_72600_72602_72731_72860---,00.html

Minnesota 
http://mn.gov/aeslagid/forms/ARExamApp.pdf

Mississippi 
https://www.ms.gov/msboa/application_suite/Architects/Registration_Exam

Missouri 
https://pr.mo.gov/architects.asp

Montana 
https://ebiz.mt.gov/pol/

Nebraska 

Nevada 

New Hampshire 
https://www.oplc.nh.gov/architects/forms.htm

New Jersey 
http://www.nj.gov/doc/Architects%E2%80%93Registration-Examination.pdf

New Mexico 
https://www.bea.state.nm.us/DownloadFiles/Affidavit_for_2014_Exam_Candidate.pdf

New York 
https://www.op.nysed.gov/prof/arch/arch1.pdf

North Carolina 
http://www.ncbarch.org/applications/

North Dakota 
http://www.ndsba.net/?id=56

Ohio 
http://www.arc.ohio.gov/Forms-and-Applications

Oklahoma 

Oregon 
https://public.licensing.oregon.gov/ORBAEPortal/BoardAdditional.aspx?Board=BAE&amp;BoardLinkID=30

Pennsylvania 
http://www.dos.pa.gov/ProfessionalLicensing/BoardsCommissions/Architects/Pages/Application-Forms.aspx

Rhode Island 
http://www.bdp.state.ri.us/documents/initial.pdf

South Carolina 
https://www.lrl.sc.gov/POL/Architects/PDF%20files/RECIPAP.pdf

South Dakota 
https://dlr.sd.gov/btp/architects.aspx#forms

Tennessee 

Texas 
https://www.tbae.texas.gov/HowToApply/Architects

Utah 
https://dplutah.gov/arch/index.html

Vermont 
https://www.sec.state.vt.us/media/736735/Architect-Application-Instructions.pdf

Virginia 
http://www.dpor.virginia.gov/Boards/APELS/#architect

Washington 
https://www.dol.wa.gov/forms/636002.pdf

West Virginia 
https://brdarch.wv.gov/architects/Documents/Applications/Application%20for%20Initial%20Architect%20Registration%202016.07.02.pdf

Wisconsin 
https://tdsp.wi.gov/Pages/Professions/Architect/Default.aspx

Wyoming 
https://architects.wyo.gov/professionals/forms