

as well as by the major interior design organizations for professional membership. American state and Canadian provincial licensing boards require proof of quality interior design experience for licensure and/or registration. NCIDQ developed the Interior Design Experience Program (IDEP) as a monitored, postgraduate internship program to assure that candidates are prepared and qualified for examination. The program is administered by the NCIDQ for graduates of interior design education programs.

The general purpose of IDEP is to reinforce interior design graduates' education as they enter professional practice and prepare for the NCIDQ examination. The program promotes the acquisition of professional discipline, skills, and knowledge. It also provides structure, direction, resources, and support to the training experience. These contribute to the development of competent interior designers and enhance interior design entry-level work experiences. The IDEP program has been developed using the Definition of an Interior Designer and the Common Body of Knowledge established by the NCIDQ and FIDER.

The IDEP has been developed to assist entry-level interior designers in obtaining a broad range of quality professional experience and to establish performance guidelines for the work experience of new interior designers. The program serves as the transition between formal education and professional practice, recognizing the unique differences between programs of education and diversity of practice. Most important, the IDEP facilitates the development of competent interior designers who can provide professional interior design services and work as team members involved in the design of the built environment. The NCIDQ also produces a number of publications to support the mission of the organization, including study guides, practice exams, jury check sheets, and studies such as *Analysis of the Interior Design Profession*.

In order to ensure the continued acceptance of NCIDQ certification in existing and proposed licensing statutes, the NCIDQ examination continues to evaluate minimum competencies for the profession. However, as minimum competencies in any profession may change or evolve with the development of the profession and with the demands of the public, the examination and other certification standards are continually reviewed and modified accordingly. The NCIDQ encourages current certificate holders to keep current with the profession through periodic reexamination. At the present time, this

is a voluntary action, and existing certificates are not jeopardized if a certificate holder elects to take a subsequent examination. The NCIDQ will issue renewal acknowledgments to those individuals, already certified, who are successfully reexamined in 1990 or thereafter. NCIDQ certification provides interior designers with peer recognition, allows reciprocity to practice in licensed jurisdictions, and promotes public acceptance through awareness of a profession with certified practitioners.

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Sources for this section were provided by the FIDER and NCIDQ websites.

Association of Specialized and Professional Accreditors at [aspa-use.org](http://aspa-use.org)

Council for Higher Education Accreditation website at [chea@chea.org](mailto:chea@chea.org)

Foundation for Interior Design Education Research website at [fider@fider.org](mailto:fider@fider.org)

National Council for Interior Design Education Qualifications website at [ncidq@ncidq.org](mailto:ncidq@ncidq.org)