

Become an Architect in New York State

To legally call yourself an architect and stamp your own drawings, you must earn an architecture license. These are given by *jurisdiction* (usually, by states) and allow you to practice in only that jurisdiction. Reciprocity is possible, but you must meet the criteria of the jurisdiction.

In most jurisdictions, licensure is achieved through the “Three Es”: **education**, **examination**, and **experience**. In most jurisdictions, students must earn a NAAB accredited degree (either B.Arch or M.Arch), which generally takes 5–8 years.

In New York State: Education + Experience = 12 units

The path to architecture in New York State does not require a degree from a NAAB accredited program. You must earn 12 units of combined education and experience and pass the (ARE®). The credit awarded for education determines the required number of units (years) of experience, where one unit of experience is equal to one year. Note that if you wish to practice in other jurisdictions or states, most require a NAAB accredited degree.

NAAB professional degree 9	+	Years of supervised experience 3	12 Units
non-NAAB professional degree 8	+	Years of supervised experience 4	
4 year pre-professional degree 7	+	Years of supervised experience 5	
Degree in related profession 5	+	Years of supervised experience 7	
Architectural technical degree 2	+	Years of supervised experience 10	

Experience - The AXP®

The National Council of Architectural Registration Boards (NCARB) administers the Architectural Experience Program® (AXP®), which is a framework to gain real world, comprehensive architectural experience. The program requires experience hours in different facets of architecture including design, project management, construction, and more. It is intended to be a tool to ensure that architectural candidates earn experience in all facets of the profession.

Education

You might consider an architecture program that is accredited by the National Architectural Accrediting Board (NAAB). Many jurisdictions (though not NY) require a NAAB accredited degree in order to become licensed in that state.

Experience

You will need to work in a position supervised by a licensed architect for a time before you can become an architect yourself.

Examination

The Architect Registration Examination® (ARE®) is a series of six examinations that test the comprehensive knowledge of licensure candidates.

Licensure

For detailed information about New York State's requirements visit:
www.op.nysed.gov/professions/architecture/general-requirements