

ARE 4.0 Retires on June 30, 2018

The retirement of ARE 4.0 is less than six months away. To prepare candidates, NCARB has several ongoing communications initiatives in progress, including emails, postcards, social media, and more.

How You Can Help Spread the Word

We would like your help reminding candidates about the upcoming retirement of ARE 4.0. If you plan on sending communications pieces to candidates in your jurisdiction, please feel free to share any of the information you receive from NCARB. We want to make sure everyone with active eligibilities in ARE 4.0 is ready and in the best position possible for the change come July 1, 2018.



Important Messages for ARE 4.0 Candidates

Anyone currently testing in ARE 4.0 should be aware of the following key points:

The last day to take an ARE 4.0 division in a test center is June 30, 2018.

Candidates who have not completed ARE 4.0 by this date will need to complete any remaining divisions in ARE 5.0 to satisfy the examination requirement for licensure.

Now is the time to make a plan to finish the exam if you are currently testing in ARE 4.0.

There are several resources available on NCARB.org to help candidates make their plan. NCARB's Customer Relations team is also available to help candidates understand their individual testing options.

Your rolling clock will not change if you transition to ARE 5.0.

Candidates must still complete the test within five years of their first pass—whether through ARE 4.0, ARE 5.0, or a combination of both. Expiring ARE 4.0 divisions could impact the credits received in ARE 5.0 when transitioning.

Prometric test centers fill up fast, so candidates will need to plan ahead when scheduling their remaining divisions in ARE 4.0.

When the exam transitioned from ARE 3.1 to ARE 4.0, candidates encountered difficulty finding test appointments in the final months before the exam retired. If candidates plan on testing in May and June, they should book these appointments as soon as possible.

The ARE retake policy will remain the same. Candidates must wait 60 days before they can retake a division of the ARE, and can only take a division three times within 12 months.

This means if a candidate has taken a division of ARE 4.0 since the end of June this year, they will only have two more opportunities to take that division between now and the retirement of ARE 4.0. They will also need to take their second attempt before April 30, 2018, to have the option of one more retake before ARE 4.0 retires.

ARE 4.0 Candidate Audiences

In early January, there were over 33,000 candidates in NCARB's system with ARE 4.0 eligibilities. More than 11,000 candidates have either completed the ARE or transitioned to ARE 5.0 since September. Over the next several months, we will continue sending targeted messaging to five groups:

- **Candidates Testing Strategically:** These candidates have passed Construction Documents & Services (CDS); Programming, Planning & Practice (PPP); and possibly Site Planning & Design (SPD) and could self-transition to ARE 5.0 today. By transitioning to ARE 5.0, these candidates could complete the exam in fewer divisions than if they stay in ARE 4.0—saving them time and money.
- **Testing in ARE 4.0:** These candidates should take advantage of transition resources like the [calculator](#) to determine their best path forward. For some of these candidates, it may be best if they complete the exam in ARE 4.0.
- **No Passed or Scheduled Exams:** There are candidates with eligibilities who have not passed or scheduled any ARE 4.0 divisions. We are encouraging these candidates to transition to ARE 5.0.
- **Inactive Testers:** These are candidates who have not tested since 2013 when an NCARB Record became required. If any of these candidates are interested in completing the ARE, they should call NCARB to help determine the best path forward. Some of them date back to the paper-and-pencil exam.
- **AXP Supervisors:** Supervisors who have approved an AXP report within the past year who may have candidates testing in ARE 4.0.

Communications Plan Overview

In addition to the messages below, NCARB will remind candidates about the retirement and transition information in its regular outreach at AIA component presentations and conferences, as well as its social media channels.

- **Direct Mail:** Postcards were sent to all ARE 4.0 candidates in October 2017, and additional postcards will be sent in January 2018.
- **Targeted Emails:** Nearly every month, targeted messages will be sent to the five audiences identified. The messages will change the closer we get to the retirement date.
- **NCARB Live Webinar:** Examination experts answered questions through a live webinar in November, and a second will be held on February 15, 2018.
- **Newsletters:** Destination Architect (for licensure candidates), National Architect (for NCARB Certificate holders), and Supervisor Update (for AXP supervisors) will include reminders about the transition plan and upcoming retirement.
- **NCARB Blog:** There will be at least one blog post a month related to ARE 4.0/ARE 5.0 to help candidates prepare for the upcoming transition.

Visit the [transition section of the NCARB website](#) for information and resources to help candidates switch from ARE 4.0 to ARE 5.0.