

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.

Education

Consider attending a program accredited by the National Architectural Accrediting Board (NAAB) like Cornell University.

Experience

Work in a position supervised by a licensed architect.

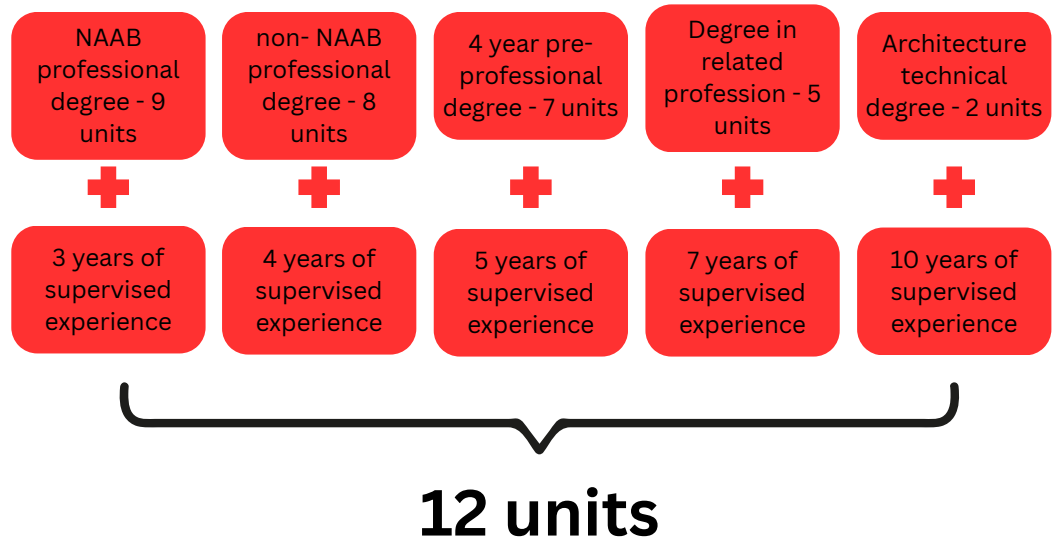
Exam

Take the Architect Registration Examination® (ARE®), a series of six exams that test the knowledge of licensure candidates.

Licensure

In NYS: 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.



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