NCIDQ Examination Eligibility Paths

Specific education and work experience requirements exist to be eligible to sit for the NCIDQ Examination.

**Education**

- Official education transcripts must include a minimum of 60 semester or 90 quarter credit hours of post-secondary interior design coursework that encompasses a certificate, degree, or diploma from an accredited institution, for an application to be reviewed.

**Interior Design**

- Bachelor or Master Degree
  - CIDA or Non-CIDA
  - + Interior Design Degree

- Associate Degree, Certificate, or Diploma

**Architecture**

- Bachelor or Master Degree
  - NAAB or CAAB
  - Non-NAAB or Non-CAAB

**Experience**

- Hours must be earned and affirmed by a Direct Supervisor and/or Sponsor*
  - Up to 1,760 hours of interior design work experience, earned prior to graduation, may be included in overall work experience total.

- 3,520 Work Hours (2 Years full time)
- 5,280 Work Hours (3 Years full time)
- 7,040 Work Hours (4 Years full time)

Meeting CIDQ’s education and work experience requirements does not guarantee that a candidate will meet their jurisdiction’s requirements to be a licensed/registered/certified interior designer. Individuals are reminded to check with their jurisdiction regarding those specific requirements.

*Who can be a Direct Supervisor and/or Sponsor?*

A direct supervisor and/or sponsor must be a design professional, defined as someone who meets at least one of the following three criteria:

- NCIDQ Certified Interior Designer
- State/Provincial Licensed/Registered/Certified Interior Designer in the US or Canada
- State/Provincial Licensed/Registered Architect in the US or Canada who provides interior design services

A **Direct Supervisor** is a design professional, as defined above, who provides substantial oversight and control of a candidate’s work and possesses detailed knowledge of the tasks performed.

A **Sponsor** is a design professional, as defined above, who agrees to review a candidate’s professional progress and affirm interior design work experience hours. A sponsor may or may not work within the same firm as the candidate.