

CIDA Degree

(ROUTE 1)

Education Bachelor's or Master's degree from a CIDA-accredited interior design program. BY END OF YEAR 3 96 sem/144 qtr credits completed			Up to 1,760 hours of work experience can be earned before education is completed. BY END OF YEAR 4 Education completed	Work Experience 3,520 hours must be earned after all education is completed. ² Final 1,760 hours must be earned after all education is completed.	
YEAR 1	YEAR 2	YEAR 3	YEAR 4	YEAR 5	YEAR 6

Interior Design Degree — Non-CIDA

(ROUTE 2)

Education Bachelor's degree (minimum) in an interior design program not accredited by CIDA. ¹ Including: No less than 120 semester or 180 quarter credits, of which no less than 60 semester or 90 quarter credits are interior design coursework. BY END OF YEAR 3 96 sem/144 qtr credits completed			Up to 1,760 hours of qualified work experience can be earned before education is completed. BY END OF YEAR 4 Education completed	Work Experience 3,520 hours must be earned after all education is completed. ² Final 1,760 hours must be earned after all education is completed.	
YEAR 1	YEAR 2	YEAR 3	YEAR 4	YEAR 5	YEAR 6

Other Degree + Interior Design Degree

(ROUTE 3)

Education Bachelor's degree (minimum) in any other major and no less than 60 semester or 90 quarter credits of interior design coursework that culminates in a certificate, degree or diploma. BY END OF YEAR 3 30 sem/45 qtr interior design credits completed			Up to 1,760 hours of qualified work experience can be earned before education is completed. BY END OF YEAR 4 Education completed	Work Experience 3,520 hours qualified interior design experience. ² Final 1,760 hours must be earned after all education is completed.	
YEAR 1	YEAR 2	YEAR 3	YEAR 4	YEAR 5	YEAR 6

Associates Degree (60 Hrs) in Interior Design

(ROUTE 4)

Education No less than 60 semester or 90 quarter credits of interior design coursework that culminates in a certificate, degree or diploma. BY END OF YEAR 3 Education completed			Work Experience 5,280 hours qualified interior design experience. ² Education must be complete before work experience can be earned.		
YEAR 1	YEAR 2	YEAR 3	YEAR 4	YEAR 5	YEAR 6

Associates Degree (40 Hrs) in Interior Design

(ROUTE 5)

Education No less than 40 semester or 60 quarter credits of interior design coursework that culminates in a certificate, degree or diploma. BY END OF YEAR 2 Education completed		Work Experience 7,040 hours qualified interior design experience. ² Education must be complete before work experience can be earned. *This route is phasing out on December 31, 2018				APPLY FOR EXAM
YEAR 1	YEAR 2	YEAR 3	YEAR 4	YEAR 5	YEAR 6	

NAAB or CACB Degree

(ROUTE 6)

Education Bachelor's or Master's degree from an NAAB or CACB accredited architecture program. ³ BY END OF YEAR 5 - 6 Education completed			APPLY FOR IDFX	Work Experience 5,280 hours qualified interior design experience. ² Education must be complete before work experience can be earned.			APPLY FOR IDPX/ PRAC TO COMPLETE THE EXAM
5 - 6 YEARS				3 YEARS			

Architecture Degree – Non-NAAB or CACB

(ROUTE 7)

Education Bachelor of Science or Bachelor of Arts in Architecture BY END OF YEAR 4 Education completed				Work Experience 7,040 hours qualified interior design experience. ² Education must be complete before work experience can be earned.				APPLY FOR EXAM
YEAR 1	YEAR 2	YEAR 3	YEAR 4	YEAR 5	YEAR 6	YEAR 7	YEAR 8	

Do not see a route that matches your background?
 Please give our offices a call to discuss your options at 202.721.0220

Go to www.ncidqexam.org to learn more and apply online!

- 1 CIDA – the Council for Interior Design Accreditation – was formerly known as FIDER. To qualify, the degree program must have been CIDA-accredited at graduation or must have become CIDA-accredited within two years following graduation.
- 2 If you began accruing interior design work experience after January 1, 2008, you must earn qualified work experience in order to be eligible to take the NCIDQ Examination.
- 3 NAAB – the National Architectural Accrediting Board
 CACB – the Canadian Architectural Accrediting Board
 To qualify, the degree program must have been accredited at graduation or within two years of graduation.

The NCIDQ Certificate: Professionalism. Prestige.

