

# Exam & Eligibility

## CIDA Degree

(ROUTE 1)

<b>Education</b> 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	APPLY FOR IDFX	<b>Work Experience</b> 3,520 hours qualified interior design experience. <sup>2</sup>  Final 1,760 hours must be earned after all education is completed.		APPLY FOR IDPX/ PRAC TO COMPLETE THE EXAM
YEAR 1	YEAR 2	YEAR 3	YEAR 4	YEAR 5	YEAR 6		

## Interior Design Degree — Non-CIDA

(ROUTE 2)

<b>Education</b> Bachelor's degree (minimum) in an interior design program not accredited by CIDA. <sup>1</sup>  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	APPLY FOR IDFX	<b>Work Experience</b> 3,520 hours qualified interior design experience. <sup>2</sup>  Final 1,760 hours must be earned after all education is completed.		APPLY FOR IDPX/ PRAC TO COMPLETE THE EXAM
YEAR 1	YEAR 2	YEAR 3	YEAR 4	YEAR 5	YEAR 6		

## Other Degree + Interior Design Degree

(ROUTE 3)

<b>Education</b> 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	APPLY FOR IDFX	<b>Work Experience</b> 3,520 hours qualified interior design experience. <sup>2</sup>  Final 1,760 hours must be earned after all education is completed.		APPLY FOR IDPX/ PRAC TO COMPLETE THE EXAM
YEAR 1	YEAR 2	YEAR 3	YEAR 4	YEAR 5	YEAR 6		

## Associates Degree (60 Hrs) in Interior Design

(ROUTE 4)

<b>Education</b> 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			APPLY FOR IDFX	<b>Work Experience</b> 5,280 hours qualified interior design experience. <sup>2</sup>  Education must be complete before work experience can be earned.		APPLY FOR IDPX/ PRAC TO COMPLETE THE EXAM	
YEAR 1	YEAR 2	YEAR 3	YEAR 4	YEAR 5	YEAR 6		

Go to [www.cidq.org](http://www.cidq.org) to learn more and apply online!

## Associates Degree (40 Hrs) in Interior Design Route 5 ENDS December 31, 2018 (ROUTE 5)

<p><b>Education</b> No less than 40 semester or 60 quarter credits of interior design coursework that culminates in a certificate, degree or diploma.</p> <p><span style="color: purple;">BY END OF YEAR 2</span> Education completed</p>	<p><b>Work Experience</b> 7,040 hours qualified interior design experience.<sup>2</sup></p> <p>Education must be complete before work experience can be earned.</p>	APPLY FOR EXAM			
YEAR 1	YEAR 2		YEAR 3	YEAR 4	YEAR 5

## NAAB or CACB Degree

(ROUTE 6)

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

## Architecture Degree – Non-NAAB or CACB

(ROUTE 7)

<p><b>Education</b> Bachelor of Science or Bachelor of Arts in Architecture</p> <p><span style="color: gold;">BY END OF YEAR 4</span> Education completed</p>	APPLY FOR EXAM	<p><b>Work Experience</b> 7,040 hours qualified interior design experience.<sup>2</sup></p> <p>Education must be complete before work experience can be earned.</p>					
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

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- 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.

