

NCIDQ Examination FAQs



What is the process for applying to take the NCIDQ Examination?

First, review NCIDQ's examination eligibility requirements at www.ncidq.org and the requirements of the jurisdictions where you intend to pursue registration/licensure.

When you have completed the eligibility requirements and met your jurisdiction's requirements (if applicable), you can then submit your application to NCIDQ (or, in some cases, to your jurisdiction). The application deadline is approximately four months before the next examination administration.

<u>Exam</u>	<u>Application Deadline</u>
Spring 2010	December 1, 2009
Fall 2010	June 1, 2010

Note: Candidates who apply directly to a state/provincial board for exam eligibility may be approved to take the exam but are not approved to receive the NCIDQ Certificate. If this applies to you and you would like to earn the Certificate, you must demonstrate that you meet NCIDQ's eligibility requirements by submitting a complete NCIDQ application after you pass the examination.

How do I apply for the exam?

Go to www.ncidq.org to apply online!

What do I have to submit with the application?

The application consists of the following items:

- Candidate Application Form (must be completed online)
- Work Experience Verification Forms signed by all past employers
- Official college transcripts from *all* colleges attended
- Three letters of reference from employers, clients and/or professional peers
- Application fee (payable by credit card online)

What is covered on the exam?

The exam covers a broad range of knowledge and skills interior designers use in their daily practice. The exam specifically tests knowledge and skills that protect public health, life safety and welfare. Knowledge that is not critical to public safety, such as design history and furniture styles, is not tested.

Visit www.ncidq.org for details. You can also purchase NCIDQ's Examination study materials in October 2009.

How many sections are there on the exam?

There are two multiple-choice sections (half-day each) and one practicum section (full day). You must pass all of them to complete the exam.

- **Section 1:** Codes, Building Systems, Construction Standards and Contract Administration
(Multiple-choice, 3½ hours, 150 questions)
- **Section 2:** Design Application, Project Coordination and Professional Practice
(Multiple-choice, 3½ hours, 150 questions)
- **Section 3:** Interior Design Practicum
(Practicum, 8 hours, seven exercises)

Is the exam offered in paper-and-pencil or computer format?

The exam is offered in paper-and-pencil format only.

What is the cost of the NCIDQ Examination?

NCIDQ charges an initial application fee to verify your eligibility for the exam.

- **2010 Application Fee** in U.S. dollars: \$160

After your application is approved, you become eligible to register for exam sections. Each section of the exam is priced separately, although if you take all sections at the same time, you receive a discount.

2010 Exam Fees in U.S. dollars:

- **Section 1:** \$250
- **Section 2:** \$250
- **Section 3:** \$385
- **All three sections taken together:** \$835

If you fail a section and need to repeat it, you will need to register and pay for that section again in a future exam administration.

Can I take the exam even if I don't have a degree accredited by the Council for Interior Design Accreditation?

Yes! NCIDQ does not require your degree to be accredited by the Council for Interior Design Accreditation (formerly FIDER) in order to satisfy our education requirements. However, if you plan to work in a regulated jurisdiction, you should check your board's requirements; the board may have an education requirement that differs from NCIDQ's.

What does NCIDQ offer to candidates who need to study for the exam?

NCIDQ publishes free information on the examination format at www.ncidq.org. Exam study publications are also available for purchase from NCIDQ. On our Web site, we also publish a list of textbooks and publications that are often used as references for multiple-choice questions.

Do I need to take a workshop to pass the NCIDQ Examination?

No. The exam tests a common body of interior design knowledge, acquired through education and work experience. However, some candidates do find it helpful to take a study workshop. Any workshop you take should explain the exam process, provide an overview of content and identify your weak performance areas.

Does NCIDQ offer exam workshops?

No. NCIDQ does not provide or endorse any workshop.

Where is the exam given?

The exam is offered in more than 60 locations across the U.S. and Canada. Visit www.ncidq.org for a list of centers for upcoming exam administrations.

Do I have to take the exam in my home state or province?

No. You can take the exam at any available exam location.

Still have questions? Visit www.ncidq.org today for more FAQs and contact information!