

Qualified Work Experience

If you began accruing your first interior design work experience **after January 1, 2008**, you must earn qualified work experience in order to be eligible to take the NCIDQ Examination. When your work experience counts as “qualified” depends on which route you take for entry into the examination:

For routes 1 & 2:

After you have completed 96 semester/144 quarter credits

For route 3:

After you have completed 30 semester/45 quarter interior design credits

For all other routes:

After you have completed your education

When your direct supervisor is an NCIDQ Certificate holder, a licensed/registered interior designer or an architect who offers interior design services, your qualified hours are counted at 100% value. When you work in other supervisory relationships, your hours accrue at lower values.

Use the chart below to see the value at which you can accrue your qualified interior design work experience hours.

Employment Setting	Direct Supervision ¹ Value	Sponsorship ² Value
Under an NCIDQ Certificate holder	100%	100%
Under a state/provincial licensed/registered interior designer in the U.S. or Canada	100%	100%
Under an architect who provides interior design services	100%	100%
Under an interior designer who is neither an NCIDQ Certificate holder nor licensed/registered in the U.S. or Canada	75%	50%
Not supervised by a design professional		25%
Not supervised at all (self-employed)		25%

EXAMPLES:

- 100% value: 700 hours worked = 700 hours valued
- 75% value: 700 hours worked = 525 hours valued
- 50% value: 700 hours worked = 350 hours valued
- 25% value: 700 hours worked = 175 hours valued

¹ A “direct supervisor” is a person who has detailed knowledge and direct control over your work, such as your immediate supervisor. This person may or may not work in the same physical location.

² A “sponsor” is a design professional who agrees to oversee your work but does not have detailed knowledge and direct control over your work, such as an interior designer outside your firm.



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