

National Architectural Accrediting Board, Inc.

June 4, 2009

EXPLANATORY NOTE NCARB TWO-YEAR RULE



Recently the NAAB has received a number of calls from prospective students and others regarding initial accreditation of a professional degree program in architecture by the National Architectural Accrediting Board and the “two-year grandfathering rule.”

The “two-year rule,” as it is sometimes called, is promulgated by the National Council of Architectural Registration Boards (NCARB). The full text can be found in the *Handbook for Interns and Architects*, Chapter 1, in the statement defining the education requirement for an NCARB Certificate.

“You must hold a professional degree in architecture from a program accredited by the National Architectural Accrediting Board (NAAB) or the Canadian Architectural Certification Board (CACB/CCCA) no later than two years after your graduation, or hold a professional degree in architecture, certified by the CACB, from a Canadian university.”

In practical terms, this means that if a program receives an initial term of accreditation effective January 1, 2008, for example, individuals who graduated after January 1, 2006, are considered to have met the education requirement for an NCARB Certificate. However, meeting the education requirement for the NCARB Certificate may not be equivalent to meeting the education requirement for registration in a specific jurisdiction. While NCARB can establish a common standard for receiving an NCARB Certificate, it cannot compel its member boards to accept the same standard for registration in their respective jurisdictions.

The distinction is fine, but important. The NAAB encourages advisors and administrators in candidate programs to be sure students are fully aware of it. To aid programs and students in understanding, the NAAB has proposed new and expanded language for inclusion in program catalogs and promotional materials in the *2009 NAAB Conditions for Accreditation*.

If you have questions about this subject or other matters related to accreditation, please feel free to contact the NAAB at info@naab.org or 202.783.2007.

Thank you.

1735 New York Avenue, NW

Washington, DC 20006

www.naab.org

tel: 202.783.2007

fax: 202.783.2822

email: info@naab.org